

ESTUARY

FROM PAGE 1B

the city to the county, at which point it it will be us (they pay).”

In May, CHNEP Executive Director Jennifer Hecker told county commissioners that they felt they had outgrown the city.

“We are operationally kind of hitting the capacity (with the city),” she said at the May 10 commission meeting. “We’re about to double our budget and potentially double our staffing so that’s why we are looking at a larger operational framework to support.” CHNEP’s operating area makes up 10 counties

and 25 cities, including estuaries like Lemon Bay, Dona & Roberts Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, Caloosahatchee, San Carlos Bay and Estero Bay. They also monitor the Myakka, Peace, Caloosahatchee and Estero rivers. Some of their efforts

include collecting water quality data to pursue improvements, aid in protection of natural habitats, and help agencies identify preservation and conservation opportunities. CHNEP typically operates through government entities or larger organizations as partnerships. County Administrator Hector Flores told

commissioners that he has already been talking with Punta Gorda Manager Greg Murray regarding CHNEP and the transition. “I spoke to Murray about the lease and he gave us good feedback,” Flores said. Punta Gorda has the lease contract on the City Council’s Wednesday

meeting agenda. The County Commission meeting begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. *Email: daniel.sutphin@yoursun.com*

JOHN

FROM PAGE 1B

entire interstate was shut down.

I was ashamed I had complained about the traffic when I learned four people died, 14 or so were taken to hospitals and more than a dozen cars were involved in the wreck.

I began thinking if we had left Port Charlotte when I had planned to leave, I might have been in that wreck.

The four people who died in the wreck surely did not realize that day would be their last.

We had a week with family despite their ills. My 88-year-old father-in-law was in the hospital when we got there and my mother-in-law was sick at home.

A couple of nights before we were to leave to come home, my brother-in-law, Tony, surprised the whole family by showing up. He lived out of town and decided to come see his Dad in the hospital.

We shot some pool on the family table in the basement. Two nights we butted heads and ended up each winning three games. Just to show how good (ha!) we were, four games were decided when someone scratched on the 8-ball.

The last night we spent together Tony said he would stay at a local hotel. The next morning we called but couldn’t reach him.

Around noon, my father-in-law, just released from the hospital, got a call. It was the coroner. He said he needed to come visit.

It didn’t take a lot of guessing to figure out what was going on.

They found Tony slumped over by his car. He was dead when paramedics arrived. No cause yet.

My trip started with death and ended with death.

Life is indeed fragile. We only have one. My advice to myself is to start living it.



John Davidson is executive director of Crossroads Hope Academy.

HOPE

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50% of foster kids have their high school diploma on time at the age of 18) only one is incarcerated, and only two are homeless (nationwide, 25% of foster boys are homeless by the age of 22, and 20% of foster boys are incarcerated).

What about outside activities such as sports and the necessary equipment?

Some have played football and soccer; a few years ago, one won a blue ribbon at the county fair for his photography. (Davidson said

Crossroads will pay for the teen’s sports and other equipment such as soccer cleats, and in the case of the photographer, a camera, etc.)

What is the biggest challenge you face?

Right now it is getting enough volunteers to come and spend time with our boys. People tend to overthink that. I just need them to come out and take an interest in them, listen to them, eat lunch with them — whatever!

How dire is the lack of foster families or places like Crossroads for these kids?

We average 93 referrals a month. Our facility is full at 24,

and our second facility opening in September will accommodate another 24, for a total of 48. I got a call from a case manager who had 13 middle schoolers with no place to go.

What happens to them if no place is immediately found?

They will sleep in offices at foster placement agencies, at places like Children’s Network.

What will you do if your book becomes a bestseller?

I am donating anything it earns to Crossroads Hope Academy.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Summer concert at Mid County Regional Library

Charlotte County Libraries and History presents “Summer Concert with a Splash of History” at 5 p.m., Thursday, July 21 at the Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte. The Peace River Trio will perform folk music from the 1950s, 1960s, and the 1970s. Historian Dr. Jennifer Zoebelein will be on site highlighting Charlotte County key events during these important decades. This event is free and open to the public.

Charlotte County Libraries offer Chromebook and mobile hotspot checkout

Charlotte County Libraries & History are offering Chromebooks and mobile hotspots for free long-term check out and in-home use. The bundles are intended for those without devices or internet access at home. Chromebooks can be checked out at the Port Charlotte Public Library located at 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte. Each Chromebook comes in a bag along with the hotspot, a mouse, a USB drive, and instructions. Bundles can be checked out for four weeks at a time. Library staff are available for Google account setup if needed. For information, call the Port Charlotte Public Library at 941-764-5562.



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adno=3851372-1

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION HEARING ON PROPOSED ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR

Application No. TA22-19 for certification to authorize location of a transmission line corridor, construction, operation, and maintenance of a 230 kilovolt electrical transmission line(s) commonly referred to as Sweat - Whidden and maintenance of the transmission line right-of-way from, Okeechobee County, Florida to DeSoto County, Florida was received by the Department of Environmental Protection on April 18, 2022. The case is pending before the Division of Administrative Hearings, Case No. 22-1246TL, prior to action by the Governor and Cabinet (sitting as the Siting Board), or the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to the Florida Transmission Line Siting Act, Chapter 403, Part II, Florida Statutes (E.S.). The proposed corridor passes through the following local government jurisdictions: Okeechobee County, Highlands County, Glades County, and DeSoto County.

Pursuant to Section 403.527, E.S., unless one or more alternate corridors are proposed and accepted for consideration, the certification hearing will be held by the Division of Administrative Hearings commencing on September 12, 2022 at the Genesis Center, 218 E Bellevue St., Lake Placid, FL 33852, at 9 a.m., in order to take written or oral testimony on the effects of the proposed electrical transmission line. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether the application should be approved in whole, approved with modifications and conditions, or denied. In making this determination, the administrative law judge, and ultimately the Governor and Cabinet, or, if no certification hearing is required, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, shall consider whether, and the extent to which, the location of the transmission line corridor, and the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will:

- (a) Ensure electric power system reliability and integrity;
- (b) Meet the electrical energy needs of the state in an orderly, economical, and timely fashion;
- (c) Comply with applicable nonprocedural requirements of agencies;
- (d) Be consistent with applicable provisions of local government comprehensive plans, if any; and
- (e) Effect a reasonable balance between the need for the transmission line as a means of providing reliable, economically efficient electric energy, as determined by the Florida Public Service Commission under Section 403.537, E.S., and the impact upon the public and the environment resulting from the location of the transmission line corridor and the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line(s).

Consideration of individual private property rights, equitable compensation for eminent domain proceedings which may be necessary to obtain access and use of the right-of-way, and the electrical need for the transmission line will not be heard at this hearing. Need for the transmission line is considered by the Florida Public Service Commission at a separate hearing and is not an issue at this hearing.

A public hearing where members of the public not a party to the certification hearing may testify under oath as to relevant facts and be subject to cross-examination by all parties, shall be held on September 12, 2022, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Genesis Center. This public hearing will be conducted by the Division of Administrative Hearings and as part of the certification hearing if a certification hearing is held.

Any person wishing to participate in the certification proceeding as a party must file an appropriate pleading with the Division of Administrative Hearings following the procedures in Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) and Section 403.527(2)(c), E.S., which provides that:

(1) Parties to the proceeding shall be: Florida Power & Light Company, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Public Service Commission, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Transportation, the South Florida Water Management District, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Okeechobee County, Highlands County, DeSoto County, Glades County. Any of these parties, other than the Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Power & Light Company, may waive its right to participate in these proceedings if the listed party fails to file a notice of intent to be a party on or before the deadline date indicated below.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 120, E.S., to the contrary, upon the filing with the administrative law judge of a notice of intent to be a party by an agency, corporation, or association described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) below or a petition for intervention by a person described in subparagraph (c) below, no later than the deadline date indicated below, the following shall also be parties to the proceeding:

- (a) Any agency not listed in subparagraph (1) above, as to matters within its jurisdiction.
- (b) Any domestic nonprofit corporation or association formed, in whole or in part, to promote conservation of natural beauty; to protect the environment, personal health, or other biological values; to preserve historical sites; to promote consumer interests; to represent labor, commercial, or industrial groups; or to promote comprehensive planning or orderly development of the area in which the proposed transmission line or corridor is to be located.
- (c) Any person whose substantial interests are affected and being determined by the proceeding.

For further information and requirements, please see: <https://floridadep.gov/air/siting-coordination-office/content/rules-and-statutes>. Persons not wishing to participate in the proceedings as a party may nevertheless offer sworn testimony during the public hearing portion of the certification hearing if a certification hearing is needed.

Any notice of intent to be a party or motion to intervene must be submitted by August 15, 2022 and sent to: Re: DOAH Case No. 22-1246TL, Division of Administrative Hearings, 1230 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060, and must contain the following: reference to the application number; the name, address, and telephone number of the agency or person; and allegations sufficient to demonstrate the agency or person is entitled to participate in the proceeding. The notice or motion must be sent by mail to the applicant and to all parties. (A list of parties may be obtained from the Department's Siting Coordination Office at 2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 5500, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400)

Consideration may be given in this proceeding to corridors alternate to the corridor(s) preferred by Florida Power & Light Company. Persons other than the applicant may propose alternate corridors for portions of or all of the corridor(s) proposed by the applicant. To propose an alternate corridor, persons must request to become a party to the proceedings, and then must file a notice of proposed alternate corridor with the administrative law judge pursuant to Section 403.527(1), E.S., all parties, and any local governments in the jurisdiction of which the alternate is proposed, by no later than July 29, 2022. The filing must include the most recent United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 quadrangle maps with the alternate corridor boundaries specifically delineated on it, a description of the proposed alternate corridor, and a statement of the reasons the proposed alternate corridor should be certified. Each party proposing an alternate corridor shall have the burden to provide the data necessary for the agencies listed in Section 403.526, E.S., to prepare a supplementary report, to provide public notice in accordance with Section 403.536(2), E.S., and the burden of proof on the certifiability of the alternate corridor at the certification hearing. See Section 403.5271, E.S., and Rule 62-17.543, F.A.C., for further information about proposing an alternate corridor. <https://floridadep.gov/air/siting-coordination-office/content/rules-and-statutes>

Pursuant to Section 403.527(6), E.S., the certification hearing may be cancelled no later than August 16, 2022, if all parties to the proceeding stipulate that there are no disputed issues of material fact or law to be raised, and the Department of Environmental Protection or the applicant requests that the administrative law judge cancel the certification hearing. If the administrative law judge grants the request, the Department of Environmental Protection shall prepare and issue a final order in accordance with Section 403.529(1)(a).

The Siting Board, or the Department if the certification hearing is cancelled, may certify all or portions of one or more corridors proper for certification. This notice is in lieu of other notices, including those relating to variances, changes to zoning ordinances and local governments' comprehensive plans (if any are required), or any other non-federal government license or permit.

A term or condition of the certification, if granted, may provide for the subsequent submittal of information necessary for agencies to monitor the effects arising from the location of the transmission line corridor and the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line to assure continued compliance with state water quality requirements or compliance with other agency non-procedural rules and standards, particularly with regards to wetlands resource protection activities. A person whose substantial interest may be affected by such submittals or monitoring must petition to become a party to this proceeding if they desire an administrative determination relative to the post-certification monitoring process. This certification proceeding provides such a person with the opportunity for a hearing as required by Chapter 120, E.S., and the Act. Failure to petition to become a party within the time frames set forth in this notice constitutes a waiver to an administrative determination (or hearing) pursuant to Chapter 120 and the Act on the post-certification review and monitoring.

adno=3853077-1