

WORKSHOP ITEM SUMMARY SHEET
VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

Agenda Item:

2019 Village of Estero Legislative Priorities

Description:

The Florida League of Cities publishes its Legislative Action Agenda prior to the Florida Legislative session convening each year. The Legislative Action Agenda reflects the priorities of 412 municipalities, as prepared by the League's five legislative policy committees and adopted by the full membership. Mayor Ribble is the designated Village Council Liaison to the Florida League of Cities and is thus authorized to vote on their Legislative Action Agenda.

The Village has typically developed a limited set of objectives for our Legislative Agenda. For the coming 2020 Florida Legislative Session we have two specific proposals for Village Council consideration. These include:

- **Legislative Appropriation for a “River Walk” along the Estero River on the property owned by the Village.** While the Village has not completed a master plan for the Estero on the River site it is clear that the overwhelming objective is to create additional access to the Estero River. Proposed is a request for \$2,000,000.
- **Transfer of our storm water management responsibilities to the Big Cypress Water Management District.** The Village of Estero is currently served by the South Florida Water Management District. A total of approximately \$4.2M is generated each year in property taxes from areas of Bonita Springs, Estero and South Lee County that is sent to the SFWMD. The odd thing about this is that this area of South Lee County has natural drainage systems that flow south to the Big Cypress system.

This issue was originally brought to the Village Council two (2) years ago and has been a topic of discussion since that time.

Attached is the Lee County 2020 Legislative Agenda that includes a references to this issue. Also attached is a list of “discussion points” established by the staff at Collier County. Collier and the Big Cypress Board have a close working relationship and the addition of areas outside of Collier County would represent

some modifications to their working arrangements that would require some careful consideration.

Should the Village Council approve these priorities staff will bring back periodic updates to keep you informed.

Financial Impacts: None, at this time.

Attachments:

1. 2020 Lee County Legislative Priorities
2. Big Cypress – Collier County Discussion Points