

BSI Canal Committee 10/28/2024

If you've followed my newsletter updates and postings, issued from time to time, I'm sure you are aware of the comings and goings of our long, drawn-out and continuing efforts to get our lock widened project done. It appears that our efforts may finally come to fruition!

Without "beating this dead horse" too much, my top priority since joining the canal committee, has been to get the lock widening work done, but it seems like there was always "another" issue --(budgets, etc.) hurricanes, or staffing changes to name a few. All of this just may be behind us now.

So, my current understanding of Lock Widening:

The proposed contract has been reviewed and approved by the city Canal Maintenance Department and was passed on to Punta Gorda City Procurement. Procurement has approved the contract as well, and is ready to issue the contract, pending a final review and approval by City Council.

According to city policy, they are not allowed to divulge the name of the contractor, amount of the contract, or a schedule of the project, until after City Council approval.

City Council normally meets twice a month and I believe the next two meetings are scheduled for 11/6 and 11/20. I have not seen the agenda for the next meeting-- but I'm hopeful this is on their docket. Of course, with the eminent election, I'm not sure how much city business will actually take place this month, but I'm trying to keep a positive attitude about a "speedy" review and approval.

Final thought/suggestion, in the next few days, we might all want to contact our various city council members and let them know we would strongly encourage approving our lock widening project. Your help would certainly be appreciated!

And—as always---calm seas, warm breezes, and plenty two-handed fish--

Rick Daugherty, Chairman, BSI Canal Committee