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County, city to hear from EPA on Terry Creek outfall ditch cleanup

By TAYLOR COOPER tcooper@thebrunswicknews.com Aug 20, 2018

Glynn County and Brunswick City commissioners are scheduled to hold a joint meeting Tuesday to hear a presentation from the Environmental Protection Division on the Terry Creek Superfund site.

In 2015, the two commissions, along with the Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission, asked the EPA to proceed with two of its cleanup recommendations for the Terry Creek outfall ditch.

The EPA decided to go with one option, which is neither of the two the commissions asked for and is less expensive than either, said county commission Chairman Bill Brunson.

“I think what they’re proposing is not acceptable, it’s not reasonable,” Brunson said.

The chemicals Hercules’ plant pumped into the outfall ditch off of U.S. Highway 17 did serious damage to a natural resource, Brunson said, and it needs to be fixed for the public’s wellbeing.

“They spent 107 years polluting that, and the community just looked the other way, because they had money and they brought jobs,” Brunson said. “We’re stuck with the mess they left us. The taxpayers are going to have to pay for it, and its going to be expensive ... I think the community’s got to stand up at some point.”

The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Harold Pate Building, 1725 Reynolds St. in Brunswick.

Following the joint meeting, the county commission will hold a work session at 3 p.m.

On the agenda are presentations on impact fees, improvements to the intersection of Kings Way and Frederica Road on St. Simons Island, a Demere Road resurfacing project, also on St. Simons Island, and an update on a proposed ferry and trolley service for St. Simons and Jekyll islands.

Commissioners discussed impact fees for St. Simons Island at another work session in June.

Community Development Department Director Pamela Thompson said then that it could take from six to nine months and around \$50,000-\$60,000 in staff and consultant pay to set up an impact fee framework.

The topic came up before in 2016, but commissioners decided not to pursue an impact fee for a number of reasons. Some of those same commissioners are open to the idea now, as Thompson helped set up impact fees in another county and has experience others in her position did not.

Improvements at the intersection of Frederica Road and Kings Way could be either a roundabout or upgrades to the existing four-way intersection with a traffic light. Commissioners hired an engineering firm earlier this year to produce designs for both, so the commission and county staff could evaluate which one would work better.

The work session will be held on Tuesday at 3 p.m., also in the Pate Building.

Taylor Cooper