

The Board of Supervisors of the Sarasota National Community Development District wants our residents to know that, as discussed at prior meetings of the District, the District does not play a meaningful role in the planning, approval, or construction of the Manasota Beach Road extension. That roadway is a joint venture between Sarasota County and a land developer. Any actions the District has taken in connection with the development of Manasota Beach Road have been either expressly authorized by the Board or were routine, administrative steps required by existing agreements and prior approvals- not discretionary policy decisions.

Since the original Development Order for our community was approved by the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners in 2004, the construction of Manasota Beach Road in substantially its current planned location, and the use of on-site stormwater ponds to handle drainage from both the Sarasota National development and the roadway, has been part of the approved plan. The original 2004 Development Order specifically required that each section of Manasota Beach Road be constructed as a collector road and that the development provide on-site stormwater ponds. In other words, the roadway and the shared use of drainage ponds have been part of our community's approved development framework for over twenty years.

In 2018, a cooperation agreement between the developer of Sarasota National and the County was executed and recorded, establishing that certain ponds adjacent to Spartina Drive and Tarflower Drive would serve as "shared ponds" for both community and roadway drainage consistent with the Development Order. When the District later acquired those pond tracts as part of its stormwater management system, the obligation to allow the County to use them for roadway drainage was already recorded against the land. More recently, the District Manager signed a standard Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) form identifying the District as an operations and maintenance entity- not a co-applicant or co-permittee- on the County's water management permit for the roadway, reflecting the straightforward fact that the District owns and maintains the ponds in question.

The District is not a co-applicant on the SWFWMD permit, and has no legal reason to advocate for or against, the County's or SWFWMD permitting process for the Manasota Beach Road extension. Further, the District does not have independent zoning or other regulatory approval relative to the roadway or otherwise. However, the District appreciates the community's concern about the development of adjacent lands and remains committed to transparency.