1. What was the impetus for this project?

For decades, much of the City's stormwater has been routed through a series of onshore outfall drains which terminate into the Gulf of Mexico. While a good solution in a bygone era, these outfalls can cause beach erosion and, in the event of a major weather event, can cause or contribute to localized flooding, and pollution. In 2014 grant funding through the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund - BP Restore Act became available that could assist the City in solving these problems. At that time, the City made a formal presentation to Bay County in a Public Meeting to add the offshore outfall project as a pilot project to the funding request. The City looked at all 10 continuous outfall locations within the City limits to see where the critical need was located and then prioritized locations. From December 2014 through February 2015, the City was able to construct two baffle boxes and make improvements to both the Ocean Reef outfall and the Calypso outfall. In May 2017, the City's consultant, Dewberry, preliminarily designed the Lullwater outfall to continue through the existing box culvert or double 60" RCP's south from Front Beach Road within the CRA Segment 3 construction project approximately 300' to the water's edge. This would have removed the single barrel 60" outfall pipe. It was at that time that the City learned the Florida Department of Environmental Protection would not approve any more outfall extensions to help alleviate localized flooding. The only remaining option available would be an offshore outfall project. One of the City's Public Works Engineers traveled to North Myrtle Beach to evaluate the viability of an offshore outfall as a solution to the City's problems. She met with the design engineers, contractors, and government officials from that area to discuss the process and to observe one during construction.

Hurricane Sally's historic flooding in 2020 displayed the critical need for this project when storm surge blocked the existing outfall and flooded residential homes around Lullwater Lake. This will continue to happen until this outfall is brought offshore. There is no recourse available to the City to mitigate the flooding within Lullwater Lake unless this project moves forward.

2. What makes the City believe it is feasible?

The extended offshore outfall has been confirmed as a successful way to mitigate localized flooding and alleviate beach erosion problems in Virginia Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach, and one is also being constructed in Naples. In addition to existing projects, engineering and scientific studies have been performed by environmental specialists to determine the project's feasibility. Both the construction plans and studies are then reviewed and approved by the permitting agencies.

3. How will its construction be funded?

Currently, the City has received a $21 million dollar grant through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The City has also applied for additional funding in the amount of $13 million from other sources. The exact cost of construction will not be known until the City seeks and receives competitive bids for the project's construction.

4. What is the research that has been done and is perhaps still ongoing that makes the city believe this project is possible to do?

In addition to reviewing the real-world success of similar projects, the City has engaged professional engineers that have designed many offshore outfalls to determine the efficacy of this project in relation to mitigating the flooding in the Lullwater neighborhood. The City also brought on board basin modeling experts to create a stormwater master plan for the entire beach. Once a project is developed, it is added

to this model to show how it interacts with adjacent properties. As part of the process, engineering and scientific studies are required to show that the project will work and that it is not a detriment to the environment and surrounding parcels. All the required agencies have been involved throughout the design of this project and have reviewed the information prior to issuing any permits.

5. What are the benefits?

Besides the primary benefit of reducing the chance of a flooding event in the Lullwater area (by providing a continuous flow of flood waters in a storm event without being affected by storm surge), the project will introduce water quality vaults (currently there are none), remove the flow of water from the beach in two locations (reducing beach erosion and the risk of carrying bacteria to swimmers), and open the beach area for turtle and bird nesting in these locations.

6. What are the drawbacks?

The biggest drawback is cost (hence why the goal is to have the project funded via grants). While one could consider the construction's environmental impact a drawback, the City's permit requires that the construction site be returned to its natural condition.

7. How will it be maintained over time?

The Stormwater department will maintain the water quality vault through debris removal, nitrate phosphate, and sediment removal. Divers will inspect the system every 10 years to inspect the system's integrity and for sediment build-up.

8. Who pays for ongoing maintenance for the outfall and from where will funds be derived?

The cost of maintenance will come from the Stormwater department budget. Annual maintenance costs are expected to be $100,000 a year.

9. What are the impacts on Lullwater Lake and the Gulf of Mexico?

This project does not have construction within Lullwater Lake. Construction will consist of connecting to the south end of the existing 10' x 9' box culvert on the south side of Front Beach Road and heading south offshore. There is a bridge replacement planned for E. Lakeview Circle that will reconnect Star Lake with Palm Lake. This crossing was originally a wooden bridge until it was replaced with a much smaller pipe causing this roadway to flood during significant rainfall events. The impact on Lullwater Lake will be to stabilize the lake level to prevent flooding. This project reduces the impact on the Gulf of Mexico by introducing water quality measures to the stormwater discharge that already flows into the Gulf.

10. What is the impact on seabirds, nesting turtles, other wildlife, and plant flora?

The project enhances this area of the beach so that turtles and birds can nest on the beach where they have not been able to in the past. There have been no indications that the project will impact flora. As required by the City's permit, construction of this project onshore is scheduled around nesting season.

11. What are the health implications for all of us?

Beneficial is the best description for all of us. The project eliminates the health risks associated with beach outfalls from bacteria as they currently exist. No negative health implications to humans have occurred in other projects and none are expected with the Lullwater Outfall.

12. What risks of flooding are there to the Lullwater Lake residents' homes?

After the project is completed, the risk is substantially reduced. This is the primary reason for the project.

13. How do you intend to mitigate flooding to the Lullwater Lake residents since you will, in fact, be adding water to the lake from Calypso Lake, other tributaries and water from Back Beach Road.

The current drainage basin will not be changing for this project. Retention ponds maintain historical stormwater flow throughout the basin. Calypso Lake shares the same water table as Lullwater Lake and any increase to Calypso Lake in a flooding event goes into a linear exfiltration system on the south side of Front Beach Road as an emergency pop off currently (this system will remain in place). There is a run of 36" linear exfiltration along Front Beach Road that collects the stormwater runoff from the roadway improvements along Front Beach Road for treatment within this exfiltration system. The stormwater runoff for the entire roadway (Front Beach Road) has never been collected or treated before. This is a huge improvement to current conditions.

14. What is the plan to not use just filters to remove large particulate matter flowing into Lullwater Lake and the Gulf but to remove oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and the like from the effluent before it is allowed to flow into Lullwater Lake and the Gulf of Mexico? Filtering does not mean the same as treating and requires your detailed explanation.

To begin, effluent water is different from stormwater. Effluent water is sewage which is not collected, retained, or dispersed by stormwater outfalls. However, nitrates and phosphates can be collected in any stormwater management system. l To best address this material, the project utilizes a water-quality vault system. This system filters not only large but small debris. In addition to the debris removal, the vault will utilize separators to remove oils and similar material, and a filtering medium that removes nitrates and phosphates from the water. Currently, the water going into the Gulf is not undergoing this process and is untreated. While people may have differing conceptions of "effluent" but believe that the introduction of the oil separators and medium bags to remove nitrates and phosphates offers a substantial improvement in the treatment and filtering of the stormwater currently being dispersed into the Gulf of Mexico. In reference to the Lullwater Lake basin, this basin will not change. Some of the stormwater runoff that has historically drained to this basin will be removed in the newly constructed CRA Segment 3 stormwater retention ponds. Retention ponds are mandated on developed properties to maintain the historic rate.

15. Why is the historic use of retention ponds no longer a viable or desired means of dealing with stormwater run-off?

There are currently 3 retention ponds built as part of the CRA Segment 3 project that attenuates and treats the stormwater runoff from SR 79 and that portion of Front Beach Road within project boundaries. Retention ponds are and will be the desired means of dealing with stormwater. A clear understanding of how retention ponds function may clear up any misconceptions about their usage. In a retention pond system, a piece of undeveloped property holds water prior to it having stormwater run-off. When run-off occurs, it flows off the property at a designed rate. When a piece of property is developed, the retention pond is designed to hold the increasing amount of water shed by the new impervious areas and discharge the run-off at the a designed rate. This ensures that the historic flow remains the same or lessens. As

new developments are built, they will be required to treat their own stormwater on site as per Chapter 3 of LDC.

16. What is the permit process for this project and where do the required permits stand at this time?
    Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Notice of Intent to issue the permit was published and the comment period is closed.

    US Army Corps of Engineers – Notice of Intent to issue the permit was published and the comment period is closed. We are looking forward to approval shortly.

17. What agencies are involved in the permitting process and what does each agency address in its decision-making process to issue a permit?
    See answer above. Please feel free to reach out to the agency to see what their approval process entails.

Additional questions

1. Why is the $20M HUD money grant given to the City by the State of Florida for post-Hurricane Michael repairs being used for this project instead of fixing the blighted areas of the city post hurricane as intended?

The funding from the State is being used as intended. The use of the grant money is to mitigate localized flooding and storm harden the Lullwater community. The funding comes from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity under the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program. This project is designed to mitigate future flooding in the Lullwater area. The FDEO chooses the recipients of the funding, not the City. The City of PCB applied using Census data and mapping provided by the State of Florida. The Lullwater community was considered an LMI (Low to Moderate Income) area on the map provided by this grant.

2. Why were the engineers at the presentation on Wednesday night, 4/26, unwilling to speak with WMBB reporters about the project?

The engineers are not City staff and they requested that a Councilmember speak to reporters' questions. The engineers were brought to the community to answer the technical questions from the community since they designed the construction plans and are the offshore outfall experts. The City wanted the public to have every opportunity to get your questions answered by those who are subject matter experts.

3. Why did Councilman Jarman say on Wednesday night that the project is being done to mitigate Lullwater Lake flooding when, if anything, more water will be routed to Lullwater Lake if this project proceeds?

Councilman Jarman responded as follows: “The outfall is designed for a substantial increase of water entering Lullwater Lake due to a storm event. The excess water from the Calypso Basin will continue to be treated by the existing stormwater retention facility and then discharged to the exfiltration system and in the event of a flood, the excess water can pop off on the Beach as well as flow laterally down Front Beach Road in the stormwater system. Please remember that the Calypso excess water currently flows directly onto the Beach and into the Gulf at the present moment.”

4. Why is there no mention of water from Back Beach Road being diverted into Lullwater Lake as a result of this project being mentioned at all?

This was not mentioned because water is not being diverted from Back Beach Road. Water in the basin naturally has flowed from a portion of the park through culverts under Back Beach Road into the Lullwater Lake system.

5. Are the concerns of Councilmember Coburn being received seriously and being addressed thoroughly and properly as it seems she may not be in favor of this project for what are serious and appropriate legitimate reasons?

The City is committed to treating each Councilmember equally and considering their concerns fairly. Councilmembers, regardless of their position on any project or issue, are given full access to information and are equally heard. The has taken the concerns of Councilmember Coburn as well as other Councilmembers and members of the public seriously regarding the project.

6. Why has the cost of this project gone from its original estimate of $17M to now in excess of $41M?

Increases in inflation, delay of materials, shortage of supplies, and increases in demand have all contributed to the drastic rise in the cost of construction materials and labor. The current engineer estimate is $41M, however, the true cost may be lower or higher. Until the project is put out for Bid, the true cost will not be known.

7. Do you expect the cost of this project to escalate further?

The cost is unknown until after a Bid opening.

8. Why did your own engineers call Panama City Beach the “guinea pig of the Gulf” for this project?

At the time this statement was made, the project would have been the first of its kind constructed in the Gulf of Mexico. Such is not the case anymore, as Naples, Florida, has begun their offshore outfall project.

9. Why did Councilman Jarman say to WMBB reporter that people would get the answers they needed from the one single 2-hour presentation by a few engineers when my list of questions alone would take more than 2 hours to answer?

Councilman Jarman responded as follows: “The meeting that was held is standard for many projects as by the major road project meetings that have recently taken place. Anyone is able to ask questions at any time, even outside of a formal meeting.”

10. Why did Councilman Jarman appear to discount anyone who doesn't believe the project can be successful simply because it "doesn't fit a particular narrative" as he said to the WMBB reporter at the meeting Wednesday night?

Councilman Jarman responded as follows: "I do not discount anyone and continues to strive to see that all questions are answered. My comment was referring to the many occurrences of questions that have been asked and answered and seemingly ignored because they do not support a negative view of the outfall. I have stated that I believe that it is my responsibility to myself, my family, and the residents of PCB to present the facts on any matter. I have spent a great deal of effort to study the project, answer my own questions and those of the public.