

Sustainability Update January 5, 2014

There is not much new news due to the holidays....

Federal: No update.

State: No Update

Regional: New workshop dates. Seven50 summit.

County:

- Solid Waste Contracts: See R4
- RESTORE Grant Local Pot: The grant submittal period was opened back up. The City was able to submit its second grant for water quality upgrades at our marinas. There are now 46 applications for a total of \$71M, [which can be seen here](#). Grant committee members are currently reviewing applications, the date for ranking is not set yet.

Municipal:

City of Key West

- **BV Garden Grant** – Tentative new spot at Truman Waterfront, 200% bigger, but will cost more money to do right. Reported to BVRAC this month and have their okay for new site choice, will work up budget for larger ask at future BVRAC meeting. Still have to present to the Truman Waterfront Advisory Board in January to get their okay for the space.
- **Green Jobs and Futures Grant:** Per City staff review, Habitat for Humanity was asked to take the lead on the application to help with program administration and cash flow. They also added a summer internship that would do further work on the 150 BV houses that had audits done during the school year. The project was successfully presented to BVRAC in December and rankings happened in January.
- **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant:** One step closer: One month ago, the City received correspondence from the grantors asking a couple of clarifying questions, which, pending acceptable answers, will award us the \$33,750 grant. The grant will pay for an adaptation specialist on the LDR writing team, and help facilitate 4 Keyswide Planning Forums to help vet our proposed LDR language with other local government planners for hopeful adoption by them as well. We received an additional email saying that they are still deciding which four local governments to award the grants to.
- **LDR's** – The RFP for the LDR consultant team should go out this month, with a draft completion date of June. Staff has already been meeting with departments and stakeholders for suggested changes to hand to the consultant when they come on board.

Energy – Johnson Controls representatives visited Keys Energy with a plan to replace all of the streetlights with controllable LEDs. Keys Energy unfortunately felt that to do this, they would need to raise fees to the City via pole rental. We are trying to figure out how to better be in sync towards goals with Keys Energy.

R4 – 1st load of horse manure is ready and was given away at a Horse Community Day event on Dec 21st. They made ~\$200 in two hours. We have also begun stockpiling extra for the BV Community Garden.

GLEE – After a long hiatus, the GLEE board has reformed and is reinventing itself as a fiscal sponsor organization. After receiving requests for 501c3 umbrella assistance for worthwhile community projects such as a Marathon Community Garden and the Got Your Bags program, the GLEE board has decided to make its name, administrative time and seed money available to assist grassroots efforts Keyswide. For pilot projects, they have decided to take on the BV Community Garden and Edible Orchard. Stay tuned.

Water Quality – City staff held a Pump Out Workshop last month as an outreach component of getting compliance with the City’s 11 year old No Discharge Zone ordinance. Staff also brought down a FDEP Clean Marina representative who highlighted benefits of the certification program and the Clean Vessel Act grants which help pay for 75% of cost of new pump out facilities. Staff highlighted new rules including the Comp Plan’s (all Marinas must be Clean Marina certified by 2015, and all Boatyards by 2020) and stronger LDR’s (pump outs at every slip, fish waste stations, etc.)

Water – The Planners Forum will be meeting about water level of service standards and resultant policies in late January when the St. Johns Water Mgmt District will present its findings of tis FAWCETT program.

Transportation – Staff is getting closer to choosing new busses for its fleet. IT is recommending 3 Clean Diesel busses and one hybrid bus. The industry standard for hybrid bus ratio in fleets is 25%, so for each purchase, the City will keep purchases at 25% or more. New bike racks will be going in at the KW Botanical Gardens and Smathers beach. We still need to purchase HARC approved corrals for old town and new single bollards with FY14 monies. The Transportation Coordination Team will be working on its budget recommendations soon.

Green Business – Although a Green Business Certification program has been a priority from the beginning, we’ve been holding off waiting for PACE to be adopted because Green Business programs come as free third party benefit. However, because PACE has been slow to move, I would like to explore how much it would cost for the City to adopt a Green Business Certification program a la cart. We will have a final report soon.

Green Building – The City is teaming up with the local chapter of USGBC to offer training opportunities to local contractors, etc. on upcoming green courses associated with the new BPAS ordinances. On Friday, January 17 at the Gato building, USGBC will be hosting a Green Building Consultant who will give an overview of two different Green Homes Certifications, and the steps required to achieve them.

Land Conservation: HOB is about to add 172 more native trees and shrubs to its parking lot area bordering George Street. The majority of these plants were chosen because they are White-crowned pigeon and other migratory bird forage. The City will be rescuing one strangler fig from the property to move it to a more suitable location near the 18th Terrace medians. This still leaves substantial grant money to purchase more street trees for our Urban Foresters priorities.

R4 – The County is still negotiating on its solid waste contract, and has seen many twists and turns. The newest issue of concern is the “burn only” option for yard waste being considered. While the case can be made for reduced ghg’s from not hauling out, of most concern is the waste of a natural resource for purely financial reasons. By not holding out for a composting facility option, the County may be setting itself down a course it is unable or unwilling to change. Of great interest is the last minute offer of a Homestead composting facility at the 11th hour. This is probably because the burn option cut Waste Management out of the financial picture entirely, so they were more willing to meet the needs we had asked from at the start.
