

Pond Committee Meeting Summary

Date: November 3, 2016 (9AM-11:15AM)
Committee: Bruce Berger, Doug Brown, Bud Harris, Connie Hillman, Janet Loomis, Lynn Romano
Present: Bud, Bruce, Connie, Janet, Lynn
Guests: Jeanie Fusaro
Bob Tedoldi

The Pond Erosion Committee clarifies that although the two ponds in our community are a beautiful asset to the community we need to recognize this attractive asset was designed and is first and foremost a storm water capture/retention/management system designed and permitted to control the flow of water through our community, treat it, and drain it in controlled manner, to the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal. The system is approved, permitted, and monitored by county and regional regulatory agencies which retain ultimate jurisdiction over our system's status. Therefore, although ascetics are important we must ensure the proper function of the ponds systems.

Findings: Bruce Berger and Bud Harris reviewed additional aspects of the small Pond; carefully inspected/marked specific areas for recommendation, short term treatment, and or monitoring of areas along the pond perimeter to measure any changes to the waterline:

1. The four landscaped 'corners' of the 'pond' - - and a fifth, similar area - - were measured and marked (with small yellow flags to indicate areas for recommended improvement). Specifically, each area (indicated below w/ related pictures) was found to need some landscape concrete blocks (approx. size - 12" x 8" x 4") at the bottom half (indicated) to prevent any further erosion and/or washing of debris into the pond. The blocks cost approx. \$1.75 per. No additional landscape stone, such as cedar bark stone, appears necessary.
 - o NW corner - 14' of block
 - o SW " - 14' " " and 15' (in two sections)
 - o SE " - 25' " "
 - o NE " - 26' " "
 - o Other - 19' " " middle area of west side (landscaped w/wood chips)

2. Reviewed the entire perimeter of the pond; locating areas which appear most affected by erosion/based on vertical condition of the bank at the water line. Twelve (12) wooden stakes were inserted at those points/at the water line to permit periodic measurement of further bank changes/or lack thereof. A periodic report, reflecting cumulative findings/measurements/recommendations will be maintained and shared with the PLC. We have had some feedback from a neighbor that the stakes are 'not attractive'. Another neighbor reported 'no observable change in the pond bank over several years. Recommendation: Given the time parameter which recurring measurement involves; we should consider planting several approved water plants in front of, say, five of the marking stakes. This would afford a simple comparison of any different effects on the bank where plantings did/did not exist; and, at the same time, achieve a new, positive visual effect, possibly leading to future, incremental initiatives.

3. Overall assessment: The small pond is in good shape. No significant remedial steps appear necessary at this time. Further monitoring of the 'growth' on the banks will serve observation of 'natural' resolution of erosion/ or not.

4. As previously noted, the 'no mow' treatment has had positive effect on 95% of the bank at the waterline (large pond). New growth in vertical areas (previously bare dirt) is very consistent. Recommendation: Weed whack the 'line' demarking the 'mow' line and 'no - mow' line to taper/eliminate the visual 2-3" grass height line around the pond.

6. The control box grate and baffle are in the process of being repaired.

Summary of recommendations is as follows (Part 1 and Part 2 implementation):

PART 1: Initial Work

- 1) Observe, replace, remodel and mitigate:
 - a) Install markers to measure and document (over the next year plus) the rate and amount of land erosion around the small pond.
 - i) For the first year the frequency for measuring erosion should be every two months, in addition to: after 1 or more inches of rain, during the rainy season, and after major

storms measurements should be taken. To get the measurements: working off a fixed point, tree etc - as close as possible vs 30 ft away. Measurements will be documented and routinely submitted to the HOA Board. (unanimous)

- b) Establish a 6' no mow and no fertilizer zone around the entire pond (4:1 vote).
- c) Bruce will try to determine the possibility of reducing the flow of water /water pressure in the fountain to mitigate wave action erosion. (unanimous)
- d) Bruce and Janet will obtain two bids (Cut-Rite and Eden Nursery) to provide estimates for
 - i) "Hard-scape" the four corner mulch beds to create a "bed edge" to prevent mulch and debris from floating into the pond.
 - ii) "Soft-scape" the four corners and the four specific areas of bank erosion with aquatic plants. This area will be considered a "test area" to determine the success of plantings to mitigate/prevent further erosion.
 - iii) Four corners of the small pond:
 - (1) NW corner - 14' of block
 - (2) SW " - 14' " " and 15' (in two sections)
 - (3) SE " - 25' " "
 - (4) NE " - 26' " "
 - iv) Vote was unanimous
- e) Future "Adopt A Pond" Landscaping (to mitigate/prevent erosion) as needed.
 - i) See "Guide to Selection and Installation of Stormwater Pond Plants, by Gail Hansen, UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Department, Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology" (unanimous)
http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/FFL/pdfs/Guide%20to%20Selection%20and%20Installation%20of%20Stormwater%20Pond%20Plants_glhansen_07262012.pdf

PART 2: Long Term (unanimous)

1. Establish a "Ponds Systems Committee" with a defined mission statement.
 - a. Original mission statement: *"To preserve, maintain and enhance our two pond system, protect its visual appeal and maximize the benefits to the community."*
 - b. Or per Adopt A Pond Program... *To increase the functionality of stormwater ponds to achieve benefits such as: improved water quality, habitat restoration, drainage improvement, flood protection, and increased environmental stewardship.*

- c. *To advise the HOA Board of the status of the stormwater ponds systems and it's surroundings as they pertain to the systems..*
- i) Determine the scope of the committee to include, but not be limited to, the pond water, pond systems, and land around pond, grates, screens, flow out of system into tributary beyond our pond system, “imaginary fence” (distance) around pond similar to the large pond (distance from fence to pond at the large pond) to the extent that it affects the proper functioning of the pond (to prevent flooding and erosion).
 - ii) Assist M & A in facilitating communication with vendors (i.e.: Aquatic Systems, landscaper only as it pertains to the 6’ area around the pond, etc.)
 - iii) Ensure proper maintenance of the ponds environments and systems:
 - (1) Routine erosion measurements
 - (2) Inspect drainage system to ensure it is not blocked, or rusted/broken or fully functioning.
 - (3) Inspect no mow zone and aquatic plants to ensure plants are thriving.

COSTS/BUDGET:

The recommendations can be done with plants installed over time based on budget.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Guide to Selection & Installation of Stormwater Pond Plants (diagrams of slope with plantings)

Additional Resources:

1. Grand Haven Community Development District: Best Management Practices for Storm Water Detention Pond Bank Plantings
2. 4 Key Questions to Answer Before Conducting an Annual Stormwater Facility Inspection From Dewatering to Mitigation Techniques ERP 5860.2 Easterly Bank
4. EPA Inspections with designated skill levels
5. Guide to Selection and Installation of Stormwater Pond Plants by UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Department, Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology

Next meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2016 @ 9AM at Lynn’s home.