

**Lake Asbury Municipal Service Benefit District
Report from the Chairman, October “The Lakelighter”**

Conversations with the Governor’s Office:

Vice Chairman DeAnn Bjornson has been working very hard to determine the direction of the Governor as to what type of referendum he will require. To date, his office has not given LAMSBD any direction. We are running out of time. The local bill cycle starts in December getting ready for the Clay Delegation in January and the Legislature in March 2010. The Governor’s lack of decision is placing a major financial burden on this community.

The Governor, as a matter of principal, in his veto of LAMSBD’s new assessment legislation stated a requirement for a referendum. Rep Bill Proctor and our lawyer pointed out that current law does not require a referendum to increase our assessment and the LAMSBD Charter actually does not allow for the authority of such a referendum. Your Board has been unsuccessful in receiving a commitment from the Governor as to what type of referendum he will accept with our next effort to pass a much needed new assessment legislation. Your LAMSBD Board is requesting that District members contact the Governor’s office to solicit his acceptance our proposed “Ballot on Demand”, a mailed referendum administered by the Clay County Supervisor of Elections as the least expensive referendum process available to measure lot owner’s support.

Please contact the Governor at: **E-MAIL:** Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com **Telephone:** Citizen Services Hotline: * (850) 488-4441 [Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time] **Fax:** (850) 487-0801. **Mailing Address** Office of Governor Charlie Crist, State of Florida, PL-05 The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001. **Ask him to accept the Board’s proposed “Ballot on Demand” mailed referendum” as a bona fide expression of the resident’s support of the new assessment.**

Please, contact the Governor’s office.

PDM (Pre Disaster Mitigation) Grant:

Our South Lake Asbury Spillway Project has received approval & ranking by the Clay County LMS (Local Mitigation Strategy) Committee. This means we are on the list for a Post Disaster Mitigation potential loan or grant if the dams are damage by an Act of God or by human activity.

We have begun the process to submit to the Florida Division of Emergency Management – FEMA (70 pages of application). A successful process could be anywhere from 18 to 36 months. One of the first steps is to obtain a letter of assurance stating we have the approximately \$268,000 which at this time is our portion of the \$1,070,000 cost for the spillway. Application is due November 6, 2009.

On 9-28-09, we sent an e-mail to the Governor’s Office requesting help for this \$268,000. We requested they consider a loan, grant, or discretionary funds, etc. We reminded the Governor that his veto has placed us in a “Catch 22.” We can’t borrow anything because HB 713 was vetoed. **The grant would have had created a reduction in any required assessment.**

We have a decent chance to be successful on this grant. FEMA requires a 1 to 1 Benefit Cost Ratio. We have already demonstrated a 35+ to 1 Benefit Cost Ratio.

Does any member have any ideas on the 25%? Remember the 25% cannot come from another federal grant. If so, e-mail me carlkocher11@comcast.net

Watershed & Flooding Study:

The study is still in phase one, the collection of data. We have requested the county dredge Lake Ryan and several areas of Lake Asbury & South lake Asbury due to all the sediment damage. The County will not consider anything until the study is completed.

Lake Ryan:

Lake Ryan & the west finger of Lake Asbury will be sprayed for Salvinia (floating fern). In addition weeds on the LA mattress will be sprayed by the time you receive this newsletter.

Property Taxes Paid Quarterly:

Members can pay their property taxes quarterly with discounts. Go online: www.claycountytax.com or drive to the Clay Tax office on Bear Run just off Blanding. Hang a left off Knight Boxx Road and 500 feet on the right for more information.

Water or Drainage Issues:

Please contact Rob Bowmaster, 904-545-0249 or rabowmaster@att.net

Lake Facts:

South Lake Asbury:

Constructed 1967

Lake size - 70 acres

Acre Water Feet - 1180

Gallons of Water – approx 385,000,000 gallons

Dam Length- 950 feet

Dam Height - 30.5 feet

Dam Width- 37 feet

Three Piezometers

Piezometer is a small diameter observation well used to measure the hydraulic level of ground water in the dam.