

Okaloosa County News Release

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Photo Caption: Okaloosa County Commissioner Trey Goodwin discusses storm water issues with residents of Gap Creek.

Over 100 Residents Attend Town Hall Meeting with Commissioner Trey Goodwin

District 4 Commissioner Trey Goodwin, held a Town Hall meeting on Thursday night, April 14, to discuss storm water issues in the Gap Creek area. Over 100 residents attended, many of whom voiced their concerns over drainage and flooding in neighborhoods such as Overbrook, Tanglewood, Northgate, Emerald Village, Sylvania Heights, and more.

The meeting began with a presentation from Okaloosa County Engineer Scott Bitterman, concerning what the county has accomplished to help with storm water in and around Gap Creek, as well as future plans which are awaiting funding.

“There is a plan in place and although progress has been slow due to funding, the meeting was an opportunity to address these concerns with residents and to hear their ideas for better solutions,” said Commissioner Goodwin. “Basically, it is a situation where increased development in a naturally wet area coupled with inadequate or obsolete infrastructure, has now manifested into serious flooding problems for many residents.”

In addition to maintenance, about \$1 million in stormwater improvement projects have been funded since 2008, in the Gap Creek area. Another \$2 million in storm water projects have been identified to further improve stormwater conditions in the watershed.

Residents seemed interested in learning more about a Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU), which allows for a special assessment to be applied to a specifically defined community and used for specific projects in that neighborhood.

There will be more opportunities to discuss this idea and overall storm water funding in the future. For more information, you can call the 311 Citizens Information Line or contact Commissioner Goodwin at tgoodwin@co.okaloosa.fl.us.

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