

## STORMWATER – A FEW FACTS

1. In the beginning Malabar consists of 11 ½ square miles of area of pervious surface area. Today with 1,100 residences and 38 miles of roads we have lost at least 3% of this area. Add to this the large areas of designated wetlands within the Town boundary thus further reducing the Stormwater drainage.
2. The water table within the Town in the highlands varies from 10” to 40” depending on the season. This excludes designated wetlands.
3. 1922 to 1931 Melbourne Tillman Drainage district made an effort to “reclaim” land in the Malabar area through developing canals to move water to the Indian River Lagoon. Poor design, equipment failure, LACK of Funds rendered this effort less than successful. Today the situation still remains.
4. Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> we had a 4” rain event in 24 hours. This was a **25 year storm event** and it produced enough water in the Town to fill the tanks of 41 million cars.
5. Today 85% of Malabar’s Stormwater drainage system is on Private Property and, by law, inaccessible. Many of these historic water paths are silted in, impeding Stormwater outflow.
6. The average homeowner’s ad velorum taxes to the Town is less than \$300.00 per year. Stormwater fee is \$36.00 per year or less.
7. Malabar Soils are very poor drainage, in fact the USDA uses the term “Malabar Soils” throughout the State of Florida to describe poorly draining soil.
8. A recent inventory of 2/3rds of the Town shows that there are 90 to 100 missing/damaged/undersized driveway culverts impeding or stopping Stormwater drainage. At \$5,000.00 cost per culvert this figure becomes \$90,000.00
9. The Town recently replaced the culvert at the north end of Quarterman Lane. The actual COST was \$9,354.70. Over the last fourteen years, yes, 14 year total, the Quarterman resident’s property tax to the Town totaled \$6,606.60, which included the Stormwater fee.
10. One dump truck load of compactable road material is \$285.00 dollars plus three hours labor and the cost of operating our truck and fuel which totals approximately \$380.00. Remember one household’s property tax to Malabar for one year is on average less than \$300.00.
11. 2005 the property millage rate for Malabar was 1.7642 mils. Projecting this forward to 2015 adjusted for inflation the rate would be 3.53 mils. Instead our current rate is 1.9256 mils. The average millage rate in the state is between 4 and 10 mils. Town revenue is not keeping up with inflation let alone the requirements for necessary Stormwater and Road projects. The Town belongs to all of us, however we do have to provide the funds to keep it maintained.

## WHAT TO DO?

- A. Is your culvert missing or failed, if so replace it.
- B. Assist the Town by keeping your ditch/swale clean and mowed.
- C. Contact your Council person and express your concerns.
- D. Participate in Town Council meetings

