

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

June 14, 2010

Dear Residents,

There was an article in the Citrus County Chronicle on June 10 announcing a public meeting to learn more about the response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The article is being reprinted here for your information in case you would like to attend.

Public invited to local meeting about oil spill

By Amanda Mims

Local officials are inviting the public to learn more about the response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill at a workshop next week in Lecanto.

*The workshop is scheduled from **9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 18, at the new conference room of the College of Central Florida (formerly the Central Florida Community College) Lecanto campus.** The workshop will address the present status of the oil spill, local preparations, and responses to the economic impacts of the spill. For information about the workshop, call 795-3149.*

Several local agencies are sponsoring the workshop, including the county commission, sheriff's office, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council, Tourism Development Council and Workforce Connection.

On Wednesday, oil from the spill remained more than 150 miles away from the coast of Citrus County and no tarballs, tar patties or sheen have been found here.

Officials aren't expecting an oil slick along the Citrus County coast, Lt. Bob Wesch, assistant director of Citrus County Emergency Management, wrote in an e-mail Wednesday. "I would say that based on conversation with (Citrus County Emergency Management Director Capt. Joe Eckstein) and information gathered from the daily conference calls, Citrus County shouldn't get any oil slick along our coast. If we do experience anything related to Deepwater Horizon, it will be in the form of tar balls or patties," Wesch wrote.

A contingency plan is in place for Citrus County in case an oil slick reaches the area. The plan identifies sensitive areas like estuaries and marshes to be protected.

"We routinely update the ACP (Area Contingency Plan) to ensure that we have all sensitive areas identified. In fact, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission experts and county officials just participated with us to update the plan," Eckstein said in a press release Wednesday.

He said in the event the oil sheen approaches the county shoreline, BP's authorized contractors will use a process called "skimming" to collect the oil before it impacts Citrus County shores, according to the press release. If tarballs or tar patties are headed this way, booms will be used to protect Citrus County's sensitive areas. The Coast Guard already has booms allocated for that purpose in Citrus.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA