

Controversy Surrounds Lake Cleanup Efforts

Written by Debra Wood



Southwest residents, and city and county officials debate long-term plans for Lake Cane.

R ecent months brought residents good news and bad news.

“[The county] was going to create a tax district to clean up the lake, where on the other side of the lake,

Meisenheimer, neighbors and people who join Meisenheimer on his daily lake swims have called the city

“This goes well beyond the borders of Orlando,” Meisenheimer said. “It’s considered a cult swim. For a lot

Roland Davis lives on the lake and regularly swims in it. He expressed surprise at the city’s plan and strategy

“I’d like to see the city and county clean up the lake,” Davis said.

Davis, Meisenheimer and more than 150 people packed a community meeting held by the Orange County

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The outcry initially convinced the city to place the plan on an indefinite hold. Then residents were notified

“My only concern is that the parallel pipeline will lead to a parallel problem 20 years from now,” Meisenh
However, the city’s plans may have doomed the MSBU, which would have taxed residents in the Lake C

One resident who attended the community meeting voiced his concern for residents taxing themselves t

“It happened to be poor timing with the City of Orlando proposal,” said Liz Johnson, a supervisor with the

According to Johnson, District 1 Commissioner Scott Boyd asked the city to place the project on a tempo

“There’s a lot of history going on, and to have it happen as it did is not a good thing,” Boyd said. “Some c

Boyd and county environmental protection staff have worked for more than three years on a solution to i

Boyd secured about \$300,000 for water-quality improvements in his district. This includes alum nutrient

Eugene Augustin, who has lived on Turkey Lake Road since 1994, called the MSBU a dead issue, as th

“It’s just throwing good money after bad,” said Augustin, who is appreciative of Boyd’s efforts and suppo

Lake Cane resident Chris Young opposes the MSBU and the application of alum into the lake. He voiced

“Anybody putting something in the lake is putting it onto our property,” Young said. “I’m opposed to alum

The road drainage problem dates back to the late 1980s, when Turkey Lake Road was widened. At that

The city became aware of the severity of the flooding in 2003, when city engineer Jim Hunt visited the ar

Years later, the city decided to fix the flooding problem and secured a permit from South Florida Water M
