**EAST MULLOCH DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

**Charter Revision Speaking Points**

* District created in 1963
  + Landowners (only) vote – 1 vote per acre
  + 3 supervisors – staggered 3 year terms
  + Annual elections (1 supervisor elected each year)
  + Elections conducted at meeting of landowners held each February “in a public place”
  + If no meeting held due to lack of quorum & no supervisor elected, any interested person can request the State Board of Drainage Commissioners to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.
  + If vacancy during supervisor’s term, remaining supervisors can appoint a replacement until the next general election.
  + Supervisors were to divide district into 4 roughly equal sections.
    - Cost for work to be performed in one section cannot be assessed against land in other 3 sections.
  + Initial revenue source: maintenance tax of up to $15 per acre annually.
    - 1984: increased to maximum of $29.29 per acre
    - 1986: increased to present maximum of $30.10 per acre
* Boundaries have been expanded since 1963
* Management structure, authority of district, revenue source were insufficient over the years to properly maintain the district’s drainage structures.
* 1983: Legislature passed an act that would dissolve district if county adopted ordinance to take over responsibility for structures and drainage.
* 2008 report for the Lee County Commissioners:
* Over $5 million cost to restore structures to original, as built condition
* If restored, annual maintenance estimated at $140,000
* County never took over responsibility for district.

**Bill Changes**

* Board expanded to 5 supervisors beginning with 2018 general election
* Supervisors serve staggered 4 year terms
* Present supervisors continue in office until 2020, when 3 new supervisors elected to 4 year terms.
* Election by qualified voters, not just landowners.
* All elections held on date of general election
* Vacancy during term: Governor appoints replacement
* Allowed supervisor expenses compensated at same rates as state officials (s. 112.061, F.S.)
* District authorized to make non-ad valorem assessments and maintenance taxes.
  + Eliminates $30.10 per acre cap
  + Assessments and maintenance taxes per drainage district statutes are required to be in the amount necessary for proper maintenance.
* Repeals old, unnecessary laws, outdated charter sections.