

Memorandum

To: Claims Committee
From: Risk Management
Date: August 14, 2025
Re: Laura Russell v. Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Claim Description: This claim arises from property damage to Laura Russell's seawall which is alleged to have been caused by a hole in the County's storm drainpipe. This property is at 3695 Emerald Lane, Mulberry.

In June 2024 Ms. Russell hired a contractor to install a new seawall on her lakefront property. Following the installation, she noticed soil erosion at the top edge of the wall followed by bowing of the vinyl panels at the bottom. Her contractor returned on multiple occasions to perform remedial repairs, but the problem persisted.

In September 2024 Ms. Russell contacted Polk County Roads & Drainage to investigate the condition of the storm drainpipe which runs from an inlet in front of her home, through an easement between the homes, and empties into the lake behind her property. Her concern was that the pipe was not draining properly and was causing issues with her seawall. Inspection confirmed there was a large hole in the bottom of the 18-inch pipe. Roads & Drainage staff agree it is plausible the water leaking from this pipe into the ground under Ms. Russell's backyard could have produced enough hydrostatic pressure to undermine the seawall.

Ms. Russell has provided an estimate which includes:

\$12,000.00 remedial repairs
\$14,000.00 remove existing seawall
\$50,000.00 install new seawall

Request: We are requesting \$76,000.00 to settle this claim. Ms. Russell has agreed to settle this claim in exchange for a full release.

SETTLEMENT REQUEST: \$76,000.00

-  Commissioner
-  County Attorney
-  Deputy County Manager

August 14, 2025

-  Director Risk Management
-  Clerk of Courts