

May 4, 2022

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COLLIER LAND ACQUISITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, May 4, 2022

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 1:00 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Administrative Building "F", 3rd Floor, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Bill Poteet (Excused)
VICE CHAIRMAN: Michele Lenhard
Michael Seef (via Zoom)
Gary Bromley
Brittany Patterson-Weber
David Corban
Karyn Allman
Ron Clark
(Vacancy)

ALSO PRESENT: Summer Araque, Conservation Collier Program Coordinator
Kathlene Drew, Administrative Assistant (via Zoom)
Sally Ashkar, Assistant County Attorney
Mitchell Barazowski, Environmental Specialist

1. Roll Call

Vice Chairman Lenhard called the meeting to order at 1:00P.M. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established with 6 Members present in the Boardroom.

A. Approval of CCLAAC Members attending the meeting remotely

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to allow Mr. Seef to participate in the meeting via Zoom due to an extraordinary circumstance. Second by Mr. Clark. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Bromley. Carried unanimously 7 – 0.

3. Approval of February April 6, 2022 minutes

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2022 as presented. Second by Mr. Corban. Carried unanimously 7 – 0.

4. Old Business

A. Acquisition Cycle 10 Update

Ms. Araque provided the “Cycle 10 Active Acquisition List approved by BCC January 25, 2022 - updated 5-3-22” noting:

- Staff continues to process the applications including addressing any potential issues with the acquisitions and obtaining property appraisals.
- Initial closings are anticipated for July through September of this year.

B. Acquisition Cycle 11 Updates

1. Status of Active Acquisition list

Ms. Araque noted Staff is sending out target letters property owners and have already received 3 applications for consideration.

2. Survey of property owners

Ms. Araque reported a copy of the “Property Owner Survey” is provided for information purposes. She noted landowners who opted not to sell their lands to the County indicated the reasons included the parcel has already been sold or they have decided to not move forward in the process.

5. New Business

A. Preserve Updates

Mr. Barazowski provide and update on Pepper Ranch noting there are currently 11 active Swallow-tailed kite nests with some harboring fledglings.

B. ICSR Scoring Form

Mr. Barazowski presented a PowerPoint outlining the proposed changes to the ICSR form noting:

- The form has not been updated for 20 years and there are now more tools available for analyzing the environmental features of properties.
- The goals of the proposed revisions include:

- Reflecting current priorities and management strategies including weighting categories as follows: 40% Ecological Values and 20% each for Human Values, Restoration and Management, and Vulnerability categories.
- Improve the ability to distinguish between attributes of parcels by increasing the number of questions and range of available answers and eliminating the questions not addressing the attributes.
- Increasing the scoring consistency, objectivity, and ease of interpretation.
- Incorporating the best available spatial data and tools by transitioning to the using the Florida Cooperative Land Cover Classification System and using CLIP Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP4) layers to quantify priority natural communities, aquifer recharge, and habitat richness.

He provided an overview of the proposed criteria and a comparison of Cycle 10 properties under the existing and proposed format.

Vice Chairman Lenhard noted the proposed revisions were reviewed in detail at a recent joint Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to accept the revisions to the ICSR scoring form as presented by Staff. Second by Mr. Bromley. Carried unanimously 7- 0.

C. ISC reviews

1. Starnes property near Caracara

Ms. Araque presented the “*Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program Initial Screening Criteria Form for the Starnes parcel is in the northwest portion of Collier County, FL in Section 19, Township 46, Range 28 and Commission District 5*” for consideration. She provided an overview of the property evaluation noting:

- Staff prepares an evaluation of lands proposed for acquisition utilizing the Initial Screening Criteria Form and presents the findings to the Committee.
- If an application meets 2 out of the 6 criteria as outlined in the Ordinance governing the Program (Section 54-280 (a)), Staff and the Committee further evaluate the property through the ranking process.
- The application meets 5 of the 5 criteria.

During Committee discussion Ms. Araque was noted the CREW Land and Water Trust has a limited budget for land acquisition however will contribute \$5 - \$10k in support of viable acquisitions.

Mr. Bromley moved for Staff to prepare an Initial Criteria Screening Report for the application. Second by Ms. Allman. Carried unanimously 7 – 0.

6. Coordinator Communications

A. BCC Items

Ms. Araque provided the following updates:

4/26/22 – Approval of the Target Protection Area Mailing list and Conservation Collier 2021 Annual Report. Direction was given for investigation of accelerating the acquisition process for

certain lands, opening additional preserves to the public and increasing maintenance activity. The items will be remanded to the Subcommittee for review.

B. Miscellaneous Items

None

7. Subcommittee Reports

A. Lands Evaluation & Management – Chair, Bill Poteet – Last Meeting April 21, 2022

Ms. Lenhard reported the Robert H. Gore III Preserve Management Plan was reviewed at the meeting.

B. Outreach – Chair, Brittany Patterson-Weber – Last Meeting February 15, 2022

None

C. Ordinance Policy and Rules - chair vacant- Last meeting March 2, 2022

Ms. Lenhard reported the joint meeting with the Lands Evaluation & Management Subcommittee was held to review the proposed revisions to the ICSR scoring form.

8. Chair Committee Member Comments

During Committee comments, the following was noted:

- The Ordinance governing the Program may be amended as needed, and the process generally takes 1 – 2 months once it is recommended to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.
- Staff should review the requirements for convening meetings by Zoom to ensure quorum are met for meetings and whether those Members participating by phone or other remote means may cast votes on items.
- Consideration should be given to incorporating promotional materials to the acquisition notification letters sent out to property owners.

9. Public General Comments

Brad Cornell, Audubon Florida and Audubon of the Western Everglades noted he supports an accelerated purchase process as it is especially important given the competition for land acquisition in the area. Other initiatives should include advancing the Target Protection Area mailings timeline, and continuing the activities involved with preserve expansion parcels.

Meredith Budd, Florida Wildlife Federation agreed with Mr. Cornell’s recommendations and noted it is disappointing to see applications withdrawn by owners. The ranking process utilized by the County has been successful, but it may be beneficial to initiate a “rolling acquisition” process given the nature of the active real estate market.

10. Staff Comments

Ms. Araque noted:

- In response to the public comments, Staff is already working on accelerating the Target Protection Area mailing timeline and expansion of existing preserves including approaching owners if they become aware a property of interest is listed for sale.

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- The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held by the Parks and Recreation Department on 4/16/22 where volunteers John Larson, Tom Mortenson, Gil Grady, Peter Root and Paul Benzing were recognized by Conservation Collier.
- There is a vacancy on the Committee and the County will be undertaking the necessary steps to seek applications for the open seat.

11. Next Meeting Date

June 1, 2022

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 2:22P.M.

Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee



Michelle Lenhard, Vice Chairman

Acting Chair

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____ as presented _____ or as amended _____.