

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COLLIER OUTREACH
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, June 13, 2024

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Conservation Collier Outreach Subcommittee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 1:00 P.M. in regular session at Growth Management Community Development, 2800 N Horseshoe Dr, Naples FL 34104, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: John Courtright
Michele Lenhard
Gary Bromley
Nick Pearson

ALSO PRESENT: Summer Araque, Supervisor - Environmental
Matthew Denison, Manager - Environmental
Kathlene Drew, Administrative Support Specialist II
Melissa Hennig, Environmental Specialist I

The meeting was held in person in Conference Room B.

Michele Lenhard called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

1. Acceptance of Agenda

The Subcommittee accepted the agenda as presented.

2. Review of Minutes – January 20, 2023

The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 20, 2023, meeting as presented.

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

Nick Pearson, CCLAAC Member, officially join as part of the Outreach Subcommittee. The Subcommittee welcomed Nick to the committee.

A new Outreach Committee Chair nomination motion was made by Michele Lenhard, Committee Member, for John Courtright, Nick Pearson, Committee Member, second the motion. John Courtright agreed to the nomination and the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. John Courtright will be the new Outreach Committee Chair.

The goal of the Conservation Collier Program is to protect and conserve the remaining greenspaces within Collier County. Several factors limit how much land can be acquired; therefore, the program must selectively target the most valuable of these remaining lands that contain the most rare, unique, and endangered habitats in Collier County. With the recent ordinance change, all applications received will go to the BCC for review and acquisition approval. Summer Araque, Conservation Collier, presented the Conservation Collier Proposed Cycle 2024 Target Protection Mailing Areas (TPMA): Caracara Prairie Preserve

Targeting adjacent to CREW Lands and parcels currently up for sale. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Pepper Ranch Preserve

Discussion made regarding phase 1 and phase 11 testing of the land prior to acquisition due to adjacent citrus farms and a more focused approach to targeting the area surrounding the existing preserve. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Immokalee Urban Parcels

6 parcels totally about 1600 acres east of the Immokalee Airport, mostly owned by same individual. No target will be made north of the airport as other county areas have interest in them for their projects such as roadways etc. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Railhead Scrub Preserve

No letter will be sent to the railroad as the BCC approved to move forward for a grant for the Rails to Trails Project. Discussion made regarding the Exceptional Benefits going before the BCC and it is currently on hold for Transportation’s review. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Rivers Road Preserve Parcels

Added additional parcels tot the east side of Moulder Drive for target in addition to the past targeted areas. No additional comments made; Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Randall Curve & Immokalee Road Parcels

This area will no longer be a targeted area due to Transportation and other areas in the county having interests and the future widening of Immokalee Road.

Red Maple Swamp Preserve/Brewers Landing Preserve

The committee recommended separating Brewer from Red Maple and making its own identity for the target areas. There is a 2.7-acre parcel next to the Brewers Preserve that will be targeted. No further comments or suggestions made; committee agreed to keep the targeted area as presented.

Redroot Preserve

Targeting a 19.5-acre area as this has good potential for the field storage of the Conservation Collier Equipment and field office. A 4.5-acre parcel is listed for sale next to the existing preserve. No comments or discussion made; Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Panther Walk Preserve Parcels

Discussion made regarding the target map always evolving within this multi-parcel project. Additional area was added outside of the pre-approved target area on the outskirts.

Recommendation was made not to reference this area as a wildlife corridor and to speak of this area as critical environmental. Discussion made regarding the smaller size parcels and how they are environmentally important regardless of the size. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Gordon River Greenway

Discussion made regarding the very little amount of land that is not developed around the Preserve and the removal of the northern area to this year's target cycle. No further additions made, and the Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Nancey Payton Preserve Parcels

Additional parcels to the south were added to the targeted area along with the re-addition of the Buckley property. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

North Belle Meade

This is not a multi-parcel project. Discussion was made as this area is a new target and the parcels are individually owned. Most are sending lands and most all parcels have no infrastructure and no roadway access. Committee agreed to keep the targeted area as presented.

I-75 Everglades Blvd

This is a new targeted area at the request of County Commission so there could be no commercial development in this area should the I-75 exit, and entry ramp be built and opened. This will involve a 1-mile radius as a priority 2 area and at the ½ mile radius point show as a clip priority at the intersection of Everglades Blvd and I-75 junction. Committee agreed to keep the targeted area as presented.

Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve Parcels

The targeted area will remain the same as in previous years. The Cypress Cove Landkeepers parcel will be presented for acquisition to the BCC in June or July of this year. Committee agreed to targeted area as presented.

Bayshore Area

The target has no changes. No comments or discussion made; Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Rattlesnake Hammock

No comments or discussion made; Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Shell Island

Addition of 2 parcels to the north and no other changes made. No comments or discussion made; Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

McIlvane Marsh Parcels

Discussion made regarding Fiddler’s Creek expansion and the requirement of setting aside land for preservation for the expansion of the community. An open parcel near the preserve is now PUD and will be developed as affordable housing. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

Marco Island

Discussion made regarding the current parcels in the various stages of acquisition and the concerns the BCC has stated in the purchasing of the properties located on Marco Island. Additional parcels were added to the target areas and a recommendation was made to focus on the parcels that contain gopher tortoise or burrowing owls. The committee supports the targeting of the lots and asked for Summer or Melissa to view them in person when the reports are being done. Contact Brittany Piersma with the Audubon of the Western Everglades to get the most current data for the tortoises and owls on the lots. Committee agreed to keep the targeted areas as presented.

A motion was made to approve the Cycle 2024 Target Protection Mailing Areas as presented by John Courtright, Committee Chair, Gary Bromley, Committee Member, moved to motion, Nick Pearson, Committee Member second the motion, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

5. Coordinator & Staff Updates (as needed)

Summer Araque reminded that the CCLAAC meeting for the month of August is cancelled.

6. Subcommittee Member Comments

None

7. Public Comments

None

8. Next Subcommittee Meeting

Next meeting – TBD

9. Adjournment

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 2:38 P.M.

**Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee -
Public Outreach Subcommittee**

John Courtright, Chairman

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