



# Collier Soil & Water Conservation District

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*JM 3/23/07*

MAR 23 2007

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*JM*

March 15, 2007

Chairman James Coletta  
3301 E. Tamiami Trail  
Naples, Florida 34112

Dear Chairman Coletta:

## Elected Board of Supervisors

*Stan Weiner, P.E.*  
Chairman

*John Cochrane*  
Vice-Chairman

*Dennis P. Vasey*  
Secretary/Treasurer

*Michael Simoniak*  
Supervisor

The Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) and two members of the Collier Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD) met on March 12, 2007. The meeting was both cordial and informative.

During our discussion, we were able to discover more similarities than differences in our approaches to conservation. It was abundantly clear during our meeting that the CCLAAC members are faithfully pursuing land acquisition using Ordinance No. 2002-63; however, it was noted during the property appraiser's presentation, that the per acre price is retreating to a more realistic wetland market value.

Our intent was to inform CCLAAC about CSWCD's activities and to discuss some areas of mutual concern: such as our previous request to have a permanent moratorium placed on land purchases in and adjacent to the Winchester head area. Also, to insure that properties are purchased at fair market price; managed and used for storm water retention; restoration of wet lands; and use as habitat. Where consistent with the Land Development Code, some ground should be modified to protect the health and safety of residents and properties south and west of these areas.

At the present time the Soil & Water Conservation District does not have the money to purchase property in the areas where Conservation Collier has willing sellers. Since the market is currently favorable to the purchase of lands for conservation purposes, we do not interpose a continued objection. That being said, it is our impression that conservation areas should have multiple uses and be managed under a general plan that derives the greatest possible economic benefit for the taxpayer while maintaining the letter and spirit of our conservation purposes.

14700 Immokalee Road  
Naples, Florida 34120

239-455-4100

[www.cswcd@comcast.net](http://www.cswcd@comcast.net)

Preservation of land, while an important consideration, should not be the only objective. We must do all in our power to remove the impression that conservation lands may not be subjected to any changes, and/or maintained in a manner that will never alter habitat or purpose. This is a concern since the public good may not be best served where other uses can be justified to warrant a change in policy that takes advantage of technology, other habit, or water management enhancements.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stan Weiner".

COPY

Stan Weiner  
Chairman  
Collier Soil & Water Conservation District

cc: Vice Chairman Tom Henning  
Commissioner Donna Fiala  
Commissioner Fred W. Coyle  
Commissioner Frank Halas  
County Manager James Mudd  
Chairman William Poteet, Jr., Conservation Collier



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