

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COLLIER LAND ACQUISITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, January 13, 2020

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 9:00 A.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Administrative Building “F”, 3rd Floor, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Bill Poteet
VICE CHAIRMAN: Pat Sherry
Susan Calkins
Michael Seef
Gary Bromley
Brittany Patterson-Weber
Michele Lenhard
Thomas J. Iandimarino
Hannah Rinaldi

ALSO PRESENT: Summer Araque, Conservation Collier Program Coordinator
Jennifer Belpedio, Assistant County Attorney
Molly DuVall, Environmental Specialist
Christal Segura, Environmental Specialist

I. Roll Call

Chairman Poteet called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

New Members Thomas Iandimarino and Hannah Rinaldi were welcomed to the Committee.

II. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Calkins moved to appoint William Poteet as Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Seef. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

Mr. Seef moved to appoint Pat Sherry as Vice Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Second by Ms. Calkins. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Sherry moved to approve the Agenda subject to the addition of Item V.B.1 – Otter Mound Preserve. Second by Ms. Calkins. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

IV. Approval of October 14, 2019 minutes

Ms. Sherry moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2019 meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Seef. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

V. New Business

A. Application(s) for Re-appointment

Ms. Sherry moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners re-appoint William Poteet and Michael Seef to the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Second by Ms. Lenhard. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

B. Review of Land Management Plans

1. Otter Mound Preserve

Ms. Duvall presented the “*Otter Mound Preserve Land Management Plan*” for consideration. She noted the Committee previously approved the document as a 5-year plan, but upon further review Staff noted the plan requires a 10-year review. There will be a public meeting for input on the plan, as well as updating of the plant species list.

Committee discussion occurred on the process for reviewing management plans and whether the public meetings should be held before the Committee considers the plans.

Staff noted the process is under review, however, if any significant changes occur to the plan based on the public’s input, they’re returned to the Committee for review.

Ms. Sherry moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners adopt the “Otter Mound Preserve Land Management Plan,” as a ten-year plan. Second by Mr. Seef. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

2. Cocohatchee Creek

Ms. Duvall presented the “*Cocohatchee Creek Preserve Land Management Plan – Updated 2019*” for consideration. She noted the Lands Evaluation and Management Subcommittee recommended the plan be approved and provided an overview of the changes, including the following updates:

- Relevant dates, projects and activities.

- Wildlife and plant species as necessary.
- Goals and cost projections.
- A plant list revision scheduled for 2020.

Ms. Sherry moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners adopt the “Cocohatchee Creek Preserve Land Management Plan – Updated 2019 subject to the following changes:”

- Section 2.3.1 line 6 – from “...and Florida Soft Shell...” to “...***Florida Soft Shell***”
- Section 2.4 last sentence – from “...both the Federal Government...” to “...***the Federal Government...***”

Second by Mr. Seef. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

3. Logan Woods

Ms. Duvall presented the “*Logan Woods Preserve Land Management Plan – Updated 2019*” for consideration. She noted the Lands Evaluation and Management Subcommittee recommended the plan be approved and provided an overview of changes, including the following updates:

- Relevant dates, projects and activities
- Wildlife, plant and invasive species as necessary
- Goals, budgets and cost projections
- A plant list revision scheduled in 2020

Mr. Seef moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners adopt the “Logan Woods Preserve Land Management Plan – Updated 2019.” Second by Ms. Sherry. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

4. Nancy Payton

Ms. Segura presented the “*Nancy Payton Preserve Land Management Plan – Revised 2019*” for consideration. She noted the Lands Evaluation and Management Subcommittee recommended the plan be approved and provided an overview of the changes, including the following updates:

- Relevant dates, maps, projects and activities
- Wildlife, plant and invasive species as necessary
- Goals, budgets and cost projections
- A revision to the plant list is scheduled for 2020

Ms. Calkins moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners adopt the “Nancy Payton Preserve Land Management Plan – Revised 2019.” Second by Ms. Sherry. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

C. Burdis application – Winchester Head

Ms. Araque presented the Memorandum “*Burdis Property Application Winchester Head*” dated January 6, 2020 noting:

- An agreement has been reached with the owner for the County to acquire the parcel for the appraised value of \$16,600.
- The acquisition will be funded from monies in the off-site preservation program via a standard real estate contract.

- If there are any deviations from a standard contract, the item may be returned to the Committee for review.

Ms. Lenhard moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the purchase of the Burdis property located in the Winchester Head multi-parcel project area. Second by Mr. Seef. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

VI. Old Business

A. Ballot Language

1. Review three language options

Ms. Araque presented the document “*Conservation Collier ballot language proposed options for November 2020 ballot*” noting the Committee provided a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on the referendum language, however, following a review by the County Attorney, the bonding option is proposed to be amended to include a specific dollar amount for any funding. Additionally, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida has proposed amending the language for any referendum put forth.

Chairman Poteet noted the Committee recommended that language to be put forth to the voters to not include bonding options.

Speakers

Gladys Delgado, Conservancy of Southwest Florida reported they engaged a consultant to conduct a survey and reviewed other jurisdictions language for similar referendums (in Florida and the US). The polling by the consultant and other reviews found it would be beneficial to add certain key words (i.e. drinking water, water quality, etc.) to improve the chances of the proposal being approved by the voters. She displayed their proposed version, which includes these words for the Committee’s consideration.

Ellen Goetz reported there will be a public campaign to support approval of the referendum and a PAC has been formed to help in the matter.

The Committee discussed adding words as proposed by the Conservancy, noting certain key words may be beneficial. The Committee took the following actions after the discussions:

Ms. Sherry moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the following ballot language:

“REESTABLISH FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION COLLIER TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WATER RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Shall Collier County reestablish the levy of a .25 mil ad valorem tax for 10 years for the purpose of continuing to acquire, preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands, as well as provide compatible public access wherever applicable to such lands, for the protection of water quality, water resources, wildlife habitat, and public open space in perpetuity?”

Second by Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

See amended motion for this option at end of item VI.A.2 removing wording “as well as.”

Ms. Sherry moved for the Board of County Commissioners to only consider the language as approved above and not propose bonding options in the referendum. Second by Ms. Lenhard. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

2. Provide recommendation regarding bonding

The Committee reiterated they do not recommend the option, but if put forth, the language be as follows:

Ms. Sherry moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners utilize the following language for the referendum should the bonding option be proposed:

“REESTABLISH FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION COLLIER TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WATER RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Shall Collier County reestablish the levy of a .25 mil ad valorem tax for 10 years, with option to bond up to [insert amount] dollars payable from this levy, bearing interest not exceeding maximum legal rate, for the purpose of continuing to acquire, preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands and provide compatible public access wherever applicable to such lands, for the protection of water quality, water resources, wildlife habitat, and public open space in perpetuity?”

Second by Ms. Patterson-Weber. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

The Committee chose to not provide a recommendation on the dollar amount for the proposed funding.

Amended Motion for Non Bonding Option Referendum Language

It was noted the wording “as well as” was removed from the bonding option language referenced above in order to meet the 75 word limitation requirement for the referendum and the original option approved without a provision for bonding should be amended to provide consistency between the proposals.

Ms. Lenhard moved to amend the original motion and recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the following ballot language:

“REESTABLISH FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION COLLIER TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WATER RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Shall Collier County reestablish the levy of a .25 mil ad valorem tax for 10 years for the purpose of continuing to acquire, preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands and provide compatible public access wherever applicable to such lands, for the protection of water quality, water resources, wildlife habitat, and public open space in perpetuity?”

Second by Mr. Iandimarino. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

Ms. Belpedio reported the final language approved will be reviewed by the Supervisor of Elections for sufficiency before being placed on the ballot.

3. Provide recommendation on spending for amenities

Ms. Araque queried if the Committee wished to provide a recommendation on allowing the use of up to 10 percent of the allocated of acquisition funds (75 percent in total) for provision of amenities in the preserves.

Committee discussion occurred noting the intent is to utilize the funds for boardwalks, parking areas, kiosks, etc. and not for other County agencies to use for improvements outside the lands controlled by the program (roadways accessing preserve lands, etc.).

Ms. Lenhard moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the use of 10 percent of funds collected for land acquisition for provision of amenities in the preserves. Second by Ms. Sherry. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

VII. Coordinator Communications

A. BCC Items

Ms. Araque provided the following updates:

11/12/19 – The program’s Future Acquisition Strategy was approved, including removing the reference to prioritized areas.

12/10/19 – The referendum language was approved to move forward and the new information will be heard at the January 28th Meeting.

B. Veterans Memorial Blvd. Extension Update

Ms. Araque provided an email from Bee Thao from Collier County Transportation Department – “*Subject: Presentation to CCLAAC January 13, 2020*” dated December 3, 2019 which provided an update on the construction schedule for the new high school noting the project is in the permitting stages and the school is anticipated to open in 2023.

C. Miscellaneous Items

Ms. Duvall presented the PowerPoint “*Wildlife Camera Update*” and “*Conservation Collier Current Rules and Regulations for Invasive Species*” for informational purposes. The presentations included photos of wildlife activity on the preserves obtained by Tom Mortenson and procedures for invasive wildlife species found on preserve lands.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Lands Evaluation & Management – Chair, Bill Poteet – December 9, 2019 scheduling of LEMS meetings for 2020

Chairman Poteet reported the Subcommittee reviewed the management plans considered today and a new meeting will be scheduled by Staff via a “Doodle poll.”

Ms. Rinaldi was added as a new Member to the Subcommittee.

B. Outreach – Chair, Michael Seef – Last meeting November 6, 2019

Mr. Seef reported the program’s banner is on display at the Naples Preserve and work continues on distributing brochures and rack cards.

C. Ordinance Policy and Rules – Chair, Pat Sherry – No meeting

Mr. Iandimarino was added as a new Member to the Subcommittee.

D. Referendum and Acquisition Plan Task Force, Chair, Bill Poteet – No meeting

None

IX. Chair Committee Member Comments

None

X. Public General Comments

None

XI. Staff Comments

None

XII. Next Meeting – April 13, 2020

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 11:14 A.M.

Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee

Bill Poteet, Chairman

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