

January 11, 2021

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COLLIER LAND ACQUISITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, January 11, 2021

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 (Excused)
Susan Calkins
Michael Seef
Gary Bromley
Brittany Patterson-Weber
Michele Lenhard
Thomas J. Iandimarino
Hannah Rinaldi

ALSO PRESENT: Summer Araque, Conservation Collier Program Coordinator
Molly DuVall, Sr. Environmental Specialist
Mitchell Barazowski, Environmental Specialist,

The meeting was a hybrid meeting with personal attendance and via Zoom. Six members were present to meet the minimum in-person quorum requirement of five. Gary Bromley and Michael Seef joined remotely on Zoom.

I. Roll Call

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

II. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Lenhard nominated William Poteet for Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Being no further nominations Mr. Poteet was unanimously elected as Chairman.

Mr. Seef nominated Pat Sherry for Vice Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee.

Chairman Poteet nominated Michele Lenhard as Vice Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee.

The Board was polled with Ms. Lenhard receiving 5 votes and Ms. Sherry receiving 3 votes. Ms. Lenhard was declared Vice Chairman of the Committee.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Calkins moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Ms. Lenhard. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

IV. Approval of October 12, 2020 minutes

Mr. Iandimarino moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting as presented. Second by Ms. Patterson-Weber. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

V. New Business

A. Applications for Appointments and Re-appointments

Ms. Araque reported that there are 4 seats to be filled on the Committee with the following individuals having applied to be seated on the Committee: *Brittany Patterson-Weber, Carl Kuehner, Charles Staadeker, Clarette Frank, Gary Bromley, David Corban, Pat Sherry, Paul Demarco, Richard Blonna, Susan Calkins and William Pearson.* She provided a brief overview of the applications filed by the perspective members.

Ms. Calkins announced she was withdrawing her application due to the number of qualified applicants and she has served 2 terms on the Committee.

Mr. Kuehner, Mr. Blonna, addressed the Committee on their desire to be seated on the Committee.

Mr. Bromley and Ms. Patterson-Weber spoke on their desire to be re-appointed to the Committee.

Chairman Poteet thanked the applicants for their interest in serving on the Committee. He noted each Member will be allowed to vote for 4 individuals and the top vote getters filling the available 3-year terms.

The Committee was polled, and the results were as follows: Ms. Patterson-Weber 8 votes, Mr. Bromley 8 votes, Ms. Sherry 4 votes, Mr. Kuehner 4 votes and Mr. Corban 4 votes.

Chairman Poteet noted Ms. Patterson-Weber and Mr. Bromley received the most votes with a 3-way tie for the 2 remaining seats. The Committee will be polled again for the 2 remaining seats and each Member is allowed to vote for 2 applicants.

The results were as follows: Mr. Kuehner 8 votes, Mr. Corban 5 votes, and Ms. Sherry 3 votes.

Mr. Iandimarino moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners appoint Brittany Patterson-Weber, Gary Bromley, Carl Kuehner and David Corban to the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Second by Ms. Lenhard. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

B. SD Corp

1. Review of SD Corp Management Plan

Mr. Barazowski presented the “*Conservation Collier Program SD Corp Preserve Interim Management Plan – January 2021*” for consideration noting:

- That the 37-acre parcel was recently purchased by the County and is located near the corner of Rattlesnake Hammock Road and Santa Barbara Blvd.
- The objectives include restoring natural vegetation, establishing public access, preventing trespassing of ATV’s and other unauthorized uses, removing debris, protecting cultural, historical and archeological features, preserving listed species and seeking partnerships for the site.
- Capital improvements proposed include hiking trails, signage, a parking lot and security measures at a total estimated cost of \$34,200.
- Security options include installing chain link fencing, placement of boulders or other measures which are still under investigation by Staff.

The Committee requested Staff seek approval from them for the installation of security features given they may have an aesthetic impact on the site.

Ms. Rinaldi moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners adopt the “Conservation Collier Program SD Corp Preserve Interim Management Plan – January 2021 as presented by Staff. Second by Ms. Lenhard. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

2. Naming of preserve

Mr. Barazowski provided a Memo dated “*Subject: Naming of the SD Corp Preserve*” noting that a public outreach campaign was conducted to name the preserve. The top 5 choices for names were identified as follows:

1. *Rattlesnake Hammock Preserve,*
2. *Oak Haven Preserve*
3. *Palm Oaks Preserve*
4. *Midden Hammock Preserve*
5. *Ancient Oaks Preserve*

A vote on the top 5 names identified was held to determine the most popular choice was Rattlesnake Hammock Preserve (44 percent of the votes).

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners to name the SD Corp property "Rattlesnake Hammock Preserve." Second by Ms. Calkins. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

C. Passing of Referendum

1. Proposed Cycle 10 Acquisition Cycle Timeline

Ms. Araque provided a Memorandum dated January 4, 2021 – "*Subject: Post-Referendum action items*" for informational purposes. She noted:

- That the acquisition process includes parcels being nominated and a screening by the Committee with a subsequent priority ranking of the lands.
- Historically, the activity occurs annually and is known as a "Cycle" with Cycle 10 being the next in line for consideration.
- The ranking list for the Cycle is forwarded to the BCC for a decision based on the input from various parties including the Committee and amount of annual funding available for purchases.
- Cycle 9 was completed in 2019 and monies were borrowed from the management fund for the purchases (\$3.5M). Any properties in this Cycle not acquired by the County may be re-evaluated for Cycle 10.
- With the approval of the funding referendum in November of 2020, funds are now available for purchase on an annual basis and the \$3.5M will be "paid back" to the management fund before further purchases.
- The applications are available online in PDF format and investigation is underway to determine the feasibility of an "online" process.
- She provided an overview of the timeline for Cycle 10 which is slated to occur in 2021.

The Committee reviewed the Memorandum and recommended the following changes:

Conservation Collier Property Acquisition Procedures

Item #15: Revise the current wording - "*Implement IPM-apply for grants, conduct exotic removal, restore if needed, install trails, signs etc.*" to incorporate wording that includes reference to "*other amenities.*"

Item #17: Revise the current wording - "*Open sites up to public for use and continue to manage and maintain*" to read "*Open sites designated for public use and ...*"

Completed Application Section

Item #3 - Revise the current wording - "*Collier County will make an offer at the appraised value (not any higher)*" to read "*Collier County will make an offer at the appraised value (not any higher or lower).*"

Item #4 - Revise current wording - "*If you accept the offer, we will forward it to the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Committee (CCLAAC) for their review*" to "*If the owner accepts the offer, we will forward it to the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Committee (CCLAAC) for their review*"

Ms. Rinaldi moved to accept the Cycle 10 timeline as proposed. Second by Ms. Lenhard. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

2. Capital Projects to be reviewed by LEMs

Ms. Araque reported that the Lands Evaluation and Management Subcommittee will be reviewing proposed capital projects which may be undertaken at the preserves and providing input as necessary.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Coordinator Communications

A. BCC Items

Ms. Araque reported the following items were approved by the Board of County Commissioners:

1. **Land Management Plans**
2. **Gore MOU**
3. **Pepper Ranch campground host**
4. **Youth Hunt**

B. Acquisitions

Ms. Araque provided the following updates:

1. Winchester Head properties

Ms. Araque noted 2 parcels have been recently acquired bringing the acreage in the multi parcel project to 94 acres total.

2. Red Maples Swamp - donation planned

Ms. Araque reported a 2.5-acre parcel is under consideration at tomorrow's BCC meeting.

C. Miscellaneous Items

1. Pepper Ranch Campground Host & RV Pad

Ms. Araque provided photos of the completed RV Pad which is now occupied with the hosts in place assisting with the operation and cleaning of the Visitor's Center.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Araque provided the report "*Conservation Collier Subcommittees last updated February 2020*" for informational purposes.

A. Lands Evaluation & Management – Chair, Bill Poteet – December 9, 2020

Chairman Poteet reported that discussion of Land Management Plans and public access to Wetwoods Preserve occurred at the meeting.

1. Proposal for Stormwater Management Property trails

Ms. Araque provided the Report "*Stormwater Property – Wiggins Pass Road*" for informational purposes. The report evaluates the site to determine the viability of partnering with Collier County Stormwater Management for Conservation Collier for development and management of a trail.

Mr. Seef initiated that the concept given Wetwoods Preserve is a ¼ mile south, a Preserve absent of public access with limited opportunities in District 2 with public access.

The Committee noted that investigating the concept should include whether other groups with grant fund opportunities may be interested in partnering, utilizing a Memorandum of Understanding for long term management by Conservation Collier and the appropriateness of setting a precedent by spending Conservation Collier funds on a property they do not control into perpetuity.

B. Outreach – Chair, Michael Seef - Last meeting September 18, 2020

1. Next meeting to discuss TPAs –decide on date in March

Mr. Seef reported the Subcommittee will meet in March and begin identifying properties for potential acquisition.

Target Protection Areas leading to

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

1. No meeting scheduled - This Subcommittee is utilized on an as needed basis.

IX. Chair/Committee Member Comments

Chairman Poteet recognized the Members, Staff and others (Commissioner Taylor, Gladys DelGado, Meredith Budd) for their public informational campaign for the recent referendum re-authorizing funding for the program.

X. Public General Comments

Richard Blonna congratulated the Committee on the success of the program, and he will be working with groups on Marco Island to help promote the program.

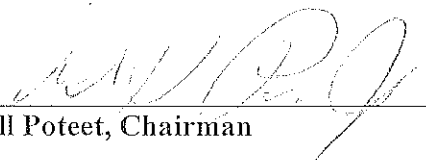
XI. Staff Comments

Ms. Araque reported there are openings on the Outreach Subcommittee and Mr. Iandimarino, Ms. Patterson-Weber and Ms. Lenhard volunteered to join the Subcommittee. Any new Members appointed by the BCC are welcome to join any Subcommittees they choose.

XII. Next Meeting – March 8, 2021

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 10:31 A.M.

Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee



Bill Poteet, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on March 8 as presented _____ or as amended _____.

