

January 5, 2022

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COLLIER LAND ACQUISITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, January 5, 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

VICE CHAIRMAN: Michele Lenhard
Michael Seef (via Zoom)
Gary Bromley
Brittany Patterson-Weber
Thomas J. Iandimarino
Hannah Rinaldi
David Corban (via Zoom)
Karyn Allman

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

Any persons in need of the verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the video recording from the Collier County Communications and Customer Relations Department or view online.

I. Roll Call

Chairman Poteet called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established with 7 Members present in the Boardroom.

Ms. Lenhard moved to allow Mr. Corban and Mr. Seef to participate in the meeting via Zoom due to an extraordinary circumstance. Second by Ms. Patterson-Weber. Carried unanimously 7 – 0. (Mr. Corban joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m. after Item #IV.A).

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Approval of December 9, 2021 Minutes

Ms. Lenhard moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021 subject to the following change:

- Page 3, Speakers - from Eric Folk to Eric *Foht*

Second by Mr. Iandimarino. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

V. New Business

Mr. Iandimarino reported that he was resigning from the Committee at the end of the meeting to pursue a career opportunity outside the region.

A. Selection of Committee Chair

Ms. Lenhard nominated Bill Poteet for Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee.

There were no further nominations.

Ms. Lenhard moved to close nominations. Second by Mr. Seef. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

Mr. Poteet retained his position of Chairman of the Committee.

Selection of Committee Vice Chair

Ms. Rinaldi nominated Michele Lenhard for Vice-Chairman of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee.

There were no further nominations.

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to close nominations. Second by Ms. Rinaldi. Carried unanimously 8 – 0.

Ms. Lenhard retained her position as Vice Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Corban joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

B. Recommend Appointments for Committee Members Expiring

Ms. Araque reported that there are 2 open seats on the Committee with Michele Lenhard, Hannah Rinaldi and Ron Clark filing the necessary applications for consideration. She provided an overview of Mr. Clark's credentials as he was not present.

Ms. Lenhard and Ms. Rinaldi addressed the Committee on their desires to be reappointed to the Committee.

During discussion it was noted all 3 candidates are qualified however Ms. Lenhard and Ms. Rinaldi should be reappointed based on their record of service on the Committee. Mr. Iandimarino has announced his resignation which creates another opening and Mr. Clark may apply to fill the vacancy.

Ms. Patterson-Weber moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners re-appoint Michele Lenhard and Hannah Rinaldi to the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Iandimarino. Carried unanimously 9 – 0.

C. Preserve Updates

Ms. Araque provided the PowerPoint "*Conservation Collier Preserve Update*" for informational purposes and reported the following:

Rattlesnake Hammock – Wildlife cameras installed on site by FStop Foundation captured photos of a Florida Panther. Subsequently, a female panther was captured in the area based on a report by a property manager and was collared by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for research purposes. Staff will be monitoring the activity of the panther through a database. The work continues to provide public access to the site.

Pepper Ranch – The preserve is now open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with reservations available for camping on site. Based on existing conditions, the horse and bike trails are anticipated to be available for use by the end of January and the Park Ranger is on site.

Staff presented year end photos from the various preserves captured on cameras installed by volunteer Tom Mortensen.

The Committee noted:

- An Eagle Scout project is slated for the Robert H. Gore, III Preserve.
- Consideration should be given to installing additional signage on the roads leading to the Robert H. Gore, III Preserve to help the public locate the site – *Staff reported that additional signage was installed in the area and the Committee noted the Lands Evaluation and Management Subcommittee will review the issue to determine if any signs need to be added to identify the location of the site.*

Speaker

Meredith Budd, Florida Wildlife Federation reflected on the importance of collared panthers and there now are 4 collared cats in the area which provide invaluable data on their activities.

IV. Old Business

A. Acquisition Cycle 10 Update

Ms. Araque provided the draft Executive Summary *“Recommendation to approve the tenth Conservation Collier Active Acquisition List (AAL) and direct staff to pursue projects recommended within the A-Category in sequential order spending no more than \$14,065,100 within Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Fund (172), and direct staff to start accepting applications for Acquisition Cycle 11 following a similar timeline to Cycle 10.”* She noted:

- That the ranking list approved by the Committee will be forwarded to the BCC for consideration during their January 25, 2022 meeting.
- Public Notice will be issued so more than one Member of the Committee may attend the meeting however Members should not discuss any business that may come before the CCLAAC to avoid a Sunshine Law violation.
- The BCC during review of the item, may make changes to the ranking list should they so desire.

Ms. Lenhard recommended consideration be given to changing the approved ranking list and move some of the B-List properties to the A-List. The recommendation is based on the estimated cost of all parcels currently on the A-List being less than the funds available for purchase of properties in Cycle 10.

Some Members agreed on the concept, while others were not in favor.

Ms. Araque expressed concern on taking such action as the item is not on the Agenda and lacks public notice.

During Committee discussion, the following was noted:

- The applicants and public are not present at today’s meeting to provide comment on the item.
- It may be beneficial to retain the extra funds to allow for purchase of the preserve expansion parcels which may become available during the year.
- Such an action may set a precedent for other property owners who filed applications during Cycle 10 and were not ranked on the A-List to come forward and request changes after the fact.
- The properties assigned to the B-List automatically are returned for consideration in the next Cycle unless the owner withdraws the application filed with the program.

Speaker

Meredith Budd, Florida Wildlife Federation supported the concept of changing the list as a specific amount of funds were allocated to the acquisition of properties for Cycle 10.

Jennifer Belpedio, Assistant County Attorney recommended the ranking list not be altered as it was developed previously at a public meeting in accordance with the Ordinance governing the Committee. Changes at this point at today’s meeting may be problematic, if not legally, the appearance of such an action taken by the Committee.

During further discussions options to address the issue absent of the Committee re-ranking the parcels may include adding language to the Executive Summary on the observation so the BCC is aware of the concept of re-ranking the parcels in question and moving them to the A-List or Members appearing to provide comment when the BCC hears the item.

Chairman Poteet polled the Committee with 6 Members in favor of retaining the current Acquisition Ranking List and 3 in favor of amending the list (Ms. Lenhard, Ms. Rinaldi and Mr. Seef).

Ms. Araque provided the “Real Property Management Procedures from 8-14-08 and 8-23-21 (RMSP & WH parcels) changes” for informational purposes. She provided an overview of the document which outlines the guidelines for acquisitions of the Conservation Collier properties by the County.

VI. Coordinator Communications

A. BCC Items

Ms. Araque reported:

1/11/22 – Consideration contracts for purchase of lands in Red Maple Swamp and Winchester Head.

1/25/22 – Consideration of a contracts for donation of land in Red Maple Swamp and review of the Cycle 10 Ranking List

B. Miscellaneous Items

Ms. Araque noted that Members should be aware there will be a change in the format of the meeting packet beginning with next month’s meeting.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Lands Evaluation & Management – Chair, Bill Poteet – Next meeting April 21, 2022

B. Outreach – Chair, Brittany Patterson-Weber - Next meeting February 15, 2022

The meeting will include discussion on the Cycle 11 Target Protection Areas and the representatives from the City of Naples and Marco Island should be notified of the gathering in case they wish to provide input on the matter.

C. Ordinance Policy and Rules - Chair selected, Tom Iandimarino - Last meeting July 28, 2021

The meeting may include a review of the “scoring form” to determine if any changes are necessary to the process.

VIII. Chair Committee Member Comments

Chairman Poteet requested that any member wishing to serve on a Subcommittee to contact Staff.

IX. Public General Comments

None

X. Staff Comments

Ms. Araque:

- Thanked staff for their work in developing the documentation necessary for convening the Ranking List meeting in December.
- Recognized Mr. Iandimarino’s service to the residents of Collier County.
- Notified the committee that the December meeting will commence at 4:00 p.m.

XI. Next Meeting Date
February 2, 2022

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 2:23 P.M.

Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee



Bill Poteet, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on February 3, 2022
as presented ✓ or as amended _____.