

## CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, in the County Administration Building, Building B, Room B1-501, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the meeting agenda, backup material and the minutes on Indian River County website [www.ircgov.com/Boards/CLAC/2007](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/CLAC/2007). Please note that listed at the end of each agenda item refers to time on the recorded minutes.

Present were members: Chairman Ken Grudens, Indian River Land Trust Representative; Jens Tripson, Pelican Island Audubon Society Representative; Sheila O'Connell, Alternate University of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory Representative (FMEL); Tim Glover, Friends of St. Sebastian River Appointee; Heather Stapleton, Environmental Learning Center; Joseph Carroll, Eugenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Representative; and Doug Carlson, Indian River Mosquito Control District Appointee; and Non-voting Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan.

Absent was member: Jorge Rey, FMEL (excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Roland DeBlois, Chief of IRC Environmental Planning; Robert Keating, Community Development Director; Ken Oristaglio, Senior Environmental Planner; Andrew Sobczak, Environmental Planner; Beth Powell, IRC Conservation Lands Manager; Marian Fell, Assistant County Attorney; Tim Freeman, Parks Division; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present: Ray Ashton, Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, Inc.; Lamar Stancil, Press Journal; Ilka Daniel, Humane Society; Jimmy Sellers, Coastal Technology Corporation and Jim Granse, Interested Citizen.

### **Call to Order** (00:00:11)

Chairman Grudens called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of August 15, 2007 Minutes** (00:00:34)

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Carroll, SECONDED BY Mr. Tripson, the Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of August 15, 2007 as presented.**

**Presentation by Ray Ashton of the Ashton Biodiversity Research & Preservation Institute, Inc. and the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative**  
(00:08:11)

Chairman Grudens introduced Mr. Ray Ashton of the Ashton Biodiversity Research & Preservation Institute, Inc. and the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative.

Mr. Ashton spoke on the protection of gopher tortoises and their habitat. He discussed a plan to provide incentives to developers and landowners to preserve and manage gopher tortoise habitat, and establish procedures for the relocation of tortoises. He provided copies to the committee of the Draft County Plan for Tortoise Conservation, The Need to Establish a Tortoise Relocation Plan, and Financing Relocation in Perpetuity, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

**Report on County Commissioner Directive to Staff to Initiate an Amendment to County Land Development Regulations to Address Gopher Tortoise Protection** (02:33:55)

Mr. Roland DeBlois, IRC Environmental Planner, briefly discussed and handed out the County's current regulation for endangered species and recommendations by Joseph Paladin, Black Swan Consulting to the IRC BCC on Gopher Tortoise Protection, along with highlights from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Approved Management Plan for the Gopher Tortoise, to be reviewed and discussed at future CLAC meetings, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

A discussion ensued on policy changes and Gopher Tortoise relocation.

**Other Matters** (02:52:00)

Commissioner O'Bryan brought up the CLAC meeting dates and times and noted according to the resolution, CLAC was to meet on a quarterly basis. Chairman Grudens stated that the committee had changed the meeting dates to every other month because the committee felt they needed to meet regularly because of the numerous issues, however he felt the meeting dates and times could be revisited at a later date.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated Wednesday mornings was not a good time for staff because of the BCC noon agenda deadline. He suggested changing the meeting times to the third Thursday of every other month.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Tripson, SECONDED BY Ms. Stapleton, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to change the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meetings to the third Thursday of every other month at 10:00 a.m. with the next meeting date being December 20, 2007.**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.