

## CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2008, in the County Administration Building, Building A, Room A1-411, 1801 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/2008](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/CLAC/2008). Please note listed next to each agenda item refers to time on the recorded minutes.

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

Absent was member: Vice Chairman Jorge Rey, FMEL; Doug Carlson, Indian River Mosquito Control District Appointee; and Non-voting Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan (all excused).

Also present was IRC staff: Roland DeBlois, Chief of IRC Environmental Planning; Beth Powell, IRC Conservation Lands Manager; Andrew Sobczak, IRC Community Development, and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present: Dr. Richard Baker, Pelican Island Audubon Society and Jimmy Sellers, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech).

00:00:08 **Call to Order**

Chairman Tripson called the meeting to order.

00:00:10 **Approval of September 18, 2008 Minutes**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Carroll, SECONDED BY Mr. Glover, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of September 18, 2008 as presented.**

## Review of Draft Land Management Plan for the Sand Lakes Conservation Area

Mr. Roland DeBlois, Chief of IRC Environmental Planning, reviewed the main highlights of the Draft Land Management Plan for the Sand Lakes Conservation Area, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He indicated the property was owned by the St. John's Water Management District (SJWMD); however the County has the conservation easement over it which would ensure the property could not be exchanged or sold in the future.

Chairman Tripson questioned Page 36, Table 2, of the Sand Lakes Conservation Area Draft Land Management Plan, the column Release and Hold Harmless Agreement, Under Acres, should read "*Southwest portion of Sand Lakes*" instead of "*Northeast portion of Sand Lakes*".

Mr. DeBlois told the committee the Draft Land Management Plan for the Sand Lakes Conservation Area would be going to the BCC at their December 2, 2008 meeting for ratification of the plan. A discussion followed on public access, development of educational opportunities, and the cattle grazing lease at the Sand Lakes Conservation Area.

Mr. DeBlois reviewed the comments on the Draft Land Management Plan for the Sand Lakes Conservation Area:

- Basic location map does not show properly the City of Fellsmere on the tract and it should read "Southwest portion of Sand Lakes".
- Re-emphasize that public access needs to be maximized to the extent feasible.
- SJWMD needs to promote and encourage partnership on educational opportunities.

Ms. Beth Powell, IRC Conservation Manager, asked if it would be appropriate in the Draft Land Management Plan for the Sand Lakes Conservation Area to include: 1) the County's ability to reserve rights of relocating Gopher Tortoises to the site; 2) details on future plans for Scrub Jay monitoring and survey territories; 3) Caracara species survey.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glover, SECONDED BY Ms. Stapleton, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to support the Draft Land Management Plan for the Sand Lakes Conservation Area with the following contingencies: 1) clarify the best management practices for grazing in the relationship of public access; 2) correction to the directional on the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement; 3) provide more details as to plan and potential future access and maximize access to the eastern part of the property along the north dike road; 4) promote and encourage partnerships for educational opportunities on the property; 5) recommend that the St. John's Water Management District address relocating Gopher Tortoises, Scrub Jay monitoring and a Caracara survey.**

00:00:53 **Proposal to Rename the Russell Grove River Buffer Conservation Area**

Mr. DeBlois briefly described the Russell Grove River Buffer Conservation Area and noted it had been suggested to rename the conservation area to an official name. He pointed out the BCC was not in favor of naming conservation areas after an individual. He asked the committee to think of a potential name for the conservation area and bring back their suggestions to a future CLAC meeting.

01:10:58 **Other Matters**

Mr. Ken Grudens brought up a discussion held at the October 29, 2008 Land Acquisition Advisory Committee about the Sebastian Harbor Preserve not receiving grant funding from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT), however the County planned to resubmit the grant application in the year 2009. He expressed his concern of over developing the Sebastian Harbor Preserve in order to receive the grant funding.

Mr. DeBlois explained the point system and indicated the County planned to resubmit the application in the 2009 FCT Spring Cycle and there would be an opportunity for CLAC to review the application and give their input prior to submittal.

Mr. Grudens told the committee, the IRLT was working on the Indian River Lagoon Greenway Project and developing a plan which would look at what the opportunities were for a Greenway Trail System along the Indian River Lagoon south of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. A discussion followed on the management plan for the area south of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Mr. Grudens hoped to bring the Lagoon Greenway Project to the next CLAC meeting in January 2009.

Mr. Jimmy Sellers, Coastal Tech, announced the BCC approved Coastal Tech to adopt the Prange Islands Conservation Area. He anticipated improvements to begin in the near future.

Ms. Powell stated due to upcoming County projects, the Wabasso Scrub Gopher Tortoise relocation would be revisited and she would be re-submitting the Gopher Tortoise recipient site.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.