

## CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2009, 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/2009](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/CLAC/2009). 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); Vice Chairman Jorge Rey, 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; Sheila O'Connell, Alternate, FMEL; Doug Carlson, Indian River Mosquito Control District Appointee and Heather Stapleton, Environmental Learning Center.

Also present was IRC staff: Roland DeBlois, Chief of IRC Environmental Planning; Robert Keating, IRC Community Development Director; Non-voting Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan; Andrew Sobczak, IRC Community Development; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present: Chip Swindell, President, Ecotech Consultants, Inc. (Ecotech); Dr. David Cox, Pelican Island Audubon Society; John Baker, Realtor and Applicant Representative, High Point Property and George Dennis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Tripson called the meeting to order.

### **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman** (00:00:10)

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Carlson, SECONDED BY Mr. Carroll, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to re-elect Mr. Tripson as Chairman of the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee for 2009.**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Grudens, SECONDED BY Mr. Glover, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to re-elect Dr. Rey as Vice-Chairman of the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee for 2009.**

**Approval of November 20, 2008 Minutes** (00:01:47)

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glover, SECONDED BY Mr. Grudens, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008 as presented.**

**Presentation on Lost Tree Island Draft Restoration Plan – Mr. Chip Swindell, Ecotech** (00:02:45)

Mr. Chip Swindell, Ecotech, gave a PowerPoint Presentation on his proposed design concept for the Lost Tree Islands Restoration Project as a follow-up to the June 19, 2008 CLAC meeting, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Roland DeBlois, Chief of IRC Environmental Planning, indicated the next step would be to finalize the Lost Island Draft Restoration Plan, then bring back the draft plan to the committee for review. He added once a recommendation on the draft plan was made by CLAC, there would need to be a workshop or coordination with the local municipalities on the plan prior to going before the Board of County Commissioners.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Carlson, SECONDED BY Mr. Glover, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to conceptual approve the concepts presented on the Lost Tree Island Draft Restoration Plan and recommend that staff and the consultant move forward with a paper draft plan.**

**Consideration of County Establishment of a Florida Scrub-Jay Mitigation Fund in Coordination with the FWS** (00:57:57)

Mr. DeBlois reviewed the information contained in his memorandum on the County Establishment of a Florida Scrub-Jay Mitigation Fund and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the FWS and the Nature Conservancy, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He indicated in November 2008, the FWS met with County staff and discussed funding opportunities for conservation and management of habitat of the Florida Scrub-

Jay. He indicated at this meeting, the FWS suggested the County consider entering into a MOU with the FWS to establish a "Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Program Fund" which would allow the County to collect and administer scrub-jay mitigation funds. Mr. George Dennis, FWS, further explained the Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Program Fund. A lengthy discussion ensued on the MOU and management funds for property already acquired by the County.

**ON MOTION BY Dr. Rey, SECONDED BY Mr. Carroll, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners direct staff to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to draft an Indian River County/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding for establishment of a scrub-jay mitigation program fund.**

A discussion ensued on determining an overhead funding ratio to be included in the MOU other than attributable to land acquisition and land management and it was the consensus of the committee for an overhead percentage of 3%. Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan asked if Mr. DeBlois could bring back to a future CLAC meeting, a list of properties that could be applied to The Nature Conservancy Management (TNC) funds and those stand alone projects that needed to be restored which would not qualify for TNC.

**Other Matters** (01:51:59)

Mr. DeBlois brought up at the November 20, 2008 CLAC meeting there was a discussion on the proposal to rename the Russell Grove River Buffer Conservation Area. He pointed out a volunteer group involved with the property had submitted a list of potential names for the Russell Grove River Buffer Conservation Area, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He explained the volunteer group had recommended renaming the Russell Grove River Buffer to "Cypress Bend Community Park". A discussion followed on the conceptual plan for the north end of the conservation area and emphasized that it would not be an active recreation park.

**ON MOTION BY Dr. Rey, SECONDED BY Mr. Grudens, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to rename the Russell Grove River Buffer Conservation Area to the Cypress Bend Community Preserve.**

A discussion ensued on the idea of a Community Garden and a canoe landing/launch structure at the Cypress Bend Community Preserve.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.