

## CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 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; Non-voting Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan; Tim Freeman, Conservation Lands Technician; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present: Dr. David Cox, Pelican Island Audubon Society; Jimmy Sellers, Coastal Technology Corporation; and Billie Wagner, Interested Citizen.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Tripson called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of January 15, 2009 Minutes** (00:00:58)

There was a correction to Dr. Rey's name on page 3 of the January 15, 2009 meeting minutes.

**ON MOTION BY Dr. Rey, SECONDED BY Mr. Grudens, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of January 15, 2009 as amended.**

**Consideration of Draft Revised Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area (ORCA) Management Plan amended to include the Flinn Tract** (00:02:19)

Mr. DeBlois reviewed the information contained in the Plan for the Use & Management of the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area (Amended to include the Flinn Tract), a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He detailed several of the proposed improvements to the Flinn Tract such as limited parking, loop trails into the Hammock portion and a boardwalk to the Indian River Lagoon. Mr. DeBlois turned the meeting over to Mr. Grudens to discuss the proposed Indian River Lagoon Greenway Plan.

Mr. Grudens gave a brief overview of the proposed Indian River Lagoon Greenway Plan, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He indicated the purpose of the Greenway Plan was to create a trail system for public access of the Indian River Lagoon for recreational and educational uses while enhancing and maintaining the natural habitat.

A discussion ensued on the Florida Inland Navigation District's property and whether or not there were plans to clean up the South Relief Canal. Mr. DeBlois said there was a plan to eventually put a screening system similar to the Main Relief Canal should funding be available.

A question was raised whether ORCA project would be eligible for any Parks and Recreation Impact fee funds with the boardwalk and recreational trails as a public benefit. Mr. DeBlois replied he would check into potential funds for the project.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glover, SECONDED BY Dr. Rey, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the revised Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area Management Plan amended to include the Flinn Tract as well as the Indian River Land Trust Lagoon Greenway Plan.**

**UNDER DISCUSSION**, the committee felt given the importance of ORCA working group that their comments and considerations be included in final design as well as comments from FIND and St. John's Water Management District (SJWMD).

**Mr. Glover AMENDED HIS MOTION, Dr. Rey AMENDED HIS SECOND, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the revised Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area Management Plan amended to include the Flinn Tract as well as the Indian River Land Trust Lagoon Greenway Plan and consider any recommendations made by the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area working group, Florida Inland Navigation District and St. John's Water Management District.**

**Consideration of Draft List of Properties to Target for Acquisition and/or Restoration under a Florida Scrub-Jay Mitigation Fund Program (00:52:26)**

Mr. DeBlois recalled at the January 15, 2009 CLAC meeting, there was a discussion regarding the County entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and The Nature Conservancy Management Funds (TNC) to establish a "Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Program Fund" which would allow the County to collect and administer scrub-jay mitigation funds for either acquisition and restoration of habitat. He stated that at the January CLAC meeting, the committee requested a list of properties that could be applied to TNC and identified on a map the main Scrub-Jay Mitigation Fund Target Parcels went over a map of Scrub-Jay Mitigation Fund Target Parcels, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. A discussion followed regarding a County-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Scrub-Jay parcels.

Mr. DeBlois asked the committee for a recommendation to move forward with the general concept of a MOU with the FWS for Florida Scrub-Jay Mitigation Funding Agreement. A question was raised whether CLAC would be reviewing the MOU once it had been finalized and would it include the ideal of any ownership of a third party conservation easement. He noted the FWS preferred a conservation easement be held on those properties and felt it should be incorporated in the MOU.

Ms. Billie Wagner, Interested Citizen, went over some questions she had regarding MOU funds and scrub-jay populations.

It was the consensus of the committee that there needed to be more information before moving forwarding with the program. Mr. DeBlois suggested

inviting the FWS to a future CLAC meeting to explain the MOU or delay the program and focus more on moving forward with a County-wide HCP.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glover, SECONDED BY Ms. Stapleton, the members voted (6-1) to recommend the County move forward with the general concept of a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Florida Scrub-Jay Mitigation Funding Agreement with the stipulation to amend the list of properties presented. Dr. Rey abstained**

Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan suggested placing the agenda item: Consideration of Draft List of Properties to Target for Acquisition and/or Restoration under a Florida Scrub-Jay Mitigation Fund Program on future CLAC agendas for updates.

### **Adjournment**

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