

## CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 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; Non-voting Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present: Henry Stephens, Press Journal; Dr. David Cox, Janice Broda, and Bob Bruce, PIAS.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Tripson called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of May 21, 2009 Minutes** (00:00:58)

There was a correction to the spelling of the Flinn Tract on pages 2 and 3 of the May 21, 2009 meeting minutes.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glover, SECONDED BY Mr. Carlson, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of May 21, 2009 as amended.**

## **Report on Management Activities on County Conservation Lands**

Mr. DeBlois indicated Beth Powell, IRC Conservation Manager was unable to attend the meeting to present the management activities report on the County's Conservation Lands at the next CLAC meeting.

Mr. DeBlois updated the committee on the proposed county-wide Habitat Conservation Plan Grant for Scrub Jay Parcel as discussed at the January 15, 2009 and May 21, 2009 CLAC meeting. He offered to send a copy of the proposal by e-mail to CLAC members.

Mr. Carroll discussed the Captain Forster Hammock Preserve and the trail maintenance program. He reported the findings of rare plants along the trail and the need to mark these plants. A suggestion was made to educate the volunteers maintaining the trails about the rare plants. Mr. DeBlois stated he would contact Ms. Powell in regards to the matter.

A question was raised whether the debris pile had been cleared at Round Island on the lagoon side. Mr. DeBlois was unaware of the debris pile and stated he would look into it.

Dr. Rey asked if staff could send a copy of the Conservation Lands Management Activities by e-mail whenever CLAC meetings were cancelled in order to stay updated.

Mr. Carroll recommended the following language be added to the IRC Trail Maintenance Policy:

“When thorny plants need to be trimmed, for example, the Hog Plum, the branches and trimmings should not be “dropped in place”. Instead, the cutting should be moved off the trail about three feet so the thorny materials are not underfoot.”

## **Update on Revisions to the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area (ORCA) Management Plan Amended to include the Flinn Tract**

Mr. DeBlois stated the final approval for the ORCA Management Plan that had been amended to include the Flinn Tract would be going before the Board of County Commissioners at their November 3, 2009 meeting.

## **Consideration of Proposed Audubon Education Center on the ORCA South Link Conservation Area**

Mr. DeBlois reviewed the proposal for the Audubon House on the conservation land known as the ORCA Link and discussed a letter sent to Commissioner Peter O'Bryan from Dr. Richard Baker, President of PIAS, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He gave a background of the 6.6 acres located on the south side of Oslo Road which was purchased by the County with Florida Communities Trust (FCT) matching funds. He added as stated in the letter, the County made a contractual commitment to FCT to provide nature trails, picnic pavilion, and educational workshops. He indicated through the Audubon House, PIAS would assist IRC in meeting these contractual obligations. A discussion followed regarding the boardwalk, parking, secondary emergency access through the FMEL, and 24 educational classes.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Carlson, SECONDED BY Mr. Glover, the members voted (5-0) to conceptually support the proposed Audubon Education Center project on its own merit without the connection to any other project and to include the additional updates and clarifications made by members of the Pelican Island Audubon Society. Chairman Tripson and Mr. Carroll, Board Members of the Pelican Island Audubon Society abstained from voting.**

### **Other Matters/Updates**

#### **a. Oslo Riverfront Boat Ramp Improvements**

Mr. DeBlois reported on the improvements for the Oslo Riverfront Boat Ramp and said the Board of County Commissioners approved the hiring of an Environmental Consultant George Kulczycki, GK Engineering and approved County Capital Improvements Engineering Staff to design parking lot improvements. He mentioned the County was looking at the opportunity to do some limited dredging near the boat ramp. He added that several alternatives were being considered to be able to better accommodate boat trailers with the least environmental impact. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding: the plans to dredge a channel near the Oslo Boat Ramp to remove the silt from the Oslo Road runoff, a sea grass survey and paving the portion of Oslo Road at the boat ramp.

**b. Gopher Tortoise Relocation Site**

The agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

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