

CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010, in the County Administration Building, Building A, Room A1-411, 1801 27th 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/2010.

Present were members: Chairman Jorge Rey, University of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory Representative (FMEL); Jens Tripson, Pelican Island Audubon Society Representative (PIAS); Tim Glover, Friends of St. Sebastian River Appointee; Joseph Carroll, Eugenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Representative; Ken Grudens, Indian River Land Trust Representative (IRLT); and Doug Carlson, Indian River Mosquito Control District Appointee.

Absent was Heather Stapleton, Environmental Learning Center.

Also present was IRC staff: Roland DeBlois, Chief of IRC Environmental Planning; Andy Sobczak, Senior Planner, Community Development; Beth Powell, Conservation Manager and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present were: Sheila O'Connell, Alternate, FMEL and Peter Tyson, Interest Citizen.

Call to Order

Chairman Rey called the meeting to order.

Approval of January 21, 2010 Minutes

A reference was made to Mr. Carroll's name on page 2 of the meeting minutes under the Approval of the January 21, 2010 Minutes and a correction was made to the spelling of Mr. Carroll's name.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tripson, SECONDED BY Mr. Carlson, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010 as amended.

Presentation on Proposed Channel Restoration at the Head Cove/Head Island (a.k.a. Green Salt Marsh C.A., Moorings South Impoundment) West of St. Christopher Harbor Subdivision – Peter Tyson

Mr. Tyson with the St. Christopher's Harbor Home Owners Association (HOA), briefly summarized the information contained in the Environmental Site Report for St. Christopher's Harbor from Mr. Philip Hanley, ERGIS Environmental and GIS Consultant regarding the proposed Channel Restoration at the Head Cove/Head Island, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

A discussion followed on re-opening of the North Passage and the appropriate signage. Mr. Grudens inquired how the proposed channel restoration would be funded. Mr. Tyson replied the channel restoration would be funded privately by the St. Christopher's HOA.

A question was raised concerning the placement of the material that was being removed from the dike. Mr. Tyson said the material would need to be hauled off by barge and disposed.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tripson, SECONDED BY Mr. Carlson, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed Channel Restoration at the Head Cove/Head Island by St. Christopher's Harbor Home Owner's Association contingent upon the approval of the permitting agencies, the proper removal of the fill and the appropriate signage.

Chairman Rey made the recommendation to ask Mr. Paul Dritenbas to a future CLAC meeting and provide a presentation on Polling Zones for boats with no engine.

Other Matters

Ms. Powell referred to the agenda item from the January 12, 2010 Committee Meeting regarding the County establishing an Invasive Species Equipment Sanitation Policy for the County Public Works Department and County Contractors. She had contacted the five participating counties in the Treasure Coast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Group to inquire whether they had in place a policy to deal with invasive species. She indicated there was not a policy actively addressing invasive species at this time. A lengthy discussion ensued on adopting an invasive species policy.

Mr. DeBlois suggested consolidating the discussion on invasive species into a policy statement for the May 20, 2010 CLAC meeting with Ms. Powell spearheading the effort.

Chairman Rey inquired on the proposed signage at Pelican Island. Mr. DeBlois stated he would contact Ms. Joanna Webb, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Ranger for a status on the signage.

Mr. DeBlois reported on the following County efforts:

- The County was in the process of working with the IRLT to apply for Florida Inland Navigation District grant funds for the Flinn Tract of the Lagoon Greenway Plan.
- The County selected a contractor, Southeastern Chemtreat, Inc., to spray the exotics species at the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area.
- On March 10, 2010, the County closed on the purchase of the Russell Parcel of the St. Sebastian River Greenway and was in the process of formalizing a management arrangement with the Marine Resource Council.

A discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of field visits to some of the County Conservation Lands in the near future.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.