

LAND ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (LAAC) held a meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in Room "B1-501" of the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: **Chairman Dr. Richard Baker**, Pelican Island Audubon Society (PIAS); **Council Member Susan Adams**, City of Fellsmere; **Jim Granse**, Taxpayers' Association; **Bonnie Veron** and **Talmage Rogers**, Members-at-Large; **Adam Bolinger**, Development Community (arrived at 2:20 p.m.); **Michael Walther**, IRC Chamber of Commerce; **Judy Orcutt**, Sierra Club; **Mayor Andrea Coy**, City of Sebastian; **Janice Broda**, Mosquito Control District; **Louis Schacht**, Agriculture Interest; **Lois Work**, Board of Realtors; **Denise Waddell**, IRC Historical Society.

Absent were: **Councilmember Bud Oatway**, Town of Orchid; **Kevin Doty**, Civic Association; and **Councilmember Frannie Atchison**, Town of Indian River Shores (all excused); **Frederick Dillon**, Member-at-Large; and **Councilmember Sabin Abell**, City of Vero Beach (both unexcused).

Also present were: **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, IRC Commissioner Liaison; **Marian Fell**, IRC Assistant County Attorney; **Ronald DeBlois**, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning; **Ken Oristaglio**, IRC Environmental Planner; **Misty L. Pursel**, Commissioner Assistant, District 1; and **Maria Resto**, Commissioner Assistant, District 2.

Others present were: **Ken Grudens**, Indian River Land Trust (IRLT); **David Cox**, Pelican Island Audubon Society (PIAS); **Matt Sexton**, The Conservation Fund; and **Bea Gardner**, Observer.

Call to Order

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of June 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Veron noted on page three, the motion to remove the remaining Lost Tree Islands property from the Land Acquisition Site List was moved by Councilmember Atchison and not herself.

(:05) **ON MOTION BY Mr. Rogers, SECONDED BY Mr. Granse, the Committee voted unanimously (13-0) to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2007, as amended.**

Consideration of Purchase of Conservation Easements on the Padgett Branch LAAC

Mr. Roland DeBlois, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning, referred to a memorandum dated August 23, 2007 and made a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the County Commission Office.

Mr. DeBlois explained the Padgett Branch site was being considered by the County for purchase of conservation easements, including development rights. He explained the Padgett Branch LAAC site was located in western Indian River County consisting of approximately 3,248 acres three owners and only two of the owners (Padgett Creek and Triple S) had the option agreements for purchase of conservation easements. The size of both properties combined was approximately 1,585 acres and the negotiated combined purchase price was \$11,095,000. In addition, Mr. DeBlois stated there was a potential for a 50% cost-share through the Florida Forever program.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Adam Bolinger arrived at 2:20 p.m.

(1:16:22) ON MOTION BY Mr. Rogers, SECONDED BY Mrs. Broda, the committee voted (11-3) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners exercise the Triple S Land Company and the Padgett Creek LLC option agreements for purchase of the conservation easements. Mrs. Coy, Mr. Granse and Mrs. Work in opposition.

Finalization of Annual Revisions to the LAAC Site List (Continued from Last Meeting)

Mr. DeBlois referred to a memorandum dated August 18, 2007. He stated this item was a continuation from the last meeting and explained that the ranking system for the LAAC Site List was based on county-adopted site ranking criteria as part of the LAAC's annual review of sites to be considered for purchase under the County environmental lands program.

A discussion ensued.

No vote was taken.

Update on Status of Projects

(1:35) Mr. DeBlois provided a summary of projects status including the Saint Sebastian River Greenway Connector, Torwest Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge (PINWR) Addition, Ten Mile Ridge, Winter Beach Marsh, and Jones Pier.

No action required.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.