

## LAND ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (LAAC) held a meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Room "B1-501" of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - [www.ircgov.com/Boards/LAAC//2008](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/LAAC//2008). Please note the times listed at the end of each agenda item refers to time on the recorded minutes.

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

Absent was: **Councilmember Bud Oatway**, Town of Orchid; **Toni Robinson**, Indian River Land Trust (IRLT); and **Councilmember Sabin Abell**, City of Vero Beach (all excused).

Also present were: **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, IRC Commissioner Liaison; **Marian Fell**, IRC Senior Assistant County Attorney; **Roland DeBlois**, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning; **Robert Keating**, Community Development Director; and **Terri Collins-Lister**, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present were: **Ralph Monticello**, IRLT; **David Cox**, Cox Consulting; **Henry Stephens**, Press Journal; and **John Baker**, Realtor and Applicant Representative.

### Call to Order (00:00:05)

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and introductions were made.

**Approval of March 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes** (00:02:50)

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Rogers, SECONDED BY Mr. Walther, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2008 as presented.**

For Discussion, Councilmember Atchison asked if staff would update the committee on the assignments of third parties to the North Sebastian Conservation Area and Sand Lake Tract conservation easements

Ms. Marian Fell, IRC Senior Assistant County Attorney, stated that the third party language had been included in the agreement; however the state was disinterested in pursuing the request.

Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan told the committee there had been no assignments of third parties to the North Sebastian Conservation Area and Sand Lake Tract conservation easements.

**Staff Report on Status of Funding, Acquisition Closings and Active Projects** (00:03:45)

Mr. Roland DeBlois, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning, went over the information contained in his report on the status of funding, recent acquisition closings, active projects and funding opportunities, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

A discussion ensued on the grant applications and the Sebastian Harbor Preserve not being selected in the Florida Communities Trust 2008 funding cycle. Ms. Veron questioned if the City of Sebastian would be interested in working with the County in sharing the management and planning of the conservation lands located in the City of Sebastian. Mayor Coy was not opposed to the idea and indicated she would take the topic to the next City of Sebastian Council meeting.

Mr. DeBlois concluded staff would report back at an upcoming LAAC meeting with more details to the specific categories where the County may be able to obtain more points for the Sebastian Harbor Preserve and present the points given by staff on the previous grant application. He also mentioned the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program as another opportunity to obtain funding for the Sebastian Harbor Preserve.

## **Overview of a New Project Proposal known as High Pointe** (00:38:04)

Mr. DeBlois gave a brief overview of an Environmental Lands Program Application for a 161 acre parcel located on the south side of 65<sup>th</sup> Street known as the High Pointe Property, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. John Baker, applicant for the High Pointe Property, gave a detailed description and handed out a copy of an aerial map of the property, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. Chairman Baker stated he had already visited the site and suggested LAAC visit the High Pointe Property site in the near future.

## **Other Business** (01:03:59)

### **a. Updated List of Properties Acquired with LAAC Funds**

Mr. DeBlois gave a brief overview of the properties acquired with LAAC Funds, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

A discussion ensued on future funding for LAAC projects especially with the state cutbacks. Mr. Doty wondered if LAAC could direct staff to clarify whether the County could sell conservation credits. He felt it was an interesting idea and referred to the Highland County Program to sell gopher tortoise or scrub jay conservation credits. Mr. DeBlois told the committee in order to sell conservation credits and charge fees to received gopher tortoises, the County would be obligated under state permits to make sure those gopher tortoises were managed properly.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.