

DECEMBER 1, 2008

The Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Advisory Committee, Manatee County, Florida, met in a REGULAR SESSION in the Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, at 6:34 p.m.

Present were Committee members:

Scott Tussing, Chairman
Carol Ann Breyer
Mike Burton
William Conerly
Bradley Hawkins
John McDonald
Jim Parks
Ron Stasica
Doug Voltolina

Absent was Committee member:

Bill Webster

Five seats were vacant.

Also present was:

Quantana Acevedo, Deputy Clerk,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

AGENDA

Agenda of December 1, 2008.

[EL20081201DOC001](#)

MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Breyer, seconded by Mr. Burton, and carried 9 to 0, to approve the minutes of August 4, 2008.

[EL20081201DOC002](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS MILLAGE

Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, noted Environmental Lands funding will be reduced or eliminated from the Property Tax Collection system. Even though the Environmental Millage still appears on the tax bill no millage is assigned to it.

[EL20081201DOC003](#)

RESIGNATION

Mr. Hunsicker announced Lucile Capo-Miller has resigned from the committee (see letter dated 12/1/08). A request will be made to the Board of County Commissioners to request advertising for all the vacant seats. He recommended voting on a Vice-Chairman to finish serving Ms. Capo-Miller's term.

Mr. Tussing questioned if the committee should send a letter to Ms. Capo-Miller thanking her for service.

Mr. Voltolina moved to authorize Mr. Hunsicker to draft a letter for signature by the Chairman or Board of County Commissioners to recognize Ms. Capo-Miller for her distinguished service on the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parks and carried 9 to 0.

Discussion: What is the length of her term; terms are usually one, two, or three-year; etc.

(Note: Nominations for Vice-Chairman later in the meeting)

[EL20081201DOC004](#)

UNGARELLI PROPERTY

Mr. Hunsicker reported staff will be seeking a grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for a restoration plan for the wetlands, which are dominated by exotic species. The Ungarelli family is in favor of placing a hard stone monument on the property with a plaque to explain the family history (at their expense).

Discussion: Is this a cost sharing grant; SWFWMD grant can be leveraged as match for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife federal grant; has the Ungarelli property acquisition been publicized; Manatee Government Access channel will be doing short videos about County activities and properties; etc.

[EL20081201DOC005](#)

HIRSCH PROPERTY

Mr. Hunsicker submitted an e-mail from Cliff Hirsch regarding the possible sale of the property, and a Braden River Ecosystem Preserves Concept map to point out the property location.

Maggie Marr, Grants Coordinator, explained the County has the opportunity to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the Hirsch property (nicknamed the Walker Crews Preserve). An aerial and photographs were displayed of the property to locate the acreage and the habitat. Mr. Hirsch is willing to sell the property for \$199,000 and staff will seek authorization from the Board of County Commissioners on December 9, 2008, for an appraisal. Once the appraisal is completed staff will make a full presentation to the Board in order to apply for the grant, which will be half of the funds needed to purchase the property.

Discussion: Property consists of 2 acres of wetlands and 1.1 acres of uplands; property would have to be developed into a park or preserve within three years; wetland conditions based on the elevation of the River; property taxes; Property Appraiser's office lists the property value at \$134,000; could put a home on the property; Marineland Subdivision; any restrictions on using the property as a park; property would have to be rezoned to Conservation; acquiring this property would be an opportunity for the County to assist in protecting the City of Bradenton's drinking water supply, preserving the waterfront habitat, and creating another location for passive recreation; are there other properties that would be superior for acquisition; costs to develop trail, parking lot, etc.; Jigg's Landing will provide a good opportunity to launch kayaks and canoes; etc.

Ms. Marr stated the Honore/Tara Bridge Preserve and Linger Lodge Preserve do not exist as identified on the Braden River Ecosystem Preserves Concept map.

Discussion: When should the County not purchase property that is offered; waterfront property is disappearing and public access will be needed in the future; maintenance; work with the City of Bradenton in obtaining funds to protect its watershed; City of Bradenton donated half of Jigg's Landing; the intent of Mr. Hirsch's e-mail is not clear; jurisdictional wetland delineation should be done on the property; the County does not have a designated fund to acquire environmentally sensitive lands; etc.

[EL20081201DOC006](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hunsicker briefed the Committee on the following:

- **Efest** - Florida's Green Living Music and Arts Festival, which took place on November 15-16, 2008, at the Sarasota Polo Grounds. Knowledge acquired at the festival will be utilized at Robinson Preserve Visitors Center and the G.T. Bray reconstruction project.
- **Volunteers** - Successful volunteer events have taken place and once the Greenways and Trails Coordinator Position is filled, volunteer activities can be expanded.
- **Hillsborough County** - The sales tax was approved by 70 percent so the environmental protection program will continue.
- **ELMAC** - The mission/vision of the committee will remain important despite the downturn of the economy. He suggested meeting every three months (four times a year) unless an issue arises which needs to be addressed.

[EL20081201DOC007](#)

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Quantana Acevedo, Deputy Clerk, reported Ms. Capo-Miller was reappointed by the Board of County Commissioners for a one-year term on August 21, 2007 (as were Ms. Breyer, Mr. Stasica, and Mr. Voltolina). Those terms have since expired.

Mr. Tussing requested Mr. Hunsicker seek reappointment of the expired seats by the Board of County Commissioners and opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Nominations: Mr. Hawkins - by Mr. Burton
Ms. Breyer - by Mr. Stasica

Ms. Breyer declined the nomination.

Motion by Mr. Parks, seconded by Ms. Breyer, and carried 9 to 0, to close nominations. **Mr. Hawkins** was elected Vice-Chairman by majority vote.

Mr. Hunsicker asked Mr. Stasica, Mr. Voltolina, and Ms. Breyer to indicate in writing their intent to continuing serving on the committee.

[EL20081201DOC008](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Sheppard, Sierra Club, commented on the Braden River, Jigg's Landing (Port-O-Let), Robinson Preserve (asphalt trail and handicap accessibility), and the beauty of Emerson Point.

She announced on December 22, 2008, the Sierra Club is planning a kayak trip and on December 28, 2008, an exploratory hike at Headwaters Park.

[EL20081201DOC009](#)

COUNTY COMMISSION LIAISON

Carol Whitmore, County Commissioner, announced she would be the County Commission Liaison until January 2009. She updated the committee on her background.

[EL20081201DOC010](#)

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 8:05 p.m.
/qa

Minutes Approved: February 2, 2009