

**MANATEE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
1112 MANATEE Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
April 6, 2015**

Present were:

Bill Webster, Chairman  
Bob Nicholson, Vice-Chairman  
Mike Burton  
Ingrid McClellan  
Scott Tussing  
Patsy Ugarte

Absent were:

Bradley Hawkins  
John McDonald  
Jim Parks  
Charles Richards

Also present were

Damon Moore, Parks and Natural Resources  
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of Circuit Court



Vice-Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**AGENDA**

EL20150406DOCOO1

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ms. Ugarte, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, and carried 6-0, with Members Hawkins, McDonald, Parks, and Richards absent, to approve the minutes of February 2, 2015.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There being no citizen comment, Vice-Chairman Webster closed citizen comments.

**PRESERVES**



Damon Moore, Parks and Natural Resources Department provided the following updates regarding preserves and parks.

- Robinson Preserve – Majority of design work done for the expansion and the project is in the final stage of permitting, modeling for water bodies, and looking to close the funding gap for the final phase of the expansion. A grant was received for an expansion to compliment oyster beds
- Perico Preserve – Connect the basin to external water bodies, contract awarded to Tampa Contracting Service, and the goal is to be complete by the end of August
- Ungarelli Preserve – Funding needed for upland areas; finishing parking and erecting pavilion
- Neal – The preserve is open and exotic removal is under control
- Pine Island – Meeting with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to discuss the future of the project
- Hidden Harbour Property – Draft agreement with SWFWMD for \$850,000 of habitat restoration, removal of cogon grass, wetland creation, and park features

- Tom Bennett Park – Maintained through Parks maintenance staff, familiarize grounds keepers with exotics, some areas did not take with original design and staff is working on something with more habitat value and rebuilding the canopy.


Upon question, by Commissioner DiSabatino, Mr. Moore discussed the impact of the proposed water park to the restoration habitat.


Discussion ensued regarding funding for Ungarelli Preserve; Perico boardwalks; pedestrian access to Ungarelli; install shell trails; Perico Preserve entrance trees for Arbor Day project and funding; plantings designed for restoration habitat; large plantings to block off views of housing and roadways; location of trail in Perico;

- Duette Preserve – Combating various grasses; Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) mitigation project received a letter of completion from SWFWMD and approvals are moving along and there are scheduled mitigation projects
- Rye Preserve – Funding for Florida Wildlife Commission for fire lines to improve gopher tortoise habitat
- Emerson Point Preserve – Fencing to shore up boundaries and pines will be thinned out of some areas near the
- Twin Rivers Preserve and Devil’s Elbow – Exotic removal


Commissioner DiSabatino questioned the progress on bike trails and connectivity to parks and preserves.

#### **BP FUNDING REQUEST**


 Mr. Moore noted no funds have been received as of yet. A list of projects was submitted and funding is lumped in for Robinson Preserve with other Restore Act proposals in the region. Other regional projects did not have complete proposals, therefore funding has been delayed. Manatee County has provided all information requested.

 Discussion ensued regarding Amendment 1 funding and getting an update on matching funds for the Florida Forever program and making a suggestion to the County Commission on possibilities for the funding.

#### **PALMA SOLA CAUSEWAY**

 Ms. McClellan noted the exotics were removed, except for some pine yearlings and reclinas.


#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

 Motion was made by Mr. Burton to nominate Mr. Webster as the Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nicholson and carried 6-0, with Members Hawkins, McDonald, Parks, and Richards absent.

Mr. Burton nominated Bob Nicholson for Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations. Mr. Nicholson was elected by majority vote.


#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Ms. McClellan noted the School Board has selected a representative.


 Discussion ensued regarding recruiting members from various organizations to fill particular seats; engineer representative; at-large seats; seek volunteers at the preserves who

would be willing to serve; and approach other Master Gardeners and Naturalists;

**NATIONAL ARBOR DAY**

 Ms. McClellan reviewed Arbor Day celebrations at Bayfront Park in the City of Anna Maria, and other events which will take place throughout the County. A press release by Keep Manatee Beautiful was submitted with the agenda.

**GATEWAY LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**

 Ms. McClellan discussed the first County Gateway project on Cortez Road and the upkeep of the medians. She reviewed a letter regarding the needs along Cortez Road from 86th Street West to 119th Street West. Ms. McClellan recommended a letter be sent to the County Commission regarding the stewardship of the medians.

Motion was made by Ms. McClellan to send a letter be sent to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners from ELMAC regarding the stewardship of the first gateway project in Manatee County to properly reflect how this gateway and future gateways should be maintained with the prioritization of funds for the rehabilitation and proper replanting of the gateway to its intended condition in compliance with FDOT planting requirements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burton and carried 6-0 with Members. EL20150406DOCO02

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was decided that the item under new business would be renamed Florida Forever Funding and will be discussed under staff reports at the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held June 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, Chairman Webster adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes approved: June 8, 2015