

**MANATEE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 MANATEE Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
June 08, 2015**

Present were:

Bill Webster, Chairman
Bob Nicholson, Vice-Chairman
Mike Burton
Bill Halstead
Debbie Lansing
Ingrid McClellan
Charles Richards
Scott Tussing
Patsy Ugarte

Also present was:

Marcus Campion, Resource Management, Parks and Natural Resources
Vicki Tessmer, Supervisor Board Records, Clerk of Circuit Court
Keira Reiter, Board Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court



Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

AGENDA

EL20150608DOC001

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



Chairman Webster welcomed new Advisory Committee Members, and Members and the audience introduced themselves.

B. MINUTES



A motion was made by Member Burton, seconded by Member Halstead, and carried 9 -0, to approve the minutes of April 6, 2015.

C. CITIZEN COMMENTS



There being no citizens present, Chairman Webster did not open Citizen's Comments.

D. STAFF REPORTS





Marcus Campion, Resource Management, Parks and Natural Resources, provided updates on the following projects:

- Duette Preserve – Graphic presentation of restoring disturbed wetlands or wetland creation done at Duette Preserve as mitigation for modifications of I-75 interchanges in Manatee County - deferred until next month, and the bid specs are in process; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Upland Invasive Grant, for \$200,000, has been submitted, and is projected to be accepted; Hydrological Grant from Mosaic for \$200,000, Florida Scrub Jay population increased to 16 groups; dramatic decrease in wild hog population; as of January 01, 2015, 3,500 acres have been prepared and burned, with 260 acres being prepared as of now, and an additional 3,500 acres to be included before the end of dry season; increase in wagon tour participants; and the Hunt Program had record attendance;
- BP Funding Request – No progress has been made;
- Rye Preserve – Mosaic funded interpretive classroom will be finished this summer.
- Jiggs Landing – Parking lot and ramp have been re-done;


- Emerson Point Preserve – The management plan is almost finalized and will be coming before review, and the Wares Creek mitigation property is almost complete;
- Pine Island – The action plan allows for a prescribed burn during appropriate conditions;
- Robinson Preserve – Progress being made in the oyster habitat through reef placement; the eagles' nest was repaired; and the expansion is underway;
- Perico Preserve – The cuts and trails are being installed, and the opening is projected to take place by the end of the year;
- Ungarelli Preserve – Delay in the picnic shelter installation;
- Palma Sola Causeway Beautification Project - Organized by Keep Manatee Beautiful; and,
- Curiosity Creek – The parcel is 200 acres, located near Port Manatee and was acquired through the Gulf Stream Mitigation Project.


 Discussion ensued regarding removal of Tropical Soda Apple in Duette Preserve, pine trees and pine straw use, exotic removals, Duette and Rye Preserve management plans, north and south cuts at Perico Preserve, and the Gopher Tortoise relocation program.


E. **MEMBER FOLLOW-UP AND DISCUSSION**

-  Chairman Webster provided updates on the following projects:
- ELMAC Membership (New Members) – Discussion ensued regarding the open position for a School Board employee, and whether the teacher has to be currently employed or not, the opening for a member that is a resident of the County, potential candidates for both positions, qualifications for the positions, membership renewals, and procedures and requirements for filling positions.
 -  Gateway Landscape Maintenance – Discussion ensued regarding the recommended changes to the letter to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), maintenance for first gateway, Lake Flores activity, and proper procedure for sending a letter to the BCC.

EL20150608DOC002


 Commissioner DiSabatino, Board of County Commission Liaison, confirmed proper procedure would be to include the County Administrator in the email.

 Discussion ensued regarding concerns that gateway projects be maintained due to the investment involved; and letter should be sent to County Commission immediately.


 Motion by Member Burton, seconded by Member McClellan, and carried 9-0, to task the Chairman of ELMAC in editing and refining the letter as presented to ELMAC, with comments received, to submit to the Chairman of the County Commission, the main content of which is to request a prioritization of the maintenance of the installed gateway project at State road 684, Cortez Road, and bring up to standards.

EL20150608DOC003

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

 No new business.

G. **CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/MEETING CLOSE**

 Committee welcomed new members and confirmed the next meeting will be held August 3rd, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, Chairman Webster adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.
Minutes approved: August 3, 2015