

Land Acquisition and Management Program Conservation Board Minutes

Date/Time of Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1:30 P.M.
Location/Address: St. Johns County Permit Building, Conference Room 1
4040 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL

Members Present: Michael Adams, Elizabeth Guthrie, William (JB) Miller, Travis Minch, Robin (Shorty) Robbins, Hawley Smith, Jimmy Watson

Commission Member Present: No

Staff Present: Ryan Mauch

Public Attendees: Steven Davies, Sallie O'Hara, others in attendance did not sign in

- Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.
- Public Comment for items not on the current agenda (3 minutes per person) Mr. Davies provided information to the Board on potential conservation property and individual platted lots along Moultrie Creek and Board members spoke about the proposal and existing corridors in the area
- Mr. Minch stated that Board members need to understand GIS data sources available by staff.
- Board approved Current Agenda, January meeting minutes and Board By-Laws.
- Ms. Guthrie presented a process for property acquisition that Nassau County uses. The presentation included additional considerations and methods for acquisition, a need for one map with everything on it so that conservation hot spots can be generated, with a focus on water resources, wildlife, forest lands and recreation. The data can be used to end up with a list of ranked properties to submit to the Board for consideration.
- Mr. Adams suggested that the Board should use a property nomination form similar to what Nassau, Sarasota, or Hillsborough County uses for property acquisition nominations, requested to send the Board a list of forms and selection processes from these or similar Counties as examples to emulate
- Public comment - 3 Speakers (3 minutes per person) Mr. Davies made a statement about the funding and staff available for the selection process. Ms. Lomberg suggested that a timeline should be put in place for the acquisition process. Mr. Slavin discussed federal funding available for property acquisition in the County.
- Ms. Robbins discussed adding several categories to the selection process criteria for finalization at the next meeting and all Board members added discussion on those various topics.
- Ms. Guthrie discussed adding surface/groundwater under hydrologic resources and scoring by GIS
- Mr. Miller stated that hydrologic resources may include aquifer recharge areas and impaired waterbodies.
- Mr. Adams stated that the scoring matrix categories should be kept broad instead of too specific and reminded the Board that the matrix is only a guide and is a dynamic tool, depending on the property being scored.
- Mr. Minch stated that the matrix selection categories need to match the ordinance and category components need to make sense.
- Board discussed selection matrix and approved proposed modifications for finalization at the next meeting.
- Public Comment – 1 Speaker (3 minutes per person) Mr. Slavin suggested a joint meeting with the CRRB and spoke on suggested categories and discussed acquisition.
- Ms. Robbins spoke on the state resiliency plan for 2021 which has a \$270 million budget and the need to get the maps for this study. In addition, there is a Florida Resiliency Study Grant with \$20 million available statewide.
- Public Comment – Ms. O'Hara stated that St. Johns County needs to begin a County Resiliency study.
- Mr. Mauch stated that although the County has not started any resiliency studies, it has been discussed among Growth Management staff about the need for such a study and incorporating resiliency into the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Board Member Reports

- Mr. Miller discussed acreage figures on the County Conservation Areas map provided at the Growth Management workshop last week. Mr. Mauch suggested Mr. Miller could contact the GIS Department with questions or concerns on ensuring the map data is accurate.
- Mr. Minch suggested to post Board meeting minutes and recordings online.
- Mr. Adams stated that it may be a good idea to have Water Management District staff present to the LAMP board on future acquisition goals at a future Board meeting. Additionally, Mr. Adams suggested to have a couple nomination forms available for review from other Counties to create a St. Johns County nomination form.

Staff Member Reports

- Staff provided a copy of SB 882 HB 761 for potential District updates to prioritize critical wetland systems for acquisition and how that effort may affect the LAMP Board acquisition process.
- Staff provided a map of a potential property for sale located on McCullough Creek, adjacent to the western side of the County McCullough Creek Conservation Area, located on County Road 13 South.

Mr. Adams called the meeting to a close at 4:15 P.M.

_____ Chairperson

_____ Ryan Mauch 2-8-22 _____ Recorder