



CONSERVATION CHARLOTTE



Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee Conservation Charlotte is a program of Charlotte County Government

Jan. 25, 2022 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.
Community Services/Centennial Park
Small Multi-Purpose Recreation Room
1120 Centennial Park
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING

- I. Call to order
- II. Minutes: April 19, 2021, and Oct. 4, 2021, to be Approved
- III. Old Business:
- IV. New Business
 1. Bill Coy short term action steps
 2. Tippecanoe short term action steps
 3. Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park/Oyster Creek Environmental Park MP
- V. Staff Reports
 1. Land Management Update
 2. HCP Update
 3. Coastal Update
 4. Manager Comments
- VII. Members Comments

Next Meeting: May 16, 2022

Centennial Park Recreation and Administration
1120 Centennial Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Jan. 25, 2022 – 3 PM to 4:22 PM

Community Services/Centennial Park
Small Multi-Purpose Recreation Room
1120 Centennial Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Members Present

Jack Pryor
Dianne Quilty
Shaun O'Rourke
Benton Hester

Charlotte County Staff

Tina Powell, NR Div. Mgr.
Jamie Scudera, NR
Jason Thompson, NR
Jane Ravella, Sr. Admin. Asst.

Members Absent

Ed Toth
Alan Maki
Derek Miller

Guests

Morgan Cook

Call to order

The January 25, 2022, meeting of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Jack Pryor.

ROLL CALL – Jane Ravella

Motion to Accept the Minutes of **April 19, 2021, and Oct. 4, 2021**, made by **Dianne Quilty** as presented. **Benton Hester** seconded. **All approved.**

- I. **Old Business** – **Jack Pryor** has two questions? – 1. has there been any development on the bridge at Charlotte Flatwoods? Jason said there are a lot of people during this time of the year doing a lot of Birding. As for the development we are still working on the design and DEP. 2. There is still no sign up for Prairie Creek Environment Park on State Road 17. Jason said he will investigate that, since it comes from another department.

- II. **New Business – Bill Coy Short Term action steps**
Jack asked **Jason** if they were going to do burns this year? He did say he will be burning near roadway to the driveway and do small increments. Unfortunately, it has been about 8-10 years since we last did a good burn out there. We have the Fire Dept and Forestry back up. **Jack** asked about cattails–reduction? **Jason** answered manually by hand.

Tippecanoe Short Term action steps

Benton asked if they leave some snags for nesting birds. Jason said we are not taking down any snags, it is very important to that system.

Dianne asked about the active scrub jays at Tippecanoe. There are 118 acres with scrubby flatwoods with 14 families. Are you looking to increase the amount of scrubby component in these short-term action plan? We encourage the scrub component.

LMP Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park/Oyster Creek Environmental Park

We just visited this park in November for our field trip. **Jack** asked if there were any problems with the track team? Tina answered we do try to coordinate with them. But **Jack** did have some minor questions after he reviewed the land management plan: Pg. 4 – FCT? I didn't know what meant, but now I understand. Then on page 6 – archaeological site, let's go there the next time. That's on the Cedar Point side we didn't go there. Page 7 – we coordinate with FWC with guidance for protection of restoration of other species? We are coordinating with them. Page 16 - Kiosks Display – design will be updated. At the site of an archaeological site a sign should note it. We will be adjusting this. Page 22 educational walks – they are done by Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC), and we pay for them. We used to do this in house before the recession but when we had a loss of employees, we had to contract it out. Jack asked if we could look into getting an outreach group tour that maybe one of your employees can lead to get the citizens involved with what we have here, and it would be great if we could do one a month. Tina did mention that Jason and his group do community meetings throughout the year when asked. Jack asked for agreement on this Management Plan, Dianne seconded and all approved.

III. Staff Reports

Land Management Update – Jason Thompson – Fire pre-prepped, looking at Shell Creek #1, Prairie Creek west side, Amberjack parking area and Bill Coy parking area. (If weather allows) Benton asked if he could go along with Jason with a 24–48-hour notice. They hope to do this within a 2–3-week time frame. Biscayne Trust is also ready.

HCP Update – Jamie Scudera – In 2021 we acquired 292 acres in our reserve design area. There is 136 existing in Biscayne Trust, we acquired these easements. Looking at the map Jamie provided there is the Tibol Parcels that are located on the Prairie Creek Preserve access easement, 4 long parcels; and in Peace River Preserve map there are the Burcher's parcels that were acquired. The maintenance easement on Burcher's is not public, we are still working on the evaluation of these new parcels.

Coastal Update – Jamie Scudera – Sea Turtles are taking to the new sand, they love it. Shore birds have struggled this year – with predators, dogs, coyotes and even people. On Palm Island the problem is the vegetation seems to be growing back faster. FWC has given the okay to have an herbicide contractor to kill the flora.

Manager Comments – Tina Powell -Jack asked what are they looking for in the renewal of this committee? We would like it to go back to what we originally started as an advisory board to review properties, projects, etc. and then go before the board with your recommendations. We are still waiting

on clear direction from Administration as we are preparing our thoughts. Our renewal is in 2024, but I must have a summary of what you all have given me as well as notes from Brandon. We are also looking at Palm Beach County as they are presenting their Referendum this year, to see if they might have some ideas.

Members Comments: None

Adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jane Ravella