



CONSERVATION CHARLOTTE



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

Sept. 12, 2022 - 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Community Services/Centennial Park
Large Conference Room
1120 Centennial Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Agenda

Public Meeting

- I. Call to order
- II. Minutes: Jan. 25, 2022, to be Approved
- III. Old Business:
- IV. New Business
 1. Environmentally Sensitive Lands Classifications
 2. Designated County Environmentally Sensitive Lands
 3. Action Steps: Tippecanoe II
 4. Action Steps: Prairie Creek Preserve
- V. Staff Reports
 1. Land Management Update
 2. HCP Update
 3. Coastal Update
 4. Manager Comments
- VII. Members Comments

Next Meeting: Field Trip to Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park

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

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Sept. 12, 2022 – 3 PM to 4:31 PM

Community Services/Centennial Park
Large Administration Conference Room
1120 Centennial Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Members Present

Jack Pryor
Dianne Quilty
Shaun O'Rourke
Derek Miller
Jeff Anlauf
Ann Hawk

Charlotte County Staff

Tina Powell, NR Div. Mgr.
Jamie Scudera, NR
Jason Thompson, NR
Jane Ravella, Sr. Admin. Asst.
Morgan Cook, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo

Members Absent

Ed Toth – Term Expired

Guests

Call to order

The September 12, 2022, meeting of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Jack Pryor.

ROLL CALL – Jane Ravella

Introduction of Jeff Anlauf and Anne Hawk

Motion to Accept the Minutes of **Jan. 25, 2022**, made by **Dianne Quilty** as presented. **Shaun O'Rourke** seconded. **All approved.**

- I. **Old Business** – **Jack Pryor** has a question 1. Has there been any development on the bridge at Charlotte Flatwoods? Jason said it is completed. Thank you. And Jack asked about what we discussed at the last meeting (Referendum) and Tina said she would bring it up in the Managers Comments. **Shaun** asked if Jason said he was going to take us on some more field trips?
- II. **New Business**
 1. **Environmentally Sensitive Lands Classifications** – Presented by Tina Powell
For our accreditation for CAPRA, one of the gaps we found were basic changes with the definitions of how we acquired them, how we manage them, are they under permits, urban intention of use, so we came up with the definitions and what those categories are.

2. Designated County Environmentally Sensitive Lands

Then the second item, is the list of where existing lands fall in definition. After discussion, **Motion to Approve:** County Designated Environmental Sensitive Lands by **Dianne Quilty** and seconded by **Shaun O'Rourke** and **all approved**.

3. Action Steps: Tippecanoe II

We have a wall in our office that shows all we have done with all our 5-year steps, and we put stickers and gold stars to show completed for work.

4. Action Steps: Prairie Creek Preserve

Jason spoke of 3–5-year plan on Burning, he has to watch the weather and wind so as not to smoke out people. He is looking to burn 2D and 2B #1 and 1B 1A 1B #2 within the next week, but weather windows are what we watch for in order to know it's a go! There are sandy pines and pine flatwoods, and scrub pine. They have also done some exotic clearing.

Derek Miller made a motion to accept the Action Steps for Tippecanoe II and Prairie Creek Preserve, with a Second from **Dianne Quilty** and **all approved**.

III. Staff Reports

Land Management Update – Jason Thompson – We are busy with scrub jay surveys and data collection analysis; I don't have the numbers, but I will be happy to pass those along if you so choose. We have been doing that in conjunction with our Geo data base. We are currently working on acquisition parcels; some land management of those. We're rounding down from the summer, and we finished up Florida Community Trust Grant Recording Cycle which about this time every year. We will be starting up our burns in Prairie Creek and Shell Creek. We will be working on exotics and working the field. **Ann** asked about what data you collect in the Geo data base – Jason replied we do Fire, Exotic, and Mechanical.

HCP Update – Jamie Scudera – Our HCP guru for anything Scrub Jay! Since 2015 we acquired 406 acres in our reserve design area. We hope this year we could increase our abundance but with the prices it may be tough. Our Conservation plan is tracking acreage required and permits and staying in balance for the service. We have issued 2000 permits since our inception. Looking at the map Jamie provided up to 8 CE's (Conservation Easements) in Prairie Creek Park on private property so far and maybe 1-2 more coming in.

Coastal Update – Jamie Scudera – Sea Turtles are going strong this year total nests 2,013 compared to last year 1,754. The pepper study not working Coyotes don't care. We have a part time trapper for coyotes and armadillos. Shorebirds – **Adult High Count:** Least tern – 93; Black Skimmer – 218; Wilson's plover – 25; Snowy plover – 0; American Oystercatcher – 2. **Nest High Count** - Least tern – 1 fledged chick; Wilson's plover – 1 fledged chick

Manager Comments – **Tina Powell** – 1) Fiscal analysis indicated we are dedicating off the Bond for all the property we already bought through 2024, and Collections go through 2026. There will

be discussions at workshops if they want to continue renewing the referendum. I put our suggestions together for the Board and if you have any other suggestions get them to me. Derek asked should we, committee, also write a letter to the commissioners, Tina said yes. They prefer to see it from the committee so if Jack would send me his thoughts and we can format it and bring it back to you all to review. 2) Meetings? We are scheduled for an October meeting but since we are in September, we won't have much to talk about. Suggestion is to have a Field trip in November – chosen is Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park.

Members Comments: Dianne brought up A) the issue of a cover letter for items that we may have to vote on, make motions. In other committees they have cover letters to let them know they will be voting on discussions. We will take note of that and our next agenda we will do that. B) Discussion took place on Climate Change – have any of you seen anything. Discussion from everyone and their opinions.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jane Ravella