



CONSERVATION CHARLOTTE



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

Jan. 30, 2023 - 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: Sept. 09, 2022, to be Approved
- III. Old Business: Conservation Letter
- IV. New Business
 1. Short Term Action Steps: Ann and Chuck Dever Regional Park
 2. Short Term Action Steps: Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park
 3. Short Term Action Steps: Biscayne Trust
 4. Trail Brochure
- V. Staff Reports
 1. Land Management Update
 2. HCP Update
 3. Coastal Update
 4. Manager Comments
- VII. Members Comments

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2023

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

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Jan. 30, 2023 – 3 PM to 4:31 PM

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

Members Present

Dianne Quilty
Shaun O'Rourke
Derek Miller
Jeff Anlauf

Charlotte County Staff

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

Members Absent

Jack Pryor
Ann Hawk
Morgan Cook, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo

Guests

Call to order

The Jan. 30, 2023, meeting of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Dianne Quilty, Vice Chairman.

ROLL CALL – Jane Ravella

Motion to Accept the Minutes of **Sept. 9, 2022**, made by **Shaun O'Rourke** as presented. **Derek Miller** seconded. **Motion approved.**

- I. **Old Business** – **Conservation Letter** Jane sent out a copy of the letter for you to read and I have hard copies here. This is from your last non-field trip meeting that you spoke on what your thoughts were for support of the renewal of Conservation Charlotte referendum that will be going to the Board, and copies to Administrator's Assistant, Administration and Commissioners which they may be looking at this year. There hasn't been any revision as of yet. Discussion took place as to what could we do, how long before we can do it. When will it be coming up?
- II. **New Business**
 1. **Short Term Action Steps: Ann Dever, Oyster Creek, Cedar Point Parks**
The 5-year Action Steps was sent to the committee to review. There are 3 steps that are basically similar – Prescribed Fire, Exotic Control, Mechanical Treatment.

Jason discussed the steps it is a necessary most effective and natural methods used in the management of natural areas. There will be small ¼ acre fire set at a time as there is population in that area. There have been in the past some wildfires out in the area of Ann and Chuck Dever and Oyster Creek parks.

2. Short Term Action Steps: Charlotte Flatwood Environmental Park

Derek said he hates to see any trees go away. Jason said Charlotte Flatwoods survived compared to Bill Coy Preserve.

3. Short Term Action Steps: Biscayne Trust

All the Action Steps are the same for all the properties that we have. If you have any questions, you can always give us a call.

4. Trail Brochure – Tina brought you all a brochure that Jason and his Land Management crew did an amazing job to put together letting people know what Land Management is, what we do out in the preserves, putting the trails in your hands, and fact sheets. These are available at any of our Rec centers, Murdock Building, Libraries, Tax Collectors Office. It is also on-line, and you can print out our pdf. The hyperlinks are not in the brochure but are on the kiosks as you enter the trails. What will be on our next agenda, that Jason will be working on the virtual tours.

III. Staff Reports

Land Management Update – Jason Thompson – We are busy with cleaning up from Hurricane Ian, shifting into a routine of mowing, exotic management, maintenance; Rehab Tippecanoe II revising the Butterfly Garden, rehabbing the Cedar Point Native Plant Garden with all native plants that we have found a great nursery in Arcadia.

These were the numbers you asked me for from the last meeting: Scrub Jay Counts

2017 – 71 adults total and 34 juvenal

2018 - Stayed stationary for this year

2019 – 69 adults and 19 juvenal – 15 family groups

2020 – 109 adults, 13 juvenal – 22 families

2021 – 72 adults, 27 juvenal – 32 families

2022 – 105 adults, 47 juvenal – 27 families

These are numbers that are just from our own properties.

HCP Update – Jamie Scudera – Our HCP guru for anything Scrub Jay! In the year 2022 there has been 346 parcels released for development; Equals around 127 acres developed, \$1,083,450 in HCP fees collected through development permits and violations; 11.947 acres acquired fee simple; 2.92 acres existing CE land acquired (Biscayne Trust); 15.685 of CE dedicated to the county (Prairie Creek Park). We have also finished fencing 4 parcels in PCP. Audit completed in order to determine that the fees generated by the HCP adequately cover the costs of maintaining the reserve. The board voted on the 3-year tiered increase of which the first- year increase became effective January 1st.

Coastal Update – Jamie Scudera – Sea Turtles are going strong this year (2022) total nests 2,020 compared to last year 1,754. The pepper study not working Coyotes don't care. Loggerhead YTD 1932; Green YTD 88; Kemps YTD 0.

We are now getting ready for Shorebird season making sure the ground vegetation is treated as the birds need open sand area for nesting.

Members Comments: Dianne asked if anyone has any questions – Derek asked if anyone has heard of a Panther around Peachland Blvd? Dianne said her neighbor also had heard a Panther was in her backyard that climbed over from a tree. More likely a Bobcat.

Manager Comments – Tina Powell – 1) The Resolution of the Sensitive Lands is going to the Board soon, it's with the Attorney's office now, 2) this is Jane's last meeting she's retiring at the end of the month which I am in denial. She'll be greatly missed. 3) Next meeting? May 8th? (This has been scheduled!)

Adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jane Ravella