

**HERNANDO COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS COMMITTEE
(ESLC)**

**AGENDA
(REVISED)**

Monday
March 13, 2006
(Meeting 2)

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hernando County Planning Conference Room (2nd Floor), which is located in the Hernando County Government Center/Administration Building, 20 N. Main Street, Room 261, Brooksville, FL 34601

1. Meeting called to order
2. Introductions of members and staff
3. ESLC layperson recommendation
4. FY 06/07 budget & work program discussion
5. Conservation Lands Specialist update
7. Minutes of January 23, 2006
8. General public comment
9. Committee member issues
10. Schedule and focus of next meeting
11. Adjournment

March 2, 2006

MEMORANDUM

PD-78

TO: Environmentally Sensitive Lands Committee

VIA: Lawrence Jennings, Director
Growth and Development Services

FROM: Dawn Velsor, Lead Environmental Planner
Hernando County Planning Department

SUBJECT: Discussion Items for **March 13, 2006** ESLC Meeting

Planning staff has scheduled a meeting of the ESLC for **Monday, March 13, 2006, at 5:30 pm in the Planning Conference Room (2nd Floor, Room 261)**. The main focus of the meeting will be to discuss the FY 06/07 budget and work program, the proposed ESL Conservation Lands Specialist position and to recommend a replacement layperson candidate to the Board of County Commissioners. Members will be notified by phone to confirm meeting date and time.

Committee Membership Update

Kathy Merrigan resigned her layperson position. The position was advertised and Staff received five applications. The applications are attached for:

Joseph Forrest Bennett
Frank V. Prestigiacomo
A.M. Sevier
Richard S. Stauffer
Brad Vincent

FY 06/07 Budget Update and 06/07 Work Program

Attached is the proposed ESL budget and work program information for the coming fiscal year. Please review the information provided and come prepared with any questions and/or recommendations.

Estimated expenditures for 2006/2007 include the continuation of the following:

- Design/Improvements for Bayport Park Expansion (\$1,178,350 allocated to park development).
- Acquisition of the Withlacoochee State Forest Connector Project is the primary acquisition project for the 2006/2007 budget. The request for consultant services for this project has been advertised. The ESL account will have an estimated balance of \$4.1 million available for acquisition. The committee should review and focus on the proposed 2006/07 work

plan.

- Interim site security: Interim site security using off-duty local deputies (\$23/hr for a minimum of 3 hrs/patrol). Target 4-6 weeks in spring, start of summer vacation, hunting season and sporadically in between (approximately 250 hr) and assess impact. (\$5,750)
- Control of invasive exotics. Maintenance invasive exotic plant control at Fickett Hammock and Cypress Lakes (cogon grass, Japanese climbing fern, and skunk vine) (\$17,500).
- Prescribed burns. Contracting for two burns per year for the next two years to restore fire adapted communities as recommended by consultant. (\$11,550)
- Trail improvements and brochure with trail map for Cypress Lakes Preserve to improve public use and satisfy FCT grant award agreement (\$10,000).
- Implementation of wildlife survey recommendations (post burn assessment 2006/2007).
- In addition to any figures above, operating and improvement costs previously budgeted are to be carried forward from last year and adjusted to keep pace with construction costs. This includes proposed improvements at Cypress Lakes Preserve (restrooms, picnic pavilion, kiosk, etc.).

Planned 2006 Management Items

Staff anticipates completion of the following in the current fiscal year: Entrance signs for Fickett Hammock and Cypress Lakes, continuation of security patrols by Hernando County Sheriff's deputies, security facility development at Cypress Lakes, continuation of prescribed burns at Cypress Lakes by PEER, Inc. and maintenance control of invasive plant outbreaks at Fickett Hammock and Cypress Lakes.

If additional staffing request is granted by the Board of County Commissioners additional site development and management tasks will be addressed.

Conservation Lands Specialist

At the January 23rd meeting the ESLC discussed the County creating a dedicated Conservation Lands Specialist position through the ESL Fund. Since that meeting Staff has reconsidered the placement of the position into the Parks and Recreation Department. Staff feels that the position might be better suited for placement within the Planning Department in order to maintain the continuity within the ESL Program.

Bayport Update

The County's consultant (TBE Group) met with DEP on-site in January and responded to DEP's last request for additional information concerning the environmental resource permit for the Bayport Park expansion. County Staff anticipate that the state permit will be issued in the next month. Once the permit is issued, the County will go out to bid for the Park's expansion.

DMV/JLH

pc: ESLC members
 Pat Fagan, Parks and Recreation Director
 Mikel Renner
 Gulf Coast Conservancy
 Adrian Kilby
 Dixie Lee Bait Shop
 Nancy Sutherland
 Terry Bickel

Attachments: Meeting agenda
 Layperson applications
 Revised Conservation Lands Specialist position description
 Meeting minutes for 1/23/06