

October 6, 2020
Item No. 14. E. 1.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 30, 2020

SUBJECT: A Conservation Lands Referendum to Fund the Capital and Land Purchases Necessary to Conserve and Restore the IR Lagoon and County Conservation Lands.

FROM: Bob Solari
Commissioner, District 5

Months back some were talking about another Conservation Lands Bond Referendum. With about 30% of the land in the County now conservation lands and off the taxroll, it is debatable whether or not more *single purpose conservation lands* are necessary.

What is necessary is the work required to stop the damage that has been done to our land and waters and to return them to a healthier state. In short, while we may not need more conservation lands, we need to properly conserve and restore those lands and waters that we do have.

This will be an expensive project. Just to return the Lagoon to an acceptable state will cost well over \$100,000,000. We cannot wait upon an acceptable BMAP, nor should we take the 20 years possibly allowed by a BMAP to restore the Indian River County portion of the Lagoon. As we have been for well over the past decade, we should continue to be a leader in restoring the Lagoon and other County conservation lands owned by the County to better health.

My suggestion is that over the next year, as the BCC continues its work on the Indian River Lagoon Plan and thinks about the future of the County's conservation lands, it considers a conservation bond referendum the proceeds of which to be used for capital projects and the land necessary for them to conserve and restore the Indian River Lagoon to a healthier state and to better conserve and protect the conservation lands that the County now owns.

Thank you,

Bob