



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department
Conservation Lands Division

Date: June 3, 2024
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Beth Powell, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Director
From: Wendy Swindell, Conservation Lands Manager
Subject: Approval of a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners
Approving and Accepting the Final Environmental Lands Program Guide,
and Establishing the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel

BACKGROUND:

On December 12, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved staff changes to the Environmental Lands Program Guide (ELPG). This document outlines the process for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands to be funded through the Environmental Bond approved in 2022 by both the BCC and voters in Indian River County. As described in the ELPG, part of the process for acquisition of environmental lands is to create an advisory board whose function is to review nominated properties and provide recommendations to the BCC on the value of properties that may be pursued for acquisition. The advisory group that has been established for the environmental land acquisition process is the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel (ELAP). The primary role of the ELAP is to review nominations and provide a biannual property ranking summary for BCC consideration. The composition, function, and process for seating the ELAP is detailed in the ELPG.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

Past Environmental Bond Referenda have included the adoption of a Resolution to approve the ELPG as well as the development of the advisory group. The December 12, 2023, agenda item did not include a BCC resolution accepting and approving these items. A Resolution approving and adopting the 2023 ELPG as well as the selection and process for the ELAP has been attached for BCC consideration.

The nine member ELAP has been meeting since August of 2023. Meetings in 2023 were directed at providing the BCC comments towards the finalization of the ELPG. The County began accepting nominations for properties to be considered for acquisition on March 1, 2024. ELAP meetings in March, April and May 2024 have been conducted to review nominated properties to evaluate whether the minimum criteria for acquisition have been met for each property, however votes could only be taken at the April meeting due to lack of quorum at the other meetings.

There have been several meetings of the ELAP where a quorum was not present. A lack of quorum results in delays in the process; for this reason, staff is respectfully requesting that the Board consider

changing the number of members required for a quorum to less than seven (the ELPG outlines a quorum as 7 of 9 members present). Any change in quorum provided by the Board would be included in the final version of the ELPG (which would be memorialized by adding the 06/18/2024 BCC date on the cover of the ELPG) and final Resolution.

FUNDING:

No funding is required for the approval of the Resolution to Approve and Accept the Final Environmental Lands Program Guide and Establishing the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners Approve the Resolution which Approves and Accepts the Final Environmental Lands Program Guide, and Establishes the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel, and authorize the Chairman to execute said Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 2024-00 to Approving and Accepting the Final Environmental Lands Program Guide, and Establishing the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JUNE 18, 2024