

ITEM 2:

Consider the June 12, 2020 meeting summary.

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

None

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the meeting summary.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS: _____

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER: _____

Acquisition and Restoration Council

June 12, 2020 Meeting Summary

Council Meeting: June 12, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Webinar meeting

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Tim Parsons, DHR
Mr. Erin Albury, FFS
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member
Dr. Thomas Eason, FWC
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member
Mr. Shawn Hamilton, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

Item 1: Call to Order at 9:00 am

DEP Interim Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation Shawn Hamilton called the meeting to order. He also welcomed new member, Mr. Erin Albury, Director of the Florida Forest Service.

Chair Hamilton said farewell to Ms. Paula Allen who retired with 34 years of service with the State of Florida including 15 years with the Florida Forever program. He acknowledged her efforts on conserving land with the Florida Forever program will be missed.

Chair Hamilton asked ARC Staff Director, Shauna Allen to conduct the roll call. All 7 ARC members were present, and the quorum was established.

Ms. Allen provided housekeeping announcements including webinar instructions and information for public comments. She also announced revisions to the agenda for items 2, 12, 15 and 16.

Item 2: Consider the February 14, 2020, meeting and May 20, 2020, public hearing summaries.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the meeting summaries.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the February and May meeting summaries with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

ARC STAFF REPORTS

Item 3: Items approved by the Division of State Lands via the online negative response process since the February 2020 ARC meeting.

DSL Staff Remarks: Ms. Allen stated that several items were submitted and approved via the negative response process; a management plan amendment for Tenoroc public use area; two managements plans for areas less than 160 acres, Erna Nixon Park and Suwannee River Greenway at Bradford; and incompatible use requests for three private access easements within Blackwater River State Forest and one private underground utility easement across West Orange Trail.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 4: Quarterly status report on Land Management Reviews completed by the Division of State Lands from January to March 2020.

DSL Staff Remarks: Ms. Allen stated the eight land management reviews conducted in the third quarter were provided for the ARC members review.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Due to a connection issue with the presenter, Items 5 and 6 were presented to the council after Item 10.

Item 7: Consider a 10-year update to the Hillsborough River State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 3623).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Joel Allbritton with the Office of Park Planning presented the item and mentioned that Park biologist Matthew Hodge and Park Manager Brian Penson were available to respond to questions following the presentation. The Hillsborough River State Park located between Temple Terrace and Zephyrhills was acquired in 1935 as one of Florida's nine New Deal era parks and covers 3,319 acres. The park features 19 communities including 13 natural communities and hosts 46 imperiled species notably the giant orchard, gopher frog and swallow-tailed kite. Cultural resources include 7 archaeological sites and 19 historic structures representing periods from the Second Seminole War, the Safety Harbor, The New Deal Era and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Resource management objectives include maintaining optimal fire return intervals, habitat restoration, exotic plant treatment, imperiled species monitoring and documenting cultural resources. Land use improvements will focus on upgrading and repairing visitor use facilities and additional interpretive opportunities, shoreline stabilization, exploring

the feasibility of solar panel installation and improvements to the shop including equipment storage.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the management plan with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 8: Consider a 10-year update to the Lake Talquin State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 2537).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Allbritton presented the item and mentioned that Park Biologist John McKenzie and Park Manager, Robert Steele were available to respond to questions following the presentation. The park, located in Leon County, was acquired in 1970 as a donation from the Florida Power Corporation and contains just over 425 acres. The park protects one of the last remaining natural stretches of the bluff that runs along what was once one of the high banks of the Ochlocknee River, which is now Lake Talquin. The park protects 4 natural communities and 16 imperiled species, including slope forest and sandhill providing habitat for the trout lily, silky camelia and the Southern American Kestrel. There is one archaeological site potentially associated with the Weeden Island period. Management objectives include sandhill restoration and fire management, monitoring imperiled species and exotic plant treatment. Improvements to increase interpretation and access include a new fishing platform, repair dock and boat access, install a new observation deck and new shop facilities and residence for on-site presence.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the management plan with Dr. Parsons seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 9: Consider a 10-year update to the Picayune Strand State Forest Management Plan (Lease No. 3927).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Mike Weston with the Florida Forest Service presented the item. Picayune Strad State Forest was named for the Cypress Strands that run through the forest. Initially planned for development in the 1960s-70s in Collier County, it notably contains contiguous upland pine, cypress and mangroves. Recreational activities include hiking, biking and horseback riding alongside active hydrologic and upland community restoration on 74,008 acres. The forest shares a boundary with Collier-Seminole State Park and Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Management objectives of this multiple-use forest include sustainable forest management, recreational opportunities, natural resource conservation, protection of cultural resources with 85 recorded sites, protection of water resources, wildland fire protection and habitat restoration. Goals include stand reforestation and restoration of the fire-dependent habitats, non-native invasive plant treatment and cabbage palm treatments, providing public access and recreational opportunities including group camping, boat access and continued cooperation with FWC.

Ms. Griner asked if there was an issue with lethal bronzing in the cabbage palm/sabal palms. Mr. Weston stated that they have not seen it in Collier County yet.

Mr. Mike Elfenbien expressed his appreciation for how the forest is managed and cooperation with the staff and agencies to reintroduce off-road vehicle use. He stated that there have been no negative occurrences and that it reflected well on the ORV community and asked for consideration to extend the use to the Belle Meade portion. He also commented on plow line rehabilitation asking if the old roadbeds could be used to reduce the impacts of plow lines.

Mr. Mike Melton thanked the Florida Forest Service for their management and is supportive of the plan.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the management plan with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 10: Consider a Management Plan for Fort Pickens State Park Aquatic Preserve.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Earl Pearson with the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection presented the plan and stated that the preserve manager, Beth Fugate was available to respond to questions following the presentation. The preserve covers over 30,000 acres in Perdido and Pensacola Bay. It protects 68 historic and cultural sites including the USS Massachusetts and relies on partnerships to manage the state and federally protected resources. Water quality is a critical issue and education and outreach are key tools. Living shorelines are promoted to assist with water quality and habitat restoration. Monitoring species like horseshoe crabs and submerged aquatic vegetation with public participation increases advocacy and public awareness. Goals include mapping submerged and emergent resources, sustainable public use which is primarily recreational boating and protecting submerged resources.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the management plan with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 5: Consider a 10-year update to the Silver Springs Conservation Area Management Plan (Lease No. 4519).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Grey Wiley, Park Operations Manager with Marion County, introduced Mr. Peter NeSmith to present the 10-year LMP update for SSCA. The area contains some 330-acres of conservation land in central Marion County. Acquired by the state as part of the First Magnitude Springs project to protect Silver Springs watershed recharge area it includes sandhill habitat and prioritizes gopher tortoise management. The area is considered a regional conservation asset to spring protection. Part of the regional recreation network, it connects public lands including the Silver Springs Bikeway and connections to external trails. The use of prescribed fire to manage the relatively intact sandhill is challenged with the urban interface. Goals for management include additional recreational opportunities connecting to adjacent managed areas, reduction of exotics to maintenance control levels, hardwood control and use of prescribed fire. Mr. NeSmith expressed appreciation for the cooperation of Carolyn Kendall, FNAI and Lance Jacobsen, FWC and DEP. They plan to implement cultural resource recommendations received from DHR

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the management plan with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 6: Consider the Silver Springs Sandhill Management Plan (Lease No. 4807).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Peter NeSmith provided an overview of Silver Springs Sandhill, located in Marion county and consisting of 470-acres. Adjacent to Indian River State Forest and county park property, the site was acquired under the Florida Forever program for its valuable natural and cultural resources and water recharge. Featuring a diverse array of sandhill species in an intact community the area includes passive recreational trails and proposes additional trail and passive recreational activities including an archery range and 3D target range. Proposed resource management includes continued use of prescribed fire, hardwood control and focus on gopher tortoise management. Exotic species are in the maintenance control phase. The county will continue to implement BMPs for water resource management and DRP for cultural resource protection.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the management plan with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

FLORIDA FOREVER

Item 11: Hear presentations and take Public Testimony on the Florida Forever 2020 Cycle 1 and 2 Proposals and other Florida Forever Projects.

Discussion: The Florida Forever 2020 Cycle 1 projects were presented by the applicants and their representatives.

Mr. Lane Boy, Amtel Farms, presented the importance of acquiring and protecting this property to the ongoing efforts for panther habitat protection. He highlighted the location of the property to the north-south corridor connecting Caloosahatchee Ecoscape and Fisheating Creek and expanding the dispersal zone 2,000 acres to the west. He also mentioned the large expanses of oak hammocks on the property.

Dr. Hilary Swain, the presenter for Buck Island Ranch, mentioned that Gene Lollis the Ranch Manager was also available to respond to questions. Dr. Swain discussed the purchase of Buck Island Ranch in 2018 by Archbold Biological Station and the importance of this 10,500-acre property as part of the 2.6 million acres draining to Lake Okeechobee. This diverse area includes wetlands, listed species and is an important connection for large area requiring species. She emphasized the connectivity of this property with regional conservation efforts including USDA WRP easements and Fisheating Creek for hydrology and shared land use history. She also noted the staff recommendation that the property be a standalone project but requested the council consider adding it to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project because it shares boundaries, hydrology and landscape connectivity. She also mentioned the partnerships associated with the ranch featuring research and monitoring typical of a conservation site as a marriage between a natural laboratory and conservation.

Mr. Keith Fountain presented Hendrie Ranch on behalf of Derek Hendrie and the Hendrie Family. The Ranch has been owned by the family since 1951 and it contains 7,242 acres including 2,175 acres of improved pasture with 600 cattle. Located at the toe of the Lake Wales Ridge, the relatively intact natural habitat is important for the black bear, Florida panther and scrub species. Telemetry data shows the opportunity for wildlife movement across US 27 with connectivity to adjacent protected lands east and west of US 27. The applicant concurs with the staff recommendation to add this proposal to the Lake Wells Ridge Ecosystem Project if approved.

Mr. Keith Fountain presented the Withlacoochee River Corridor project on behalf of the Conservation Advisors and Conservation Florida. The less-than-fee proposal consists of 1,714 acres in Citrus County. Managed by the owners as a game farm and cattle ranch, the area includes the 50-acre moon lake. The Pineola Fern Grotto Cave Complex, limestone caves providing habitat for several bat species and rare ferns, is also present on the property. The SFWMD is interested in the floodwater storage capacity of the property.

Florida Forever 2020 Cycle 2 proposals were presented by the applicants or their representatives.

Mr. Dean Saunders presented the Abington Ranch property which is 3656-acres in North Okeechobee County. The property is a typical cow/calf operation on 1,300 acres of improved and semi-improved pasture. Depression herbaceous marshes and sawgrass marsh wetlands make up 42 percent of the property. The area also includes a 108-acre dispersed water project permitted by the SFWMD. Improvements on the property include the lodge, barns, outbuildings and an airboat launch. Connectivity to the south and west to Kissimmee Prairie State Park and NRCS easement on the north. The property is on the market for fee acquisition and is supported by DRP as a potential addition to the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

Mr. Dean Saunders presented the Bluefield to Cow Creek proposed project with 10,942 acres in the western St. Lucie and eastern Okeechobee counties. The property is managed as a cow/calf operation along with agricultural farm fields. This project connects Cypress Creek and Cow Creek water bodies and features a large intact cypress swamp including rare air plants. The property also includes the listed Eli Morgan House and Corduroy Road. A citrus seedling grove remnant on the site is believed to be from Spanish seed stock. The site is adjacent to a private landfill.

Ms. Josee Cyr presented the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project proposal in Bay County. The proposal includes 2,000 acres of wet flatwoods to protect listed species, St. Andrews bay, natural floodplains, aquifer recharge and provide for environmental education. The area provides critical habitat for the Panama City crayfish, a state-listed species of special concern pending listing as a threatened species. It also includes habitat protection for the Eastern indigo snake, flatwoods salamander, Red-cockaded woodpecker, and water quality protection to benefit the Florida manatee and Gulf sturgeon, shellfish and seagrasses in St. Andrews Bay. The project has local, state and federal partners including the Bay County Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife Commission, Department of Transportation, Florida State University and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed project is surrounded by urban development and due to Hurricane Michael provides a unique opportunity to restore these sites to historic natural habitats. The proposal has secured a \$3.5 million endowment for management and is seeking funding partners.

Mr. Keith Fountain presented Welannee Watershed Forest proposed project on behalf of Conservation Advisors and Conservation Florida and the landowner. The less-than-fee property located in Okaloosa County consists of 8,370 acres and was acquired in 2005 by a single owner. The owner is restoring the loblolly plantations to longleaf pine on uplands and providing increased protection to the floodplains of the Yellow River. This project would contribute to regional landscape connectivity from the Alabama line to the Gulf of Mexico increasing habitat protection for the Gulf sturgeon. The river is also used for military low-level flight training by Whiting Field and Eglin Air Force Base. The FFS has secured Forest Legacy funding of 2.9 million dollars for this project.

Mr. Keith Fountain presented the Withlacoochee River Addition proposal on behalf of Conservation Advisors and Conservation Florida, and the landowners. This less-than-fee proposal is a companion project to the cycle 1 proposal including the same habitat diversity and uses in Citrus and Hernando Counties. Consisting of 1,645 acres and 5 owners, the property connects an 8-mile corridor along the Withlacoochee River. There is also potential for other properties to come into the project in the future. The property has extensive natural communities and river floodplain, with wildlife diversity.

Following the proposal presentations, public testimony was offered.

Mr. Kent Wimmer with the Defenders of Wildlife spoke in favor of adding the 4 proposals to the 2020 priority list and encouraged approval of the boundary amendments and new project proposals. He commented on the benefits of the Amtel Farms proposal for wildlife and the Florida Panther, the Crayfish Habitat project from the threat of development, Bluefield to Cow Creek protection for the crested caracara and gopher tortoise, Welannee Watershed protection for the Gulf sturgeon and narrow creek toe and bottomland hardwoods in the Withlacoochee River Addition.

Mr. Mike Melton spoke in favor of the council approving all these proposed projects. He said that he supports all the staff recommendations and hopes Florida will continue to preserve lands.

ARC Action: No action required.

Recess: Council unanimously approved a 5-minute recess, with Chair Hamilton making the motion and Ms. Griner seconding. The council meeting resumed at 11:06 am and established a quorum by rollcall.

Item 12: Consider project evaluation reports for Amtel Farms, Buck Island Ranch, Hendrie Ranch and Withlacoochee River Corridor 2020 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the project evaluation reports.

Discussion: Ms. Griner asked staff their reasoning for recommending Buck Island Ranch as a stand-alone project considering the applicant's request for it to be added to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project. Ms. Deborah Burr, the Program Administrator for the Office of Environmental Services, stated that our recommendation considered the uniqueness of the project as a working ranch with a research priority and that this gave it an advantage over adding

to the much larger Fisheating creek project while we do understand Dr. Swain's concerns as well.

Mr. Hamilton asked for Dr. Swain to ask why they preferred not making it a stand-alone. Dr. Swain discussed the rationale for proposing the addition to Fisheating Creek considers the conservation value, landscape connectivity for bears and the panther, hydrological connective and compatible land use histories. She considers it a small percentage increase to the overall project and balances the concern of increasing the size of the project with increasing the number of projects and the potential for a small stand-alone to languish.

Dr. Eason commented that it makes sense to him to add it to the Fisheating Creek project. He also asked for clarification on the Hendry Ranch proposal. Ms. Burr stated that it was recommended to be added to the Lake Wells Ridge Ecosystems.

Chair Hamilton asked for the appropriate time to consider a recommendation from the council to add Buck Island Ranch to the Fisheating Creek Project. Ms. Allen stated that the motion could be made under Item 13 after the vote to approve the projects.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the project evaluation reports with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 13: Vote on whether to add four 2020 Cycle 1 Florida Forever Proposals to the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on proposals to be added as projects to the 2021 Florida Forever priority list.

Consider, if approved by a roll call vote as a Florida Forever project, adding the Amtel Farms fee-simple project to the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Florida Forever project boundary by a second roll call vote of ARC.

Consider, if approved by a roll call vote as a Florida Forever project, adding the Hendrie Ranch less-than-fee project to the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary by a second roll call vote of ARC.

ARC Action: ARC voted unanimously by seven members to add the Amtel Farms, Buck Island Ranch, Hendrie Ranch and the Withlacoochee River proposals to the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

ARC voted unanimously by seven members to amend the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project boundary to add Amtel Farms.

ARC voted unanimously by seven members to amend the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project boundary to add Hendrie Ranch.

Ms. Griner made the motion to add Buck Island Ranch to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to amend the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project boundary to add Buck Island Ranch.

Item 14: Consider request to remove approximately 2.53 acres from the boundary of the Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever Project.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote to approve the owner's requested deletion.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the proposed removal with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the item.

Item 15: Vote on whether to amend the Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever Project Boundary to add five parcels totaling approximately 995.0 acres in Polk County with a tax assessed market value of \$531,207.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Keith Fountain presented the boundary amendment proposal on behalf of Mr. Rick Hartman, Hartman Real Estate. This fee simple proposal seeks to add the remaining acreage under a single owner to the project boundary which currently includes two-thirds of his property. The proposed 995 acres include lake frontage with boat ramps and features marshes, flatwoods, oak hammock and improved pasture and would be compatible with recreational activities if incorporated into the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest. The property also includes flowage easements and conservation easements along the lakeshore.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 16: Vote on whether to amend the Natural Bridge Creek Florida Forever Project Boundary to add seven parcels totaling approximately 170.0 acres in Walton County with a tax assessed market value of \$259,083.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Keith Fountain presented the proposed boundary amendment on behalf of Conservation Advisors and the Florida Forest Service. The 170-acre property in Walton County is owned by the Hester Family, which also owns 90 percent of the property in the Natural Bridge Creek project. The longleaf pine ecosystem contains a diverse understory and protects Natural Bridge Creek and the spring in the northeast portion of the site. The FFS has secured Forest Legacy funding and is proposed to be the manager of the property which would likely become a new state forest.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 17: Vote on whether to amend the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 149.0 acres in Citrus County with a tax assessed market value of \$863,960.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Keith Fountain presented the fee simple addition of 149 acres in Citrus county. The property has a 2.75-acre historic cemetery and the property is adjacent to Crystal River Preserve State Park. The property features 126 acres of uplands including longleaf pine and live oaks, improved pasture and mixed forest. There are 23 acres of wetlands with streams, bottomland swamps, mixed wetland hardwoods and freshwater marsh. The property is currently listed for sale and is permitted for limestone mining which could pose a threat to the hydrology of the adjacent state park. FPS has communicated their support for the proposal and management with the adjacent state park.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 18: Vote on whether the Abington Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Welannee Watershed Forest and Withlacoochee River Addition 2020 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposals will proceed through the project evaluation process for potential addition to the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on each proposal

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: ARC voted unanimously by seven members to initiate a full review of the Abington Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Welannee Watershed Forest and Withlacoochee River Addition proposals.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

Item 19: Consider whether an approximately 2.45-acre road right-of-way easement within Eden Gardens State Park is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement

Discussion: Ms. Angel Granger, DSL/BPLA presented the Walton County request for an easement for an 80-foot right-of-way to construct East Point Washington Road. The request permitted by the Water Management District includes a linear stormwater management feature within the easement. DRP has expressed support for the project. DHR has reviewed the survey and concurs with the no effect determination. The proposed easement realigns the road to the park boundary eliminating habitat fragmentation caused by the existing alignment. There is no fee for the public use easement and the applicant will provide additional compensation to DRP at one and a half times the market value of the easement.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 20: Consider whether an approximately 3.62-acre private easement within Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement.

Discussion: Ms. Angel Granger presented the Duke Energy request for a private easement to increase the buffer by 15 feet for their 11-mile primary distribution line abutting Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park along US 441. Tom Hudson and Shantel Ocampo from Duke Energy were introduced and available to respond to questions following the presentation. The additional buffer would allow for tree trimming to prevent the excessive outages caused by overhanging vegetation along this section of the line. The DRP expressed support and indicated park benefits by improving the fire break. The DHR required cultural resource survey found no adverse effects. Duke Energy will compensate the state with an easement fee equal to 1.5 times the appraised value and provide additional compensation at 1.5 times the value for replacement lands or 2 times the value in cash.

Dr. Eason commented that it is critically important to find replacement lands at 1.5 times the value to make up for the loss of acreage. Ms. Granger stated that they were also looking for replacement adjacent lands on Item 19.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 21: Consider whether an approximately 0.77-acre public right of way easement within the East Coast Buffer is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement.

Discussion: Mr. Jay Sircy, DSL/BPLA presented the request from FDOT for an easement to improve the safety realignment of the intersection of NW 154th Street and West Okeechobee Road. The property is currently under the management of DSL/BPLA pending incorporation into the SFWMD lease for the East Coast Buffer Preserve. DHR has advised that it is unlikely to affect historic properties. DSL has requested fencing to be installed as part of the compensation to prevent the illegal dumping that occurs in this high traffic area. Additional compensation will be one and half times the appraised value of the easement.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 22: Consider whether an approximately 0.68-acre private single-family access easement within Withlacoochee State Forest is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement.

Discussion: Mr. Jay Sircy presented the Harrell request for a 30-foot wide ingress/egress easement to access their land locked parcel within the Withlacoochee State Forest in Sumpter County. The applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Harrell and Allen Davis, FFS, were available to answer questions following the presentation. The applicants have already secured additional easements from their property to CR 719. The FFS has consented to the easement and indicated they will not be responsible for the maintenance of the existing dirt road beyond their needs. DHR has

advised there are no impacts. The easement fee will be 1.5 times the appraised value and additional compensation in the form of replacement lands or goods and services valued at 1.5 times the appraised value.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 23: Consider whether an approximately 3.019-acre private access easement within Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement.

Discussion: Mr. Jay Sircy presented the Gaskins request for a 25-foot wide ingress/egress easement to his landlocked parcel within the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management area in Glades County. The applicant Mr. Thomas Gaskins and Tom Houston and Sarah Specter with FWC were available to respond to questions following the presentation. FW has provided consent to the easement. DRP has indicated the proposed easement is unlikely to affect historic properties. The easement includes a u-shaped placement to allow for bridge construction crossing the ditch as the most practical/cost feasible option which otherwise follows an existing dirt road. The easement fee will be 1.5 times the appraised value and additional compensation in the form of replacement lands or goods and services valued at 1.5 times the appraised value.

Dr. Eason commented that he reviewed this proposal with staff and that they worked extensively with the applicant to find the best route. The applicant constructed bridge will benefit the area management and is staff supported.

Mr. Elfenbien asked a question regarding the ownership of the parcel. Mr. Sircy confirmed the property was owned by Mr. Gaskins.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 24: Consider whether a 1.35-acre right-of-way easement across a portion of conservation lands managed by the South Florida Water Management District is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement.

Discussion: Mr. Chris Crenshaw, DSL/BPLA presented the request by the City of Miramar for an easement to widen Pembroke Road to connect with US 27. The proposed roadway improvement would reduce congestion, enhance connectivity and provide an alternate route for hurricane evacuation. The SFWMD has requested additional fencing along the roadway to prevent dumping and resource impacts. They indicated minimal expected impacts due to urbanization of the surrounding areas. DHR determined the proposal is unlikely to impact historic resources. The City is working with SFWMD on permitting. Additional compensation of 1.5 times the appraised value with a preference for replacement lands is required.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS

ARC Announcements: Chair Hamilton announced the next scheduled ARC meeting for August 21, 2020, and the FCT meeting on August 20, 2020. Dr. Eason thanked the staff for preparing them for a great virtual meeting. Chair Hamilton also commended the team on a great job and the Council for working through a power-packed agenda at our first virtual meeting.

Dr. Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.