



Florida Communities Trust

2023-2024 Parks and Open Space Ranking and Selection Workshop

Division of State Lands / Florida Communities Trust
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

January 29, 2024



Workshop Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Parks and Open Space Grant Overview
- Application Review and Evaluation
- Meeting Materials for Board Review
- Agenda and Ranking and Selection Process
- Closing Comments



Parks and Open Space Grant Overview

- Land acquisition program established in 1989
- Funding is appropriated via the Florida Legislature
- Typical projects include parks, open spaces, and greenways
- Governed by Rules 62-818 & 62-819, F.A.C.
- FCT currently oversees management of more than 600 project sites and protects nearly 100,000 acres





Parks and Open Space Grant Program

Eligible applicants for the Parks and Open Space Florida Forever Grant Program include local governments and eligible nonprofit organizations, as outlined in [Rule Chapter 62-818, F.A.C.](#) Project sponsors may only submit one (1) application per project site. Each applicant may only apply for up to \$5 million per cycle, regardless of the number of applications.

Applicants are required to meet a 25% match requirement, with exceptions based on population and category.

APPLICANT	MINIMUM MATCH	
	0%	25%
Counties	Population 75,000 or less	Population more than 75,000
Municipalities	Population 10,000 or less	Population more than 10,000
Nonprofit Environmental Organizations	Not required	Not required

Project sites, as defined by [62-818.002\(35\), F.A.C.](#), with more than one parcel are required to be adjoining or adjoining through public ownership. The FCT Governing Board will not consider applications from applicants with overdue stewardship reports, which must be received or approved by FCT within one year of the Application deadline.



FY2023-2024 Funding

- \$15 million available in funding
- The application cycle window opened October 10, 2023, and runs through January 10, 2024.
- 5 p.m. (ET) on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, is the deadline for an applicant to apply.
- No applications received after 5 PM (EST) on that day will be accepted.





Limit on Grant Awards

Rule 62-818.003(7), F.A.C., discusses the limitations of our grant funding. These limits include:

- Each applicant may only apply for up to \$5 million
- If one applicant submits multiple applications, the total award amount requested may not exceed \$5 million





Ineligible Applicants

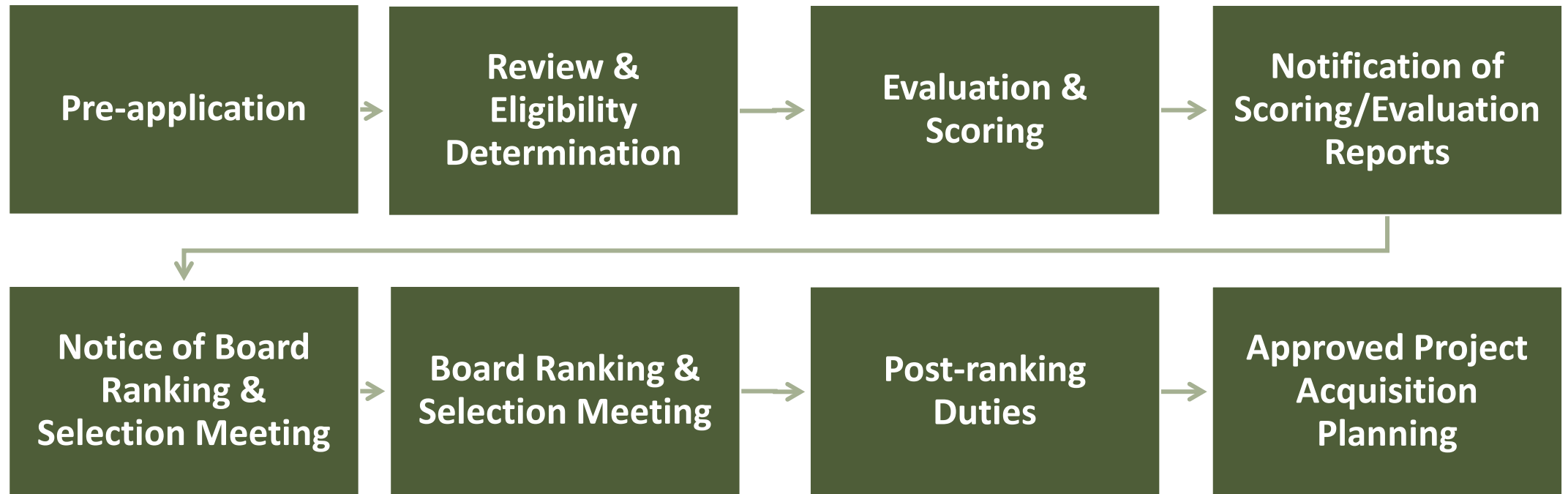
- Rule 62-818.003 also lists factors that would render an applicant ineligible.
- These factors include:
 - An inability to guarantee public access to the site
 - Three or more active Grant Agreements with the Florida Communities Trust at the time of the project selection meeting
 - If the applicant has an overdue stewardship report



QUESTIONS?



FCT Application Review and Evaluation





Materials for Board Review

- A • Staff Evaluation Report
- B • Project Summary
- C • Project Evaluation and Scoring
- D • Project Site Plan
- E • Support Letters
- F • Summary of Objections



Summary of Objections

- Applicant written objections submitted 5 days prior to meeting
- No new information may be presented to the Board
- Each objection is specific to the scoring criterion
- Summary includes:
 - The scoring criterion
 - Why points were not awarded
 - Applicant response (objection)
 - Staff determination



QUESTIONS?



Special Purpose Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

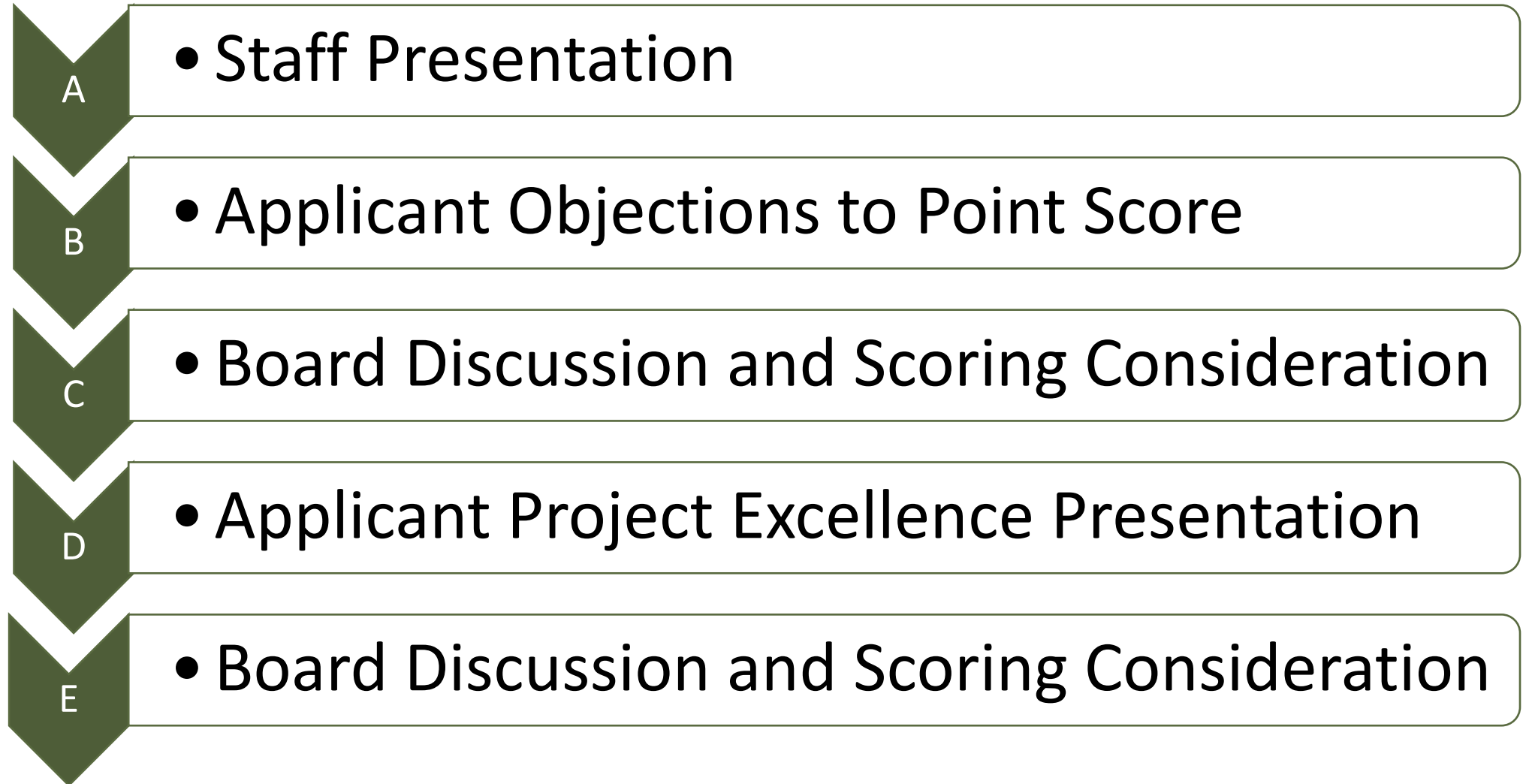
Item 1: Meeting Parameters

**Item 2: Application and Evaluation Report Review,
Application Scoring FCT Staff
Consideration, Ranking and Selection of
Projects for Funding**

Item 3: Public Comments



Ranking and Selection Process



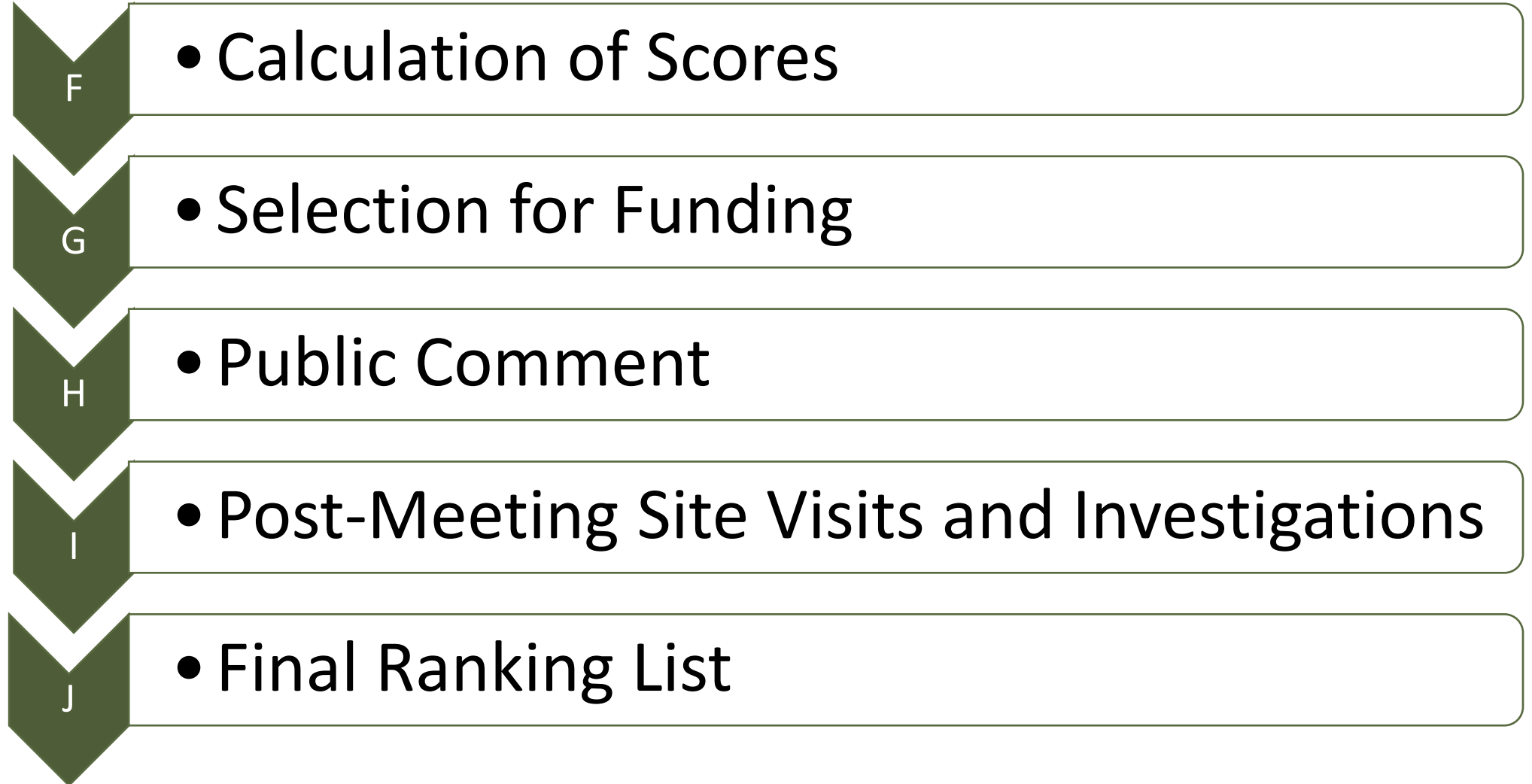


Project Excellence Points

- Responsibility rests exclusively with Board
- Maximum of 10 additional points
- Supports the goals of FCT but not adequately addressed in the evaluation criteria:
 - Strong community-based support
 - Exemplary characteristics
 - Regional cooperation
 - Assists disadvantaged communities
 - Land use conflict resolution
- Board member clearly states number and basis for awarding points



Ranking and Selection Process





QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

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