

**FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST GOVERNING BOARD
QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY
AUGUST 23, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mara Gambineri, (Chair) Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Deborah Denys, Former elected official of a county government, Noah Valenstein, Representative of a nonprofit organization, Frank Mingo, Former elected official of a metropolitan municipal government, Vacant, Representative of the development industry.

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Reeves (Program Manager); Shauna Allen (OMC Manager); Rebecca Robinette (Deputy General Counsel); Patricia Henry (Program Attorney); Melanie Orozco (Planner, Region 1); Erin Roaza (Planner, Region 2); William McMahon (Planner, Region 3); Callie DeHaven (Director of State Lands); Lauren Cruz (Division of State Lands); Angie Bright (Division of State Lands); Shadaria Jackson (Division of State Lands); Makenna Patton (Division of State Lands); Reilly Allman (Division of State Lands).

OTHERS PRESENT

Carmenchu Mingo

VIRTUAL VIA GOTOWEBINAR

Terry Bentley; Bill Bibby; Nick Porter; Jim Muller.

**Item 1: Opening
 Roll Call/Establish Quorum
 Call to Order**

Chair Gambineri called the August 23, 2023, meeting of the Florida Communities Trust Governing Board to order at 10:00 a.m.

Linda Reeves was introduced as the moderator for FCT Governing Board meeting. Shauna Allen was welcomed as the new OMC Manager of Land and Recreation Grants Section to facilitate the meeting. The quorum was established with all four members present.

Item 2: Announcements

Melanie Orozco joined as the new planner for Region 1; Erin Roaza transitioned to Region 2; Will McMahon is the planner for Region 3.

Shauna Allen provided a few housekeeping rules for the meeting including Public Comment and Virtual Comment Instructions.

Item 3: Consider the March 7, 2023, Meeting Summary

Staff recommended approval of the meeting summary.

Motion by: Noah Valenstein

Second by: Frank Mingo

No comments or questions from the Public.

No comments or questions from the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

- APPROVE**
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:**
- WITHDRAW**
- NOT APPROVE**
- OTHER:**

Item 4: Staff Reports

4(a) Annual Revenue and Annual Report Update

Melanie Orozco discussed the requirement of FCT Staff to prepare and submit an Annual Revenue report as required by the Department of Environmental Protection and an Annual Report as required by Chapter 380.512, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

The Annual Revenue report is based on revenue earned on FCT sites through private use as required by DEP. The data collection is complete and totals \$10,241,315 for all three FCT regions combined.

Chapter 380.512, F.S. requires the FCT Staff to submit an Annual Report to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, and the minority leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The final report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 will be made available to the Board when finished.

Board Discussion:

Ms. Denys wanted more information regarding the two closed projects, especially the status of the Wellington project.

Questions from Board members included the difference in the percent of revenue reports collected and total amount from what was displayed on the power point vs. the oral presentation.

4(b) Updates on Open and Undeveloped Survey

Erin Roaza presented the Open and Undeveloped Survey with 75% of reporting project sites.

Board Discussion:

Noah Valenstein: Glad to see this outreach for FCT project sites. Appreciate staff's effort in keeping sites in compliance.

Chair Gambinei: The FCT programs help guide project grantees toward 100% compliance and to encourage new projects within the state.

4(c) Updates on FCT Acquisitions

Erin Roaza presented the FCT Acquisitions for five projects from the Florida Forever 2019 acquisition cycle and four projects from the Florida Forever 2021 acquisition cycle along with one 2023 Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront (SMWW) project acquisition.

Video 1 (Wellington Environmental Preserve)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKQggH5s9BM&t=1s> was played for Board members and attendees.

Video 2 (Wellington Environmental Preserve's restoration process)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5EvJnXW6_E&t=4s was played for Board members and attendees.

No comments or questions from the Board.

4(d) Present Funding and Upcoming Application Cycle

Will McMahon presented the present funding and upcoming application cycles that included the SMWW grant application cycle of the \$6.2 million total, reduced by Blue Crab Cove, which was awarded but not yet closed, leaves just over \$4 million available with Blue Crab Cove at \$1.4 million to be encumbered. Parks and Open Space was allocated \$15 million by the Legislature.

Application cycle upcoming and encouraged Board members to reach out to their local governments to apply for the SMWW grant funding and/or the Parks and Open Space grant funding opportunities.

Video 3 (Recreational Trails Program)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-bBVqpg5Bs> was played for Board members and attendees.

Board Discussion:

Noah Valenstein: Asked to confirm dollar amount in available grant funding for the SMWW program.

Noah Valenstein: What was our involvement in this project from the video? Nice to see \$15 million for the FCT grant funding program and other programmatic areas.

Callie DeHaven: Line items would fit nicely within the Parks & Open Space program. Staff is working with several potential working waterfronts application recipients for funding from the SMWW program.

Chair Gambineri concluded the business items.

Item 5: Closing Comments

Chair Gambineri reminded Board members of the one quarterly meeting left for this year on December 13, 2023. She encouraged Board members to check their calendar to confirm availability for February 14 and May 15 meetings in 2024 and to let staff know as soon as possible to make proper accommodations.

A special purpose "Ranking and Selection Meeting" will be scheduled to approve the priority list and projects that Staff selected for funding once the application cycles are held. A workshop will be held prior to this meeting; the details of this workshop will be announced at a later date.

Noah Valenstein: Excited to see \$15 million appropriated to this grant program; looking forward to seeing how the program is able to encourage the protection of the environment and construction of public recreational areas for local communities throughout the state.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gambineri adjourned meeting by unanimous consent with no objections at 10:40 a.m.