



CONSERVATION CHARLOTTE



Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee
Conservation Charlotte is a program of Charlotte County Government

December 16, 2024
Community Services/Centennial Park
Large Administration Conference Room
1120 Centennial Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Members Present: Dianne Quilty – Vice Chair
Derek Miller
Shaun O’Rourke
Cody Oleckna

County Staff: Tina Powell
Jason Thomason
Jamie Scudera
Jamie Boies

Call to Order / Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Chair Shaun O’Rourke. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the September 16, 2024, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as submitted.

Old Business:

Burcher’s Land Management Plan (LMP)

Mr. Thompson led a discussion on the Burcher’s LMP. Committee members shared their thoughts and questions regarding the map and property access. The consensus was to continue monitoring management efforts and revisit updates in a future meeting.

New Business:

Field Trip Planning – February 2025

Ms. Powell suggested the February 24, 2025, meeting be used as a field trip opportunity. Locations such as Tippecanoe and Oyster Creek were discussed. Staff will coordinate logistics and report back.

Updated Preserve Brochure

Mr. Thompson distributed the newly updated brochures. He reviewed new features including QR codes, difficulty ratings, and maps with current trail improvements. The committee responded positively.

Land Acquisition Updates

Ms. Scudera shared progress on recently closed parcels and upcoming targeted acquisitions. Maps were shown detailing priority areas along the coast and in scrub habitats.

Staff Reports:

Land Management:

Mr. Thompson discussed current maintenance projects including trail clearing, signage replacement, and new interpretive markers in Tippecanoe II.

Coastal:

Ms. Scudera provided updates on sea turtle nesting. Final 2024 season numbers were:

- Loggerhead: 1,374
- Green: 105
- Kemps Ridley: 1
- Leatherback: 1

HCP:

Updates were shared on parcels added under the Habitat Conservation Plan. Staff continues working with willing sellers in key corridors.

Managers Comments – Ms. Powell encouraged the committee to continue promoting the ESLOC program in the community and praised staff efforts on land management and outreach.

Advisory Board Open Discussion: Members expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts of staff and discussed the positive reception of outreach events in 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Jamie Boies
Community Services Department

