



MINUTES – January 21, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL LAND ACQUISITION PANEL (ELAP)

Minutes of the
Environmental Land Acquisition Panel
Indian River County Administration Complex,
Building A, Commission Chambers
1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL
5:30 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025

9 members/6 for quorum

1. Call to Order

Chair Peter O'Bryan called the January 21, 2025, meeting of the Environmental Land Acquisition Panel (ELAP) to order at 5:30 PM.

A full recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Board of County Commissioners.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Janice Broda	District 2 Appointee
Daniel Bott	District 3 Appointee
Peter O'Bryan	District 4 Appointee
James Connaughton	District 5 Appointee
Heather Stapleton	Natural Resources Representative
Roland DeBlois	Planning or Engineering Representative
John Orcutt	Real Estate or Finance Representative
Sammy McGee	District 1 Appointee

Members Absent:

Jeff Beal	Natural Resources Representative
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Others Present:

Joseph Earman	Commissioner, BCC Liaison
Wendy Swindell	Conservation Lands Manager
Beth Powell	Director - Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Susan Prado	Deputy County Attorney
Michael Zito	Deputy County Administrator
Maura Stokes	BCC Recording Secretary
Mike & MF Womack	Public
CE Swindell	Public
Tracy Sabol	Public
Robert Adair	FL Research Center
Susan Hale	Public

Minimum Quorum requirements were met.

3. Election of Officers:

The election of officers will take place at the end of the meeting due to the first big ranking meeting taking place. Chairman O'Bryan continued to be Chair until the end of the meeting.

ON MOTION made by Daniel Bott and SECONDED by Janice Broda to move Item 3 to follow Item 7.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. September 17, 2024 -- Regular Meeting

ON MOTION made by Daniel Bott and SECONDED by Janice Broda, the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel approved the Minutes of the September 17, 2024, meeting as presented.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

5. Discussion Items

a. Approval of 2025 Meeting Dates

ON MOTION made by Roland DeBlois and SECONDED by James Connaughton, the 2025 Meeting Dates were approved.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

b. Ranking of Properties – Matrix Review

Staff presented the summary ranking table to the ELAP. There was a general discussion from ELAP members on their rankings and scores in comparison with the summary table. The ELAP members approved the ranked list presented and determined the Tiers. A motion was approved to remove the FLARES Grove Parcel from consideration. The panel discussed the Matrix Review and ranking. ELAP approved a motion to recommend the BOCC adopt the ranked and tiered list of projects and directed staff to pursue and discuss with landowners of Tier 1 properties.

ON MOTION made by James Connaughton and SECONDED by Roland DeBlois, the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel approved the ranked list presented and determined the Tiers.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

Mr. O'Bryan tabled the easement tiering and a Motion was made.

ON MOTION made by Roland DeBlois and SECONDED by Heather Stapleton, it was approved that the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel would remove The FLARES Groves Easement entirely from ranking based on the general conclusion that it doesn't meet the purposes under the Bond program.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

Mr. O'Bryan recommended that we just have Tier 1 and Tier 2.

ON MOTION made by James Connaughton and SECONDED by Roland DeBlois, the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel approved the easement tiering as Tier 1 and Tier 2.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

A review of the Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 rankings was done.

ON MOTION made by Heather Stapleton and SECONDED by Sammy McGee, the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel approved the rankings of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 as presented.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

There was a discussion on Tier 1 rankings on properties on both fee simple and easement ranking lists.

ON MOTION made by James Connaughton and SECONDED by Heather Stapleton, the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel recommended staff to actively pursue Tier 1 rankings on property on both fee simple and easement ranking lists.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

6. **Public Comment:** There was a discussion on properties reviewed.

7. **Next Meeting:**

ON MOTION made by Roland DeBlois, and SECONDED by James Connaughton the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel cancelled the February meeting and rescheduled it for March 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting of ELAP will be held March 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM in Building B, Room B1-501.

8. Election of Officers:

a. Chair

John Orcutt made a MOTION, then SECONDED by Janice Broda, to appoint Roland DeBlois as CHAIR of the Environmental Land Acquisition Panel.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Vice-Chair

James Connaughton made a MOTION, then SECONDED by Daniel Bott, to appoint Janice Broda as VICE-CHAIR of the Environmental Land Acquisition Panel.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment: Chair Roland DeBlois adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly K. Moirano

A copy of the full meeting recording is kept on file in the office of the Board of County Commissioners.