

**MINUTES OF MEETING
LAND ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (L.A.M.P.) BOARD
February 28, 2008, 3:30 PM**

Proceedings of meeting held in Conference Room 1A/1B, St. Johns County Permit Building, 4020 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida.

Members Present: Rich Turnbull, Serving as Chairman, Nicholas McAuliffe, Michael Adams, Sarah Bailey, Sarah Owen and G. Warren Leve

Members Absent: Mark Middlebrook, Lee Gerald, and Charles Padera

Staff Present: Commissioner Cyndi Stevenson, BCC; Tony Cubbedge and Amy Meide, Real Estate; Wil Smith, Parks and Recreation

Guests: none

1. Welcome / Call to Order

Rich Turnbull filled in as Chairman for the meeting in Mark Middlebrook's absence. Chairman Turnbull called the meeting to order at 3:50 P.M. and welcomed those present. No introduction of members took place since there were no guests.

2. LAMP Business Items

a. Approval of Minutes of the January 24, 2008 meeting

Motion by Owen, seconded by McAuliffe. Carried 5/0 to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2008 meeting as submitted.

3. LAMP Workshop Item

a. Review ownership and participation letter LAMP focus areas

Meide displayed list of owners that fall within the LAMP focus areas. Meide explained that 2,142 parcels fell within the focus areas, but after editing out duplicate owners, there are 442 individual landowners. Cubbedge discussed the list of landowners and asked the LAMP board for direction as to how we should proceed. He explained the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) have different protocols when they create similar maps. FDEP sends out a willing seller letter to individual owners explaining their property is in an area of interest. The SJRWMD doesn't send letters, but displays a map showing areas of interest. If a landowner wants their property taken off the map, the SJRWMD removes their property.

Bailey asked if one approach worked better than the other and Cubbedge stated that both agencies have had success with their methods. Turnbull suggested focusing on contacting large landowners (anchor parcels) first because without the larger pieces, the smaller ones don't provide for much connectivity. Discussion followed.

Adams arrived at 4:00 pm

Commissioner Stevenson arrived at 4:02 pm and Tony recapped for them.

Bailey suggested an article in the local paper about LAMP's purpose and to re-introduce residents to the LAMP board and its mission. Then send out willing seller letters. Commissioner Stevenson agreed with Bailey and liked the idea of sending out the willing seller letter (FDEP method) and more publicity concerning LAMP. Discussion followed.

Cubbedge then read a draft property owner letter he put together and asked for suggestions. Discussion followed and it was suggested to use the upcoming connectivity summit on April 28th as a jumping point for LAMP public relations. Owen suggested a PR firm might be able to do a write-up “pro-bono”. Turnbull suggested we report to Commissioners first about where we are and where we need to be in terms of greenspace. Discussion followed and it was concluded that a BCC agenda item will be scheduled first to get direction from Commissioners concerning willing seller letters. Owen and McAuliffe both stated the need for more explanation concerning conservation easements over property and that landowners wouldn’t have to necessarily sell their property to the County. Cubbedge will contact Karen Pan concerning a press release and will send his draft letter to LAMP board members for suggestions and editing purposes.

b. FCT project for 2008

Cubbedge briefed LAMP about the property the County would like to pursue for the 2008 FCT grant. The City of St. Augustine Beach and the County will both make applications on a portion of the 16 ac beachfront parcel. Cubbedge will bring forward more details in March. Smith explained the various uses of the site as a passive park. Discussion followed.

Bailey moved to support this project site, seconded by Owen. Motion carried 5/0 to support this FCT 2008 project

c. LAMP Agricultural Member Replacement

Not on agenda, but Cubbedge asked to discuss. Cubbedge explained that Bailey’s term is over and there have been two applications for her position on the LAMP board. One of which, Charles Metcalf, owns a farm and has agricultural experience. Discussion followed about recommending people to the BCC for available Board positions.

Motion by Adams to recommend Metcalf to the BCC, seconded by Bailey. Carried 5/0 to recommend Metcalf for appointment to LAMP.

d. Misc. items

Not on agenda, but Cubbedge wanted to brief LAMP on several miscellaneous items. He explained the Super 21, the top 21 sites recommended to receive the remainder of the Florida Forever money, was formally adopted by the Florida Cabinet. St. Johns County has two projects in the Super 21 – the NE Florida Blueway and the St. Johns River Blueway.

Cubbedge briefed the board about the Meldrim property and that the State is still moving forward and hopes to bring to the Cabinet soon.

Cubbedge mentioned the Florida Forever coalition wants to recommend doubling the FF money from \$300 million to \$600 million and in five years increase to \$900 million. Crist has proposed \$300 million for the next budget year and it is expected to be very tight.

4. Member Reports

Commissioner Stevenson

Had meeting with developer who wants to turn uplands into possible gopher tortoise habitat and might ask to change land use from “Residential C” to “Conservation”. She discussed the 230 mile bike trail and that County staff is working on this River to Sea bike trail. She also mentioned the Trust for Public Land and their upcoming study about the possible need for a sales tax. She mentioned the house at Alpine Groves is almost done with restoration and reminded everyone of the Bartram Bash on April 19th.

Adams

Apologized for being late and thinks it's a good idea to contact landowners in focus areas, especially to explain exactly what it means to have a conservation easement over your property. He mentioned the timing is right for land acquisition.

McAuliffe

Mentioned that the Commissioners will have a proclamation to support Archaeology Month, which takes place in May. He brought and showed the Archaeology Month poster and explained the meaning and history behind it. He also mentioned the upcoming Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) symposium that takes place March 12th – 15th at the GTM NERR.

Owen

Conservation Trust for Florida is giving a presentation to the Clay Bounty BCC concerning conservation corridor for black bear (as a keystone species). She also mentioned Osceola to Ocala trail corridor.

Leve left at 5:05 p.m.

Bailey

Still working on gathering conservation and land use maps for library and has requested GIS information. Suggested photography contest of FCT park sites as one way to get LAMP publicity, mentioned need for sales tax, and discussion followed about identified source for land acquisition.

Adams left at 5:13 p.m.

Turnbull

Suggested putting something together at the County level explaining effect Amendment 1 will have on land acquisition. Discussion followed.

5. Public Comment

No public comment

6. Adjournment

Cubbedge stated that the next meeting is on March 27th at 3:30 pm in Conference Room 1A on first floor of Permitting building. Meetings will continue to be held there until further notice. Turnbull called the meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m., seconded by Owen, carried 5/0 to adjourn meeting.

An audio tape of this meeting is on file and available for review in the St. Johns County Real Estate Division.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Meide
Amy Meide, Recorder

Approved March 27, 2008
Mark Middlebrook
Mark Middlebrook, Chairman