

**MINUTES OF MEETING
LAND ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (L.A.M.P.) BOARD
October 25, 2007
3:30 P.M.**

Proceedings of a meeting held in Conference Room A, St. Johns County Administration Building, 4020 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida.

Members Present: Mark Middlebrook, Chairman, Nicholas McAuliffe, Lee Gerald, Michael Adams, Sarah Bailey, Sarah Owen, Chuck Padera, Richard Turnbull and G. Warren Leve

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tony Cubbedge and Amy Meide, Real Estate

Guests: Roger Van Ghent

1. Welcome / Call to Order

Chairman Middlebrook called the meeting to order at 3:30P.M. and welcomed those present.

2. LAMP Business Items

a. Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting

Motion by Leve, seconded by Owen, carried 9/0 to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting as submitted.

b. Introduction of LAMP Board Members

Board agreed that they were well acquainted and this item was no longer needed.

c. Discuss the LAMP Board meeting dates for November and December 2007

The next meeting date will be November 29 to finalize the focus areas with a goal of presenting to the BCC in December. The December meeting will be canceled.

3. LAMP Workshop Item

Maps

a. GIS Maps within Sector Shapefiles

Meide provided a map displaying potential acquisition focus based on the top 12 shapefiles selected by the LAMP board. She reviewed the process and criteria for selecting the focus areas.

Middlebrook asked for feedback from each member.

Leve suggested a site specific map for each focus area and a list of the number of shape files each focus area contains.

Owen asked to show the adjoining Conservation Easement areas and publicly owned lands beyond the County borders. She also suggested combining the publicly owned land layer and display as 1 color.

Bailey echoed Owen's suggestions.

Adams asked if the Regional Planning Council maintain an overall regional conservation area and corridor map. Middlebrook indicated they did not but were working towards. Bailey suggested we encourage that effort by the Regional Council.

McAuliffe asked if the data was available to the public. The response was yes, all we do is open and available. The LAMP Focus areas should be viewed similarly to the Florida Forever approach in that they would work only with willing sellers to acquire property if funding were available locally.

Padera indicated this was a good focusing tool and asked how LAMP would handle parcels that became available outside the focus areas. The existing criteria to evaluate parcels (developed in 2000) would be used to explore individual parcels. A discussion ensued regarding a two-pronged approach to land acquisition: a regional level and a small locally important level. The importance of both was mentioned. Middlebrook would develop a text to accompany the map that describes both the corridor approach (larger scale) and parks and preserve approach (smaller and local pocket park scale).

Rich suggested 2 sets of criteria. One for the larger scale (LAMP Focus Areas) and one for smaller parks in an urban environment. Padera offered that purchase of conservation easements could be another tool to maintain local ecological principles.

Gerald noted that looking beyond the County lines was imperative. He also noted that mitigation may provide some opportunities for land preservation and we should keep communications open with mitigation bankers.

Middlebrook reiterated that he would draft a two strategy approach to land acquisition (large and small scale). The Focus Areas should be revisited annually. He applauded staff's efforts to date.

VanGhent noted a need for species specific habitat areas and mentioned the ground dove as an example. He also noted that review criteria was established in the Ordinance creating LAMP and was pulled into a matrix in 2000.

b. Florida Forever Update

The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) will be re-ranking the land acquisition list. With only about \$25 M of Florida Forever funds remaining uncommitted, the Division of State Lands (DSL) will need to evaluate what projects remain the highest priority. County staff are being proactive and planning to meet with DSL staff in November to discuss priorities within St. Johns County's Blueway projects.

Middlebrook noted that the Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) data was not very prolific in northeast Florida. If the DSL relied primarily on FNAI data, the needs of northeast Florida may be overlooked. We need to protect the established projects in northeast Florida.

A public stake holder meeting to discuss the future of Florida Forever will be attended by County Staff on November 29, 2007 in Orlando.

4. Member Reports

Adams

Adams noted that a PRD is under review in the SW portion of the County.

McAuliffe

Attended the Vaill Point Park opening and enjoyed the new park.

Owen

Suggested that Cubbedge convey to planning staff the LAMP Focus Areas and if the PRD being considered is within the Focus Area, perhaps the reserve area could be encumbered with a Conservation Easement. Cubbedge will speak with Jan Brewer of the Planning Department.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjournment

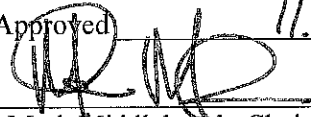
Middlebrook called the meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted by:



Tony Cubbedge, Recorder

Approved  11.29, 2007

Mark Middlebrook, Chairman