

December 4, 2007

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLLIER COUNTY
RURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP AREA REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Naples, Florida, December 4, 2007

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Rural Lands Stewardship Area Review Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted Business herein, met on this date at 9:00 A.M. in REGULAR SESSION at the Collier County Community & Environmental Development Services Conference Room #609/610, 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Ron Hamel
VICE CHAIRMAN: Neno Spagna
Brad Cornell(absent)
Zach Floyd Crews
David Farmer
Gary Eidson
Tom Jones
David Wolfley
Bill McDaniel
Timothy Nance
Fred Thomas
Tammie Nemecek
Jim Howard

ALSO PRESENT: Noah Standridge, Senior Planner, Comprehensive Planning
Jeff Wright, Assistant County Attorney

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Chairman Hamel.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the agenda subject to the following change:

Item VI.B – postponed

Second by Mr. McDaniel. Carried unanimously 12-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2007

Mr. Eidson moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting subject to the following change:

Page 2, item 2, paragraph 4, Mr. Spagna is “not retired”.

Second by Mr. Nance. Carried unanimously 12-0.

V. Old Business

A. January Meeting Date

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the next scheduled meeting date as January 22, 2008. Second by Mr. Crews. Carried unanimously 12-0.

B. Meeting Location

Mr. Spagna moved to approve Collier County Community Development Services Conference Room #609/610, 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive as the location for the next meeting. Second by Mr. McDaniel. Carried unanimously 12-0.

VI. New Business

A. BCC Rural Lands Presentation

Al Reynolds, CEO of Wilson Miller appeared before the Committee to provide an overview of the Rural Lands Stewardship program. His overview consisted of 2 phases:

- 1) The presentation of a video regarding the “Immokalee Area Study Stage 1” that was shown to the Board of County Commissioners’ in September of 2001.
- 2) A power point presentation on the details of the program that was originally shown to the Board of County Commissioners in June of 2002 when the program was originated.

Both these presentations are available from the County and Mr. Reynolds will provide copies to the Committee.

Following the presentation detailed questions were posed on exactly how the program works, how much a credit is worth, specific acreages used in calculations, restoration requirements and credits, how land use layers are removed, etc.

Chairman Hamel noted that the purpose of the Committee was to determine if the Goals of the Rural Lands Stewardship Area are being met, not to change the details of the programs implementation. These goals were adopted in the Growth Management Plan.

Mr. Thomas suggested that the Committee study Ava Maria in detail as it is the only project that has been approved through this program to date. Big Cypress is the only other proposal that is processing through the program, but is not yet approved.

It was noted that some of the Committee members have an in depth knowledge of the program, while others is limited.

Noah Standridge, Senior Planner suggested any Committee members that need a detailed overview of the program meet with him one on one.

Jeff Wright, Assistant County Attorney stated that this is an acceptable practice under the requirements of the Sunshine Law.

Public Speakers

Nicole Ryan of the Nature Conservancy of Southwest Florida addressed the Committee regarding the Technical Review and noted the following:

- Town of Big Cypress has not yet been approved and should be removed from the report
- More research should be conducted on the Agriculture data on page 4
- An appendix should be included with updated data on MERIT maps of Panther habitats, Fish and Wildlife least cost pathways report, potential generation of Stewardship Sending Area Credits, etc.
- She has data that will be provided to Noah Standridge
- The Technical Review be completed as soon as possible

Chris Straton representing the League of Women Voters addressed the Committee and noted the following:

- The length of the meetings should be more than 2 hours to conduct the necessary business
- Opposition to a Committee member meeting one on one with Noah Strandridge, the public needs an understanding of the background and knowledge of the Committee members; said understanding should be gained through the public forum.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Committee should investigate an overall land use plan for the Stewardship area with considerations given to locations of future infrastructure.

Mr. Standridge noted it was determined in the first Committee meeting; the Committee should address the Technical Review in Phase 1 and Policy Review in Phase II. Phase II would be the place to address this concern.

He further noted that in response to meeting times, ample time will be allotted for the Committee to address all the issues, there was a time constraint of 9-11 AM today for the meeting.

Mr. McDaniel welcomed the public participation and noted the Committee will spend the necessary time to complete a proper review of the program.

Mr. Jones left the meeting at 10:45 AM

Elizabeth Fleming, Florida Defenders of Wildlife addressed the Committee and noted the following:

- Several Counties are poised to adopt a similar program as Collier County's
- There is updated data available to the Committee (regarding wildlife, etc.)
- Build in a monitoring aspect of this program to judge its future success

Chairman Hamel noted the time constraint advertised and if it had to be adhered to. **Jeff Wright**, Assistant County Attorney noted that the Committee is limited to the time advertised, with a vote they could extend the time but this could face future scrutiny regarding notification for public participation.

Mr. Thomas moved to extend the meeting for an additional 20 minutes. Second by Mr. Eidson. Carried unanimously 11-0.

B. Collier Rural Land Program vs. State Statute

Postponed

C. Technical Review

1. Success Criteria

Ms. Nemecek recommended that 2 weeks prior to the next meeting a detailed outline be provided on the subjects to cover in the Technical Review.

Mr. Eidson noted that some of the data in the Technical Review appeared to be outdated and wanted to ensure that all data provided in the Technical Review is accurate and up-to-date and requested any parties such as Ms. Ryan forward any data of interest to the Committee.

Mr. Standridge noted that some of the updated information does not exist at this point and any updated data will be provided to the Committee as it becomes available. He wanted to ensure the Committee focus on the specific items in the Technical Review. He will provide an outline of the Technical Review for the next meeting.

VII. Public Comments

None

VIII. Committee Comments

None

IX. Staff Comments

None

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 11:20 A.M.

Rural Lands Stewardship Area Review Committee

Ron Hamel, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____,
as presented _____ or as amended _____.