

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DISCUSSION ABOUT STATUS OF CAMP KEAIS STRAND PARCELS

OBJECTIVE: To receive a recommendation from the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) regarding management concerns and potential disposition of parcels in the Camp Keais Strand project.

CONSIDERATION: Between December 2008 and April 2009, Conservation Collier acquired 6 parcels totaling 32.5 acres within the Camp Keais Strand (map attached) for a total price of \$81,250 (\$2,500 per acre). These parcels were recommended by CCLAAC to be placed on the Active Acquisition List (AAL) as “C” parcels, primarily because they are scattered and inaccessible. When the recommended AAL (Cycle 5) went to the Board of County Commissioners on 1/29/08 for approval, a Conservancy of SW Florida representative spoke and recommended the Board of County Commissioners (Board) move these parcels from the “C” list to the “A” list due to their environmental sensitivity. The Board made that change, placed them on the “A” List, and Conservation Collier subsequently acquired the parcels.

At this time, no Interim Management Plan has been prepared and the project/properties are not in compliance with the Conservation Collier Ordinance, Section 14, which requires an Interim Management Plan be prepared within 60 days and a Final Management Plan be prepared within 2 years. The primary reason no plan has been prepared is that there is no access to these properties to see them and understand what the management needs are. Staff has been focusing on other acquired properties and attention to Camp Keais Strand properties lagged. No funds are currently budgeted for management.

At this time, considering the inaccessibility of these parcels, staff would like to consider the potential to transfer them to another conservation organization with stipulations that they cannot be sold except for conservation purposes. This is allowed under the Conservation Collier Ordinance, 2002-67, as amended, Section 6.1.f. which provides that “any such sale or lease shall only be in accordance with the goals of this Program.” Staff has approached the Conservancy of SW Florida (Conservancy) as a potential transferee and has been met with initial encouragement. The question of buying them was broached, but the response was that the Conservancy does not have funds to buy them.

PROGRAM IMPACT: As no funds are currently budgeted for Camp Keais Strand, the transfer of these properties to another conservation organization would provide no impact other than to help Conservation Collier get into compliance with its Ordinance. The properties would remain in conservation in any event.

RECOMMENDATION: That the CCLAAC have discussion and make a recommendation to staff and ultimately to the Board as to a potential transfer of parcels in the Camp Keais Strand project for conservation purposes to an entity such as the Conservancy or provide another recommendation to resolve the issue of compliance with the Conservation Collier ordinance.

Alexandra Sulecki, Coordinator, Conservation Collier Program

Map of parcels within the Camp Keais Strand Project

