



2401 SE Monterey Rd
Stuart, FL 34996

Martin County

Environmental Land Oversight Committee (ELOC)

Minutes

Wednesday April 16, 2025

5:30 PM

BOCC, Chambers

Present: Dan Brady, Vicki Davis, John Keller, Merritt Matheson, Beth Kavinsky, Jim Snedeker, Tom Campenni, Scott Turnbull

Absent: David Hafner

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by Michael Yustin
- Roll Call/ Introduction of all committee members. David Hafner was Absent.

NEW BUSINESS

A. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- Tom Campenni moved to vote Jim Snedeker as Chairman. Merritt Matheson seconded the motion. ALL in Favor
- Tom Campenni moved to vote Merritt Matheson as Vice Chair. Scott Turnbull seconded the motion. All in Favor

B. REVIEW OF SUNSHINE LAWS

- Sarah Woods introduced herself. She provided a quick debriefing of the sunshine law. Advised the committee to reach out to the attorney's office if they have any questions.

C. ETHICS TRAINING:

- Sarah Woods gave a debriefing of the Florida Codes of Ethics. 1- Standard of conduct. 2- Prohibition of the board members doing business with the County on a private capacity. 3-Voting conflict of interest. Sarah stated, If a conflict of interest is identified, a form must be filled out before the meeting, and the member must abstain from voting.
- John Keller asked if the committee could meet with Brian Mast to discuss funding. Sarah Woods stated they could not attend a meeting altogether with Brian Mast, as it would not be a recorded meeting, but Jim Snedeker could meet with Brian by himself to invite him to a meeting. Sarah Woods moved to continue to Public Records Training, Jim Snedeker Approved.

D. PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING

- Sangeeta Maragh gave a presentation on the Public Records Law.

- An Acknowledgement Receipt Form was handed out to all members for signature.
- Note: the members have not received their County emails yet but Michael Yustin will be providing the information at a later date.
- Sangeeta referenced two court cases for public records training: 1- Bear vs. Escambia County. 2- Gatto Vs. City of Sunny Isles

E. REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MANUAL (ELOCM)

- Michael Yustin requested to move forward with the presentation of the ELOC Manual. Jim Snedeker granted permission.
- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES- Presentation
- PROCESS FOR HOW PROPERTIES WILL BE REVIEWED, RANKED AND APPROVED FOR ACQUISITION
- PROJECT RANKING FORMS AND SELECTION CRITERIA
 - Jim Snedeker brought up negotiations with the Commissioners that all funds could be used for conservation easements. Sarah Woods "All of the lands will be bought with local option sales tax, legally restricted to only those who have lived in Martin County for a long time and limited by law to remain as conservation lands in perpetuity. This is not the same as Palm Beach County."
 - If a nominated property does not meet the necessary criteria for acquisition, it will not be brought to the attention of the committee.
 - Mike will provide a copy of the nominations and supporting documents to each member via email and a presentation will be provided on each during the following meeting.
 - Each member will fill out a ranking sheet for each nomination presented to them. The nominations will be sorted by highest ranking and presented to the BOCC.
 - It was explained to the committee that Public Works has a Real Property Division that will file and fill out all necessary paperwork for the acquisitions process.
 - Tom Campenni asked for a copy of how much money has been collected in the first quarter, since it has already passed. Mike was going to gather that information for the committee.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Merritt Matheson- Will you be providing us with our County emails?
Mike Yustin- Yes, I will send it out tomorrow.

.SET UP SCHEDULE FOR ELOC MEETINGS

- Sarah Woods suggested having OMB on the ELCO agenda to give an update on the collection for each quarter. They can do so by attending the meeting or by giving an email update that will read during the meeting.
- You can NOT attend via zoom as we do not have that capability to do so.
- If you do not attend a meeting, you do NOT get a vote.
- Quarterly Meetings are set for now until there is more nominations to bring forward to the committee.
- The next meeting is set for June 25th, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Nelson- Beth Kacvinsky represents Audubon of Martin County. What is she allowed to report back to the group?
Sarah Woods- Beth can report anything back, as it is all public record.

ADJOURN

- There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Recorded and prepared by:



6-13-25

Sarah Cornelius, Administrative Coordinator

Date



6/25/2025

Jim Snedeker, Chair

Date

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