



ALACHUA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION BOARD

408 West University Avenue, Suite 106 • Gainesville, Florida 32601
Tel: (352) 264-6868 • Fax (352) 264-6852
Home Page: www.alachuacountyforever.us
Email: landconservation@alachuacounty.us



Mission Statement

To acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Brian Block

Chair

Amy Schwarzer

Vice-Chair

Kristen Young

Secretary

BJ Bukata

Bruce A. Blackwell

Dewayne Baines

Edward Hunter

Jennifer Rocca, Dr.

Lee Cook

Paul Lyrene, Dr.

Tom Mirti

Alternate

Catherine (Kate) Lee

Meeting Minutes

May 23rd, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Grace Knight Conference Room

12 SE 1st Street, Second Floor,

Alachua County Administration Building

In-Person Meeting

LCB attendance: Dwayne, Baines (arrived 6:01), Brian Block, Bruce Blackwell, Lee Cook, Ed Hunter (left 6:30), Kate Lee, Paul Lyrene, Tom Mirti, Jennifer Rocca, Amy Schwarzer, Kristen Young

County staff: Andi Christman, Michael Bird, Ryan Kennelly, Wesley Wells, Kevin Ratkus, Emily Uhlmann, Mike Nelson (virtual)

Members of the public: Asheley Wood, Lee Robinson (virtual), Jesse Natwick (virtual), Daniel Buker (virtual), Jason Teisinger (virtual)

Alternate Member, Kate Lee, will be voting due to absence of one regular LCB member.

1) **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Chair Brian Block at 5:31 PM

2) **Agenda**

a) Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Tom Mirti to approve the agenda. Ed Hunter seconded the motion.

Action: Agenda for the May 23, 2024 meeting of the LCB approved by a vote of 10-0.

3) **Approval of Minutes from April 25th, 2024**

Motion was made by Bruce Blackwell to approve the meeting minutes from the April 25th Meeting. Kate Lee seconded the motion.

Action: Minutes from the April 25th, 2024 meeting of the LCB were approved by a vote of 10-0.

4) **Property Evaluations – Staff Presentations**

Board Member Dewayne Baines arrived at 6:01

a) Santa Fe River – Robinson - *presented by Mike Nelson Owner nominated property for fee simple acquisition or conservation easement.*

Motion was made by Tom Mirti to place the Santa Fe River – Robinson property into the eligibility pool. Ed Hunter seconded the motion.

Action: The Santa Fe River – Robinson property was placed into the eligibility pool with a vote of 11-0.

Motion was made by Amy Schwarzer to place the Santa Fe River – Robinson property into the priority pool. Tom Mirti seconded the motion.

Action: The Santa Fe River – Robinson property was placed into the priority pool with a vote of 10-1, Dwayne Baines in dissent.

b) **Watermelon Pond – Dumford and Palmer** - presented by Wesley Wells

Nominated by owner as a fee simple acquisition

Motion was made by Ed Hunter to place the Watermelon Pond – Dumford and Palmer property into the eligibility pool. Jennifer Rocca seconded the motion.

Action: The Watermelon Pond – Dumford and Palmer property was placed into the eligibility pool with a vote of 11-0.

Motion was made by Kristen Young to place the Watermelon Pond – Dumford and Palmer property into the priority pool. Amy Schwarzer seconded the motion.

Action: The Watermelon Pond – Dumford and Palmer property was placed into the priority pool with a vote of 11-0.

c) **Lochloosa Connector – Wood, Ashley and Sara-Nett (Update)** – Presented by Emily Uhlmann

Owner nominated property as a conservation easement.

Ashley Wood, the owner of the property, spoke about the history of the property.

Board Member Ed Hunter had to leave by 6:30 and was not present for the vote.

d) *Motion* was made by Paul Lyrene to place the Lochloosa Connector – Wood, Ashley and Sara-Nett property into the eligibility pool as a conservation easement. Bruce Blackwell seconded the motion.

Action: The Lochloosa Connector – Wood, Ashley and Sara-Nett property was placed into the eligibility pool with a vote of 10-0.

Motion was made by Bruce Blackwell to place the Lochloosa Connector – Wood, Ashley and Sara-Nett property into the priority pool. Paul Lyrene seconded the motion. *Action:* The Lochloosa Connector – Wood, Ashley and Sara-Nett was placed into the priority pool with a vote of 10-0.

5) **Old Business**

No old business.

6) New Business

No new business.

7) Staff Updates

- a) Acquisition Updates - *presented by Michael Bird*
Lochloosa Forest Connector: Rimes in due diligence period
Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods: Jackson Heirs in due diligence period
Watermelon Pond - Elliot CE: in inspection period
Santa Fe River – Block: under contract
Watermelon Pond - Howell CE: contract is with property owner
Lake Forest Creek – K Squared Holdings: appraisals received
Buck Bay Flatwoods – Burnsed: appraisals received
Barr Hammock – Levy Prairie – Sheffield: appraisals received
Watermelon Pond – Biro CE: property is being received

8) Public Comment

No public comment.

9) Other Business

- a) Next meeting date – June 27th, 2024

10) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Chair Brian Block at 7:07PM

A public speaker who meets the definition of “lobbyist” per Alachua County Code Section 68.02 shall disclose that he or she is a registered lobbyist when addressing the Board.