



Alachua County Land Conservation Board

LCB Members

Chair

Brian Block

Vice-Chair

Amy Schwarzer

Secretary

Kristen Young

BJ Bukata

Bruce A. Blackwell

Catherine (Kate) Lee

Edward Hunter

Jennifer Rocca, Dr.

Lee Cook

Paul Lyrene, Dr.

Tom Mirti

Alternate

Jeff Glenn

Mission Statement

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



Meeting Minutes

January 23rd, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Grace Knight Conference Room

12 SE 1st Street, Second Floor,

Alachua County Administration Building

In-Person Meeting

LCB members present: Brian Block, Kristen Young, Ed Hunter, BJ Bukata, Bruce Blackwell, Tom Mirti, Amy Schwarzer, Kate Lee, Jennifer Rocca, Paul Lyrene, Jeff Glenn

County staff present: Andi Christman, Emily Uhlmann, Kevin Ratkus, Matt Barker

Members of the public: Jack Putz

1) Call to Order

Chair Brian Block called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

Alternate Jeff Glenn will be a voting member for this meeting in the absence of another member.

2) Agenda

a) Approval of Agenda

Minor correction was noted for current agenda – updated current members

Motion was made by Bruce Blackwell to approve the agenda. BJ Bukata seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 11-0.

Parking validation is available for parking in the city garage. A one-time use code will be made available at the meeting.

3) Approval of Minutes from December 05th, 2024

Motion was made by Tom Mirti to approve the minutes from the December 5th, 2024 LCB meeting. Bruce Blackwell seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 11-0

4) Welcome new and returning members

Kate Lee and Brian Block were reappointed to the LCB. A new alternate member, Jeff Glenn, was appointed. Members made introductions.

5) Election of Officers for 2025

a) Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Nomination was made by Amy Schwarzer for Brian Block to serve as chair of the LCB. Tom Mirti seconded the nomination. Nomination

passed with a vote of 11-0.

Nomination was made by Brian Block for Amy Schwarzer to serve as vice-chair of the LCB. Kate Lee seconded the nomination. Nomination passed with a vote of 11-0.

Nomination was made by Ed Hunter for Kristen Young to serve as secretary of the LCB. Bruce Blackwell seconded the nomination. Nomination passed with a vote of 11-0.

6) Property Evaluations – Staff Presentations

a) **East Newnan's Lake – Putz - *Property presented by Matt Barker***

Nominated by owner as a fee simple acquisition

Property owner, Jack Putz, was present and stated the value in the land is in location and variety of ecosystems present. He expressed he would like to see more of the Zetrouer land in the area protected. Stated old growth cypress is present. A fallen slash pine was dated about 190 years old. Several old slash pine cohorts are present. Spotted 18 eagles at one time in the past. Five distinctive ecosystems are present, which has made the property ideal for research. Has been controlling air potato.

Access to the property is a deeded easement. Potential public accessibility is unknown.

Motion was made Amy Schwarzer to place the East Newnan's Lake – Putz property into the eligibility pool. Ed Hunter seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 11-0.

Motion was made by Amy Schwarzer to place the East Newnan's Lake- Putz property into the priority pool. Jennifer Rocco seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 11-0.

7) Old Business

a) **Approve FY 2025 LCB Accomplishment Report**

Motion made by Ed Hunter to approve the FY 2025 LCB Accomplishment Report. Tom Mirti seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 11-0.

Vice-chair Amy Schwarzer will present the report to the Board of County Commissioners.

b) **Lochloosa Creek Flatwoods – Little Orange Lake Investors LLC
*Presented by Emily Uhlmann***

Nominated as a fee simple acquisition

Lochloosa Creek Flatwood-Little Orange Creek Investors LLC was previously placed in the eligibility pool by the LCB. The property was brought back for consideration by request of the LCB after an adjoining parcel was placed in the priority pool. The board discussed the property being within a newly designated state wildlife corridor and implications for funding, connections to other parcels,

recreation possibilities, management of invasive plants, and the condition of the property.

Motion was made by Kristen Young to place Lochloosa Creek Flatwoods- Little Orange Creek Investors LLC in the priority pool contingent on a contract with Lakes of Hawthorne parcel. Ed Hunter seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 11-0.

8) New Business

None

9) Staff Updates

- a) Acquisition Updates - *Presented by Kevin Ratkus*

*Santa Fe River – Block Family: Closed
Watermelon Pond –Biro CE: In due diligence period
Lake Forest Creek – K Squared Holdings: In due diligence period
Watermelon Pond – Johnson: BOCC to exercise option
Watermelon Pond – Moore-Purcell: Seller signed contract
Watermelon Pond– Dumford: Seller signed LOI
Watermelon Pond – Eichhorn: Seller signed LOI
Watermelon Pond – Hawkins: Seller signed LOI
Lochloosa Creek Flatwoods – Weyerhaeuser LOCP: Staff working on contract
Lake Santa Fe – Tyrone: Appraisals completed
Mill Creek- Kahle: Negotiations beginning
Lake Santa Fe – Wagner: Negotiations beginning
Lochloosa Slough – Tompkins: Appraisals beginning
Mill Creek – Williams: Donation process continuing*

- b) Update on the Climate Action Plan - *Presented by Andi Christman*
LCB Members may make comments to draft chapters

10) Public Comment

No comments from the public

11) Other Business

- a) Next meeting date – February 27th, 2025
- b) FY25 Meeting Dates:
- i) Thursday, January 23, 2025
 - ii) Thursday February 27, 2025
 - iii) Thursday March 27, 2025
 - iv) Thursday April 24, 2025
 - v) Thursday May 22, 2025
 - vi) Thursday June 26, 2025
 - vii) Thursday July 24, 2025
 - viii) Thursday August 28, 2025
 - ix) Thursday September 25, 2025
 - x) Thursday October 23, 2025
 - xi) Thursday, December 4, 2025

12) Adjourn

Chair Brian Block adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

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