



## Alachua County Agricultural Land Conservation Board

### ALCB Members

Chair

**Erica Hernandez**

Vice-Chair

**John Nix**

Secretary

**Juan Salva**

**Arden Oelke**

**Jean-Paul Perez**

**Kelly McPherson**

**Nina Bhattacharyya**

**Paul Pritchard**

**Scot Eubanks**

Alternate

**Candace Gonzalez-**

**Lantz**

### Alachua County Forever 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 - November 5, 2025, 4:00 P.M.**

Grace Knight Conference Room

12 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Second Floor,

Alachua County Administration Building

In-Person Meeting

**ALCB Members Present:** Erica Hernandez, John Nix, Juan Salva, Jean-Paul Perez, Kelly McPherson, Nina Bhattacharyya, Paul Pritchard, Candace Gonzalez-Lantz.

**ALCB Members Absent:** Arden Oelke, Scot Eubanks

**Staff Present:** Andi Christman, Jean Willoughby, Emily Uhlmann, Kevin Ratkus, Alison Franklin

**Members of the Public Present:** Megan Abram

### **Agricultural Land Conservation Strategy Mission**

*To acquire conservation easements on agriculturally significant lands "to protect water resources, rural economy, contribute to local food security, and promote open, scenic space." (Board of County Commissioners Resolution 24-81)*

#### **1) Call to Order (4:02 – 4:05)**

**Meeting called to order at 4:02pm by Chair Erica Hernandez.**

Members Arden Oelke and Scot Eubanks are not present at the meeting. Alternate member Candace Gonzalez Lantz will be participating in the votes due to absences.

#### **2) Agenda (4:02 – 4:05)**

a) Approval of agenda

John Nix moves to approve. Jean-Paul Perez seconds.

**Motion approved 8-0**

#### **3) Approval of Minutes (4:02 – 4:05) (September 3, 2025)**

John Nix moves to approve. Jean-Paul Perez seconds.

**Motion approved 8-0**

#### **4) Public Comment Period #1 (4:02 – 4:05) - Members of the public may only speak during 1 of the two public comment periods**

Chair Hernandez opens the floor for Public Comments. No Public comments.

#### **5) Old Business (4:02 – 4:05)**

No old business discussed.

**6) New Business (4:05 - 5:50)**

a) Review of Active Acquisition List properties

Staff member Andi Christman provided a briefing overview of 8 properties currently in the Active Acquisition List to consider for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for Agricultural Easement Category Inclusion. Board considered each property independently.

Kanapaha Prairie-Simmons Property. Paul Pritchard moves to take no action on this property. Nina Bhattacharyya seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods-Hall Property. Jean-Paul Perez moves to recommend property for inclusion. Paul Pritchard seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Lochloosa Connector-Powell & Sanborn. Candace Gonzalez-Lantz moves to recommend property for inclusion. Nina Bhattacharyya seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Watermelon Pond- DeCubellis. Nina Bhattacharyya moves to recommend property for inclusion. Kelly McPherson seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Santa Fe River- Robinson. Jean Paul Perez moves to have staff gather more information on the property and contact the owners. Paul Pritchard seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Mill Creek- McKnight. Jean-Paul Perez moves to have staff gather more information on the property and contact the owners. Paul Pritchard seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Lochloosa connector- Wood and Wood. John Nix motions to recommend property for inclusion. Nina Bhattacharyya seconds. **Motion passes 8-0.**

Santa Fe River-Charles Davis. John Nix moves to recommend property for inclusion. Paul Pritchard seconds. **Motion Passes 8-0.**

**7) Staff Updates (5:50 - 6:30)**

a) Resolution 24-081 Revisions

Staff member Andi Christman explain he edits to the ALCB resolution 24-081 to simplify the Decision Flow of the board that will be presented to the BoCC for consideration. Board members discussed the language and the Bargain Share. Kelly McPherson moves to recommend the addition of a Bargain Share to the language, but no percentages are required. Erica Hernandez seconds. **Motion Passes 8-0.**

b) Previously approved property update (Frog Song Organics)

Staff Member provided update on Frog Sogn Organics property. Staff

currently working with owners on details with no issues.

c) Partner Funding updates

Staff member Andi Christman provided updates on issues with partnering with the State of Florida Rural and Family lands Protection Program. The Program will not share title of the property with any other organization, which makes it difficult for the county partners. Staff are pursuing options for ALCB to do dual easement with other counties for properties that cross county lines.

d) Alachua County Forever 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

Staff member Andi Christman shared the November and December calendar for the Alachua County Forever 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program.

**8) Other Business (6:30 – 6:35)**

a) Next meeting date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

**9) Closing Comments (6:30 – 6:35)**

a) Public Comment Period #2

Member of the public Megan Abram noted that the Alachua Conservation Trust will hold its Holiday Mingle in December, and will inform the board when the dates are finalized.

b) Board Member Comment

Jean-Paul Perez thanked the staff for all the work that was done in preparation for the meeting.

**10) Adjourn (6:30 – 6:35)**

John Nix moves to adjourn the meeting. Paul Pritchard seconds. **Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.**

*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.*