

**AGENDA RECAP**  
**MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

**ITEMS TO BE DEFERRED/CONTINUED**

<u>Agenda/Item #</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
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**No items submitted**

**REVISIONS & CORRECTIONS**

<u>Agenda/Item #</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
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<b>Carry-over 2</b>	Change Section V. (A) in Services Agreement regarding Notice of Transfer of Services to read "The Notice shall be given not less than 60 days prior to effective date," instead of 120 days.	County Manager
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**AGENDA ITEMS TO BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

<u>Agenda/Item #</u>	<u>Pulled by</u>
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Item 26	County Administration
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**WALK - ONS OR CARRY - OVERS**

**Walk-ons**

1. Authorize legal action vs. Lake Jefferson LLC to prevent flooding due to unauthorized digging

**Carry-overs**

1. Approve an agreement for Distribution of Local Option Gas Taxes with the Village of Estero
2. Approve an agreement with the Village of Estero providing for Municipal Services
3. Approve agreements with the Village of Estero for Municipal Solid Waste Services and collection of Solid Waste Disposal Facility Assessments
4. Adopt LeeTran 2016 Transit Development Plan

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

**Commissioner Manning**

- Discuss candidates for the Lee County Port Authority Executive Director position

**Commissioner Hamman**

- Discuss Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

**Commissioner Mann**

- Discuss a letter of support for the nomination of the Greater Charlotte Harbor Coastal Wetlands as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

**COUNTY MANAGER/COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

**No items submitted**



John Manning  
*District One*

September 20, 2016

Cecil L. Pendergrass  
*District Two*

Larry Kiker  
*District Three*

Brian Hamman  
*District Four*

Frank Mann  
*District Five*

Roger Desjarlais  
*County Manager*

Richard Wm. Wesch  
*County Attorney*

Donna Marie Collins  
*Hearing Examiner*

Daniel Ashe, Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street NW, Room 3331  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe,

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners supports the nomination of the Greater Charlotte Harbor Coastal Wetlands (GCHCW) as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). The designation would provide a non-regulatory approach to raise awareness about the ecological value of the site, increase support for local conservation and preservation and bring more funding opportunities to the area for restoration, management, land acquisition and scientific research.

The GCHCW is located within the study area of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, an area designated as nationally significant through the Clean Water Act in 1995. The GCHCW encompasses an area of 102,774 hectares in Southwest Florida comprised primarily of estuarine waters, bivalve habitat (oyster reefs), seagrass beds, mangrove forests, sea-turtle nesting beaches, sand flats and intertidal marshes.

These wetlands are downstream of three large rivers, the Myakka, Peace and Caloosahatchee and are part of a watershed that covers 4,700 square miles. Charlotte Harbor, the second largest estuary in Florida, is one of the most productive estuarine systems within the state. The estuary's mix of extensive seagrass beds, natural mangrove shorelines and oyster reefs support an incredibly bio-diverse community. Over 450 species of fish, 500 species of invertebrates, 379 bird species, 81 amphibian and reptile species and 27 mammalian species have been documented within the wetland system.

Thirty-five of these species are on Florida's endangered and threatened species list, eight are federally endangered and three are listed as critically endangered by the IUCN. The Charlotte Harbor estuary is one of two areas designated by NOAA-NMFS as critical habitat for the smalltooth sawfish, a critically endangered species that uses this estuary system as a nursery ground. The seagrass beds within Charlotte Harbor are also important feeding grounds for the Florida manatee, a federally endangered species. An array of waterbirds, many of which nest on the mangrove islands dotting the Charlotte Harbor, benefit from this diverse system. Over 30,000 waterbirds regularly utilize the wetlands, including over one percent of the total estimated populations of roseate spoonbills, brown pelicans, glossy ibis, white ibis, great blue herons and double-crested cormorants.

It is Lee County's hope that a designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance would provide a non-regulatory approach to raise awareness about the ecological value of the site, increase support for local conservation and preservation and bring more funding opportunities to the area for restoration, management, land acquisition and scientific research. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Mann  
Chairman  
Lee County Board of County Commissioners