

March 21, 2017

Scheduled Board Meeting, Today Is March 21, 2017.

In Vocation Delivered by Reverend Tom Willetts Of The Good Shepherd United Methodist Church Followed By Our Pledge.

Tom.

Let Us Pray.

Almighty God, You Have Plans For Us And The Power To Make Them Happen.

Give These County Commissioners, Department Heads, Executives And Government Workers The Knowledge Of Your Will For This County.

Let Them Remember That They Serve A Public Trust Beyond Personal Gain Or Glory.

May They Cooperate, Listen, Speak Honestly And In All Ways Seek To Effectively Deliver Public Services, Justice And Opportunity To All The People Of Lee County.

Bless Those Men And Women Who Serve Bravely And With Integrity And Public Safety And Emergency Services.

Bless The Clerks, Staffers, Building Maintenance Workers, And All Who Toil Unnoticed To Make This Meeting Possible.

May We All Be United In Our Goal To Provide Public Services, Civil Justice And Economic Opportunity To All The People In Lee County.

Lead These Commissioners In Their Deliberations And Decisions This Day.

Give Them The Needed Wisdom, Compassion And Understanding To Lead This Government, In The Name Of Jesus Christ Our Lord, We Pray, Amen.

I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag Of The United States Of America.

And To The Republic For Which It Stands, One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty And Justice For All.

Thank You, Reverend.

Commissioner Manning: Ceremonial Presentations.

First One Will Be Presentation Recognizing Crime Victims Rights Week And Commissioner Mann.

Commission Mann: Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

As We Know, There's Been Crime In This World Throughout Recorded History And Often Times Over The Centuries We Have Really Given Very Little Consideration To The Victims Of Crime, And Recent Years We Tried To Change That And We Have Professionals In Our Own Organizations This Morning Represented By The Sheriff's Office.

Adriana Rodriguez, Had You Here?

And Yvette Scurry With You?

We Are Going To Do Our Part To Overcome The Neglect Of The Victims For Centuries, And This Proclamation.

Whereas, Americans Are The Victims Of 20 Million Crimes Each Year, And Touch Anyone Regardless Of Age, National Origin, Immigration, Or Economic Status, And Whereas Intervening Early With Services That Support And Empower Victims Provides A Pathway To Recovery From Crime And Abuse, And Whereas The Victim Services Community Has Worked For Decades To Create An Environment For The Victims That Is Safe, Supportive, And Effective, And Whereas, The National Crime Victim Rights Week Is April 2nd Through 8, 2017, And Is A Time To Commit To Ensuring All Victims Of Crime Are Offered Accessible And Appropriate Services In The Aftermath Of Crime And Whereas, Honoring The Rights Of Victims, Including The Right To Be Heard And To Be Treated With Fairness, Dignity And Respect, And Working To Meet Their Needs Rebuilds Their Trust In The Criminal Justice And Social Service Systems, And Whereas Lee County Is Dedicated To Serving Victims, Building Trust And Restoring Hope For Justice And Healing, Now Therefore, Be It Resolved The Board Of County Commissioner Of Lee County Florida, Crime Victims Rights Week In Lee County And Recognizes The Community Members, Victim Service Providers And Criminal Justice Professionals Who Are Committed To Improving Our Response To All Victims Of Crime So They May Find Relevant Assistance, Support, Justice And Peace, Signed This Very Day By Our Chairman, John Manning.

Thank You For All You Do.

Would You Come Get Your Picture Taken With Us?

[Applause]

Right Here.

Right Here.

Could We Hear A Word Or Two?

On Behalf Of The Lee County Sheriff's Office, Victim Advocate Unit, We Would Like To Thank You For Taking This Time And Opportunity To Serve And We Appreciate The Support For The Victims Of Lee County And Will Continue To Serve Lee County And Our Victims.

Thank You Very Much.

Commission Mann: Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Next My Honor To Present One Of Our Colleagues With A Plaque And John Bollen In The Audience?

Oh, There He Is.

Come On Up, John.

Say A Few Words Of Prelude.

John Bollen, Lee County Economic Development Office, And Thank You Chairman Manning For Allowing Us To Present The Plaque To Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass To Liaison For The Horizon Foundation And Council For The 25th Year Anniversary.

He Played An Important Part Of Steering The Committee And The Council In The Right Direction And Had A Very Honest And Cautious Word For Us To Maintain The Bearing That The Horizon Council Has Brought Forth.

25th Year Was Successful For The Council And Appreciate It.

And This Is Appreciation.

We Would Have Liked To Have Given It To Him Yesterday But Due To Extending Circumstances We Were Unable To.

So, Thank You Very Much.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You, John.

Thank You.

Can't We Get A Picture Of This Great Occasion?

Come On, John.

Recorded For History.

Must Be Worth Millions Some Day.

1, 2, And 3.

[Applause]

Commissioner Manning: Thank You For Your Service, Commissioner Pendergrass.

Commissioner Pendergrass: Thank You, For The Council Members And The Foundation For Everything They Do In The Community.

To Make Lee County So Great.

Commissioner Manning: Recap.

There Are No Items To Be Deferred Or Continued.

We Did The Presentation Of The Horizon Council Service Award To Commissioner Pendergrass.

The Recommendations For Class Act 20/20, Conservation 20/20 Is Here.

Items To Be Pulled For Discussion, Item A2 And A3, Commissioner Hamman, Walk On And Carry Over, Two Commissioner Items, And Commissioner Kiker Has One.

So, We'll Go Into Any Questions By The Board On The Recap?

Ok.

Next We'll Go Into The Consent Agenda.

No Items To Be Pulled.

Is There Anyone Besides Mr. Davis Who Wishes To Speak?

No, Come On Forward.

Welcome.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Good Morning.

A Quick Word For The Record, Noble Davies With The Law Firm, I'm Here On Behalf Of Lindsay And Candice Hooper, The Homeowners In Boca Grand.

Item One, A Request For The Board To Approve A Vacation Agreement To Reconfigure The Cul De Sac At The End Of East Railroad Avenue On Boca Grand.

Say A Word To Thank Staff At Community Development And Also The County Attorney's Office For Working With Us To Put Together This Vacation Agreement.

So, We Thank You For Your Time And For Your Consideration.

Have A Good Day.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Any Questions By The Board?

Seeing None, Any Other Members Of The Public Who Wish To Speak On The Consent Agenda?

Seeing None, Back To The Board For Motion.

Motion To Approve By Commissioner Pendergrass, Seconded By Commissioner Mann.

That Concludes Number One.

Further Discussion On The Motion, Objection, Motion Carries.

Ok.

We'll Go Into The Administrative Agenda.

Lost My Script.

And We Have One Item On The Administrative Agenda For A Vote.

We Have Two Items That Have Been Pulled.

A2 And A3, Commissioner Hamman.

Commissioner Hamman: Mr. Chairman, Move Approval Of A1 After Public

Commissioner Manning: Motion To Approve A1 By Commissioner Hamman, Seconded By Commissioner Kiker.

Anybody In The General Public Who Wishes To Speak To Administrative Agenda Number One?

Seeing None, Back To The Board For Discussion.

Any Discussion On The Motion?

Objection, Motion Carries.

A2 And A3.

Commissioner Hamman: Just A Couple Questions On A2 For Clarification Purposes.

First Question For Our County Manager On A2, What Was The Appraised Value Of That, And Can You Just Introduce It, Too, What Parcel We Are Talking About?

Thank You, Mr. Chair.

Commissioner Hamman, This Is The Sanibel Parcel That Is The Adjacent To Ding Darling, Appraised Values, An Average Of 1.9 Million.

Commissioner Hamman: And What's The County Contribution Going To Be?

1.4 Million, We Are Getting A \$600,000 Contribution From The Ding Darling Wildlife Society.

Commissioner Hamman: Why I'm Confused.

If The County Is Contributing Less Than Appraised Value, Why Do We Have To Approve This With A Super Majority Today?

Probably Would Defer To The County Attorney, But Just In A Nutshell, Florida Statute Requires An Extraordinary Vote When You Exceed The Average Of The Two Appraisals.

The Ultimate Purchase Price Is \$2 Million, So Exceeds The 1.9 Million, Even Though We Are Acquiring It Less.

The County's Contribution Is About 500,000 Less Than The Appraised Value But Will Go In The Record We Paid Above The Appraised Value?

The Actual Purchase Price Is \$2 Million, But The County Is Paying \$1.4 Million.

Commissioner Hamman: You Want To Add Anything, Mr. County Attorney To That?

Just To Clarify The Statute Operates On The Purchase Price, Not Necessarily The Amount Paid By The County.

So Based On The Reading Of The Statutes, Since The Purchase Price Exceeds The Appraised Value, The Board Is Required By An Extraordinary Vote To Approve This Item, Which In This Case Would Be Four Out Of Five Of You Would Have To Vote To Approve And Again, It's Because The Statute Deals With The Purchase Price, Not The Actual Amount, Ultimately Paid By The County.

Mr. Chairman, After Public Comment I Would Be Happy To Approve The Item.

I Don't Want To Set A Precedent We Are Willing To Go The Appraised Value To Purchase 20/20 Land.

We Have A Contribution On The County's Part Well Below Appraised Value, We Have Some Great Partners In The Community Who Are Going To Help Us Out To Get To The Ultimate Purchase Price, And I Really Thank All The Folks Who Worked So Hard To Help Us Secure This.

A Great Plan In Place To Manage This As Part Of Ding Darling Going Forward.

Move Approval Of This.

But Want To Make It Clear That We Are Paying The County's Contribution Well Below Appraised Value.

Commissioner Manning: Why Don't You Take Up Number 3 As Well And Go There.

Commissioner Hamman: I Have Excess On Number 3 Kinds Of Extensive.

Can We Conclude This One, Then, Since The Other One May Have Some Questions About It, Mr. Chairman?

I Have A Number Of Cards.

I Would Be Happy To Hear From Them, On The Ding Darling.

Yep.

No, All Mixed In Together.

I Was Trying To Keep Them Straight.

Since This One Has The Majority, Super Majority Issue, Different From The Others.

Are They All Ding Darling?

Ok.

First Card On A2 Is Eric Lindblad.

Eric.

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners.

My Name Is Eric Lindblad, The Executive Director Of The Sanibel Captiva Conservation And I'm Here Speaking On Behalf Of The Board Of Trustees And Also As A Past Member Of A Class Act Committee Nine Years.

We Are Here To Support The Acquisition.

Owns A 14 Acre Parcel Just To The Southeast Of The Property And The Corridor That Will Be Created From This Property Through The Acquisition, You Are Considering Today, And Then 220 Acres To The Northwest Of The Property Will Make A Great Corridor For Wildlife.

It's A Highly Diverse Area, It Has Uplands, Mangrove Wetlands, It's A Very Valuable Parcel To Create This Corridor In The Wulfert Area Of Sanibel And We Hope You'll Look Favorably On This Request.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Next Paul Tridiak.

Wildlife Refuge Manager, I'm Here To Affirm Our Commitment For The Parcel, As Eric Mentioned, Joins Property And Existing Refuge Lands And Connects The Corridor And I Think To Thank The Ding Darling Wildlife Society For Providing The Contribution To Help The County With The Acquisition If You Approve.

Thank You Very Much.

Commissioner Manning: Karl.

Colleagues, I Have Some On A2 Only, And A1, 2, And 3, Putting Those In The Pile.

Is Karl Here?

Next Michael Lingella.

Karl, Come On.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

My Name Is Karl Vo, And I Would Like To Represent Eyes On 20/20, Committee Bird Dogging 20/20 Acquisitions.

We Need To Buy All Three Parcels Of 20/20 Lands Up For Adoption Today.

I Respectfully Ask You To Remember The Over 84% Of The Voters Who Voted In 20/20 For Green Lands.

They Will Remember How You Voted For Each And Every Parcel, And I Would Like To Ask That You Carefully Consider Each And Every Vote And Do The Will Of The Voters.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Michael, Followed By Peter Cangliosi.

Thank You, Karl.

Good Morning.

I Prepared My Remarks With The Assumption That These Matters Would Be Taken Separately, But Since At This Time They May Not Be, I Will Just Give You That Preface, So Some Of My Remarks Are In Context That I Would Ask You To Support All Three Of These Acquisition Of All Three Of These Parcels.

Again, My Name Is Michael, I Live In Estero, I'm A Voter In That Town.

I Ask You To Confirm By Positive Vote For All Three Land Parcels.

A Mandate Given To You By The Lee County Voters Last November.

84% Expressed A Clear And Unequivocal Message To You, Buy More Land For Conservation And Public Use.

The Voters Have Agreed To Pay For A Portion Of Their Taxes For This Action.

And The Money Is Available For You To Do So.

Today The Lee County Government Needs To Demonstrate That It Will Make A Commitment To Seek A Balance Between Expanding Development And Protecting Land From Such.

The Three Land Parcels Under Consideration Are Different In Size.

But Share Key Elements.

They Abutt Existing Conservation Land, In The Caloosahatchee River Watershed And Will Expand Protections For Both.

They Will Enhance And Further Protect The River Watershed, The North Fort Myers And Olga, Will Slow Movement Into The River And Help Clean Water Flowing Into The River.

Public Access For Critically Needed Recreational Uses, Lacking In Lee County, Frankly, Especially When The Population Continues To Explode.

They Will Continue Developmental Diminish Developmental Pressures On Valuable River Frontage And Other Watershed Areas.

Especially Important In My Opinion, The Olga Property, As Development Steadily Moves Eastward.

Acquisition Of This Property Would Provide Citizens Living Along The Sr80 Corridor Public Access To The River.

Lastly, I Believe You Have A Wonderful Opportunity In Front Of You.

Seldom To Politicians Have Such Significant Public Support On An Issue And The Money To Do The Work.

You Do.

Begin The Work.

Begin Writing The Legacy For The Future Generations Of This County Who May Not Know You Personally, But Will Thank You For Your Wise Decision To Purchase More Land For Conservation.

Let Lee County Citizens And Voters Know That You Were Courageous And Far Sighted, That You Voted To Purchase Land For Conservation And Public Use.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You, Michael.

Peter, Followed By Alicia Leathers, Hope I'm Pronouncing It Correctly.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

I'm Peter Cangilosi, The Environmental Director For The Estero Community Leaders, I Support Everything That Mike, My Colleague And Fellow Resident In Estero Just Said.

I Won't Take Much Of Your Time, But Let You Know In Estero, Voted 88% In 20/20 Last November's General Election.

We Are Fully Behind The Purchase Of These Three Project, These Parcels.

We Hope That You Will Do So.

We Think They Make A Fine Addition To The Conservation 20/20 Lands, Even Though They Are Not In Estero, We Still Think That Open Lands And Lands For Wildlife Habitat, For Flood Protection, Is Vital, Especially As We Experience The Rapid Growth We Expect In The Next Few Years.

We Hope You Will Vote Yes On All Three Parcels.

Commissioner Manning: Alicia, Followed By Barbara Manso.

Good Morning.

Alicia From Cape Coral.

I Urge You To Consider The Purchase Of The Three Parcels, And Available Funds From Conservation 20/20.

Reasons, One, Need Of Open Spaces.

County Ranks Among The Very Last In Terms Of Conservation Acres Per Person.

Out Of The 67 Counties, We Are Ranked 61.

So, We Can Do A Much Better Job If We Compare With The Percentage Of Land Conserved In Other Neighboring Counties, Like Collier And Charlotte, They Are 70% And 40%, Respectively.

So, We Are Only Conserving 21% So Far, Including State Lands.

So, We Have Much Room For Improvement.

Second, Location, Location, Location.

These Three Parcels Are Next To Water Bodies, Bodies Of Water.

In The Case Of Olga, Very Clear, Right Along The Caloosahatchee River.

As We All Know, We Have Been Impacted, Our Quality Of Life, And Our Industry Which Represents \$3 Billion Annually For The Counties, Has Been Impacted Due To Water Quality.

Not Only Because Of Releases Of The Lake, But Also Because Of The Human Impact In Our Watersheds.

I'm Talk Specifically About The Septic Tanks.

Residents Demands And Public Trust As You Mention.

Public Trust In The Beginning Of This Meeting.

A Great Majority Of Lee County Residents, 84%, That Means Eight Out Of Ten People, Voted Yes On Conservation 20/20.

So I Urge You To Respect The Public Trust That They Pose In Your Hands.

So, As You Can See, Purchasing These Three Parcels Satisfies The Need Of Open Space, It Is A Prime Location, And Three, Satisfies The Public Concerns.

You Go Along With What The Public Demands, More Open Spaces.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Barbara.

And Last Card I Have On Items 1, 2, And 3, Is Meredith Barnard.

Good Morning, Commissioners, For The Record, Barbara Manso, Representing The Eyes On Conservation 20/20 Coalition.

Three Agenda Items, Three Minutes Each, Total Of Nine?

Ok, Sorry, Just Kidding, Commissioner.

Just To Echo What Everybody Else

Commissioner, I Think This Is A Very Happy Day For Us Today.

You Know, In Looking Back Over The Last Five Years Of Conservation 20/20, It Comes To Mind That We Have Only Seen Just Under 11 Acres Purchased In The Last Five Years.

And We Are Still Under 25,000 Acres In Lee County.

So, Today's Purchases Of A Combined Three Parcels That Equal About 117, 120 Acres Will Put Us Over The 25,000 Acre Mark, And I Think That's A Happy Day For Us Here In Lee County.

It Also Tells Us That Your Commitment To Conservation 20/20 Is Alive And Well And I Want To Personally Thank You For That, Spending Many Years Helping To Manage That Program And Thank You For All The People We Represent For This Commitment To These Three Wonderful Parcels.

You Have Heard The Reasons Why, You Know The Reasons Why.

Population Is Growing, Development Is Just Exploding, And These Lands Are Critical.

They Are Attached And Contiguous To Other Lands, Water Access Lands.

Nothing Is More Important Than Our Water At This Point, Commissioners.

And The Opportunity For More Recreational Lands And Recreational Use.

So, We Urge You To Vote Yes, You Already Voted Yes On One Of Them, Thank You Very Much.

On The Remaining Two, We Appreciate Your Continuing Commitment And I Think This Is A Happy Day For Lee County.

I Know I Personally Will Be Very Happy When You All Vote Yes Unanimously On These Three Parcels.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You, Barbara.

All The Items On Number 1, 2, And 3.

Commissioner Hamman.

You Need To Say Anything?

Ok.

Yes.

Meredith Barnard.

Commissioner Manning: Apologize.

Followed By Brad Cornell Is Our Last Card.

On Behalf Of The Conservancy Of Southwest Florida.

I Would Like To Thank You For Moving Forward, North Fort Myers, Thank You Very Much.

Also Here To Support Acquisition Of Parcel 551, And Also 550.

The Parcel In Sanibel Is Eight Acres, Environmentally Sensitive Lands, Diverse Vegetation, Has Connectivity To San Carlos Bay, Adjacent To Ding Darling As You Have Mentioned.

This Funding Match Will Lower The Cost Of The Parcel And Being Adjacent To The Refuge It Has The Potential For Shared Management, I Want To Thank You For Consideration Of Moving This Parcel Forward And We Have A Support For That Parcel For Conservation.

On Top Of That, The Parcel 550, 97 Acres Of Shoreline Property Contains Several Conveyances, Including Creek Remnants.

The River Frontage Would Allow Protection Of The Shoreline From Development.

Additionally, The Public Access To The Caloosahatchee Waterfront Is A Rare Thing To Have, And This Property Would Allow For Additional Water Access And Recreational Potential For The Residents Of Lee County.

Since The Lands Of This Parcel Can Hold And Recharge Water From The Caloosahatchee Watershed, Placing This In Conservation Could Also Benefit Water Quality For The Caloosahatchee River.

The Water Quality Could Obtain Credits For Meeting The Water Clean Up For The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection.

And Finally, With Increasing Population Off Of State Road 80, Placing This Large Parcel In Conservation Would Serve As A Buffer From Encroaching Development.

So Again, The Conservancy Supports The Acquisition Of Both 551 And 550, And Thank You For Moving Forward With Parcel 158.

Commissioner Manning: Brad, You Are The Last Person On Items 1, 2, And 3.

Thank You, Mr. Chair And Commissioner.

Brad Cornell, Here On Behalf Of Audubon Of The Western Everglades And A Sanctuary.

I Agree With My Colleagues And The Previous Speakers Who Supported The Three Parcels Being Acquired But I Want To Make One Note On Parcel 550, The Olga Parcel That's 91.7 Acres Right On The Caloosahatchee River.

And That Point Is That We Heard And Saw A Lot Of Concern From The Community About Waters Coming Down The River From Lake Okeechobee.

I Think We Are All Very Interested In Finding Ways To Solve That Problem, And There Are A Lot Of Different Things That Are Going To Have To Happen.

Some Of Those We Don't Have Any Control Over.

But, Buying A Piece Of Conservation Land That We Can Store Water On And Clean The Water Right On The Caloosahatchee River Is Something We Can Do Something About And The Reason This Is Important Is That More Than Half Of The Water That Comes Into The Caloosahatchee River Is From The Watershed Itself, Not From The Lake.

So, This Is Something We Can Do Something About, And I Would Urge You To Consider This In That Light.

Thanks Very Much.

Commissioner Manning: Commissioner Hamman On Item Number Two, And Then 1, And 3.

We Passed Item Number 1, We Passed It And I'll Make A Motion To Approve Item 2 As Well And Discussion On 3.

Commissioner Manning: Motion To Approve Item Number One.

Seconded By Pendergrass, Discussion.

I Would Like To Say, Thank You All For Coming Down And Speaking, It's A Great Project, A Great Addition To The Partnership With Ding Darling.

Some Facts, The Last Three Years The County Purchased 94 Acres Of Conservation Land, 1581 Days I've Been Here, I've Voted For Every Parcel That Came Before Me.

20/20 Is A Great Program In Lee County, And Will Continue To See It Grow.

And This Board Is Very Protective, And The Department, It's Very Protective Of That Service, Provides Conservation For Lee County.

I Look Forward To Supporting That.

Commissioner Kiker: Thank You For Clearing Up The Number Of Acres.

But That Actually Makes A Good Point Is That Just Purchased 94 Acres Over That Many Years Seems Substandard In Some Regard And That's Why We Changed The Program A Couple Years Ago Because That Was What Was Going On.

It Was A Willing Seller Only Program, And We Have Now Changed That So We Can Strategically Go After Properties And I'm Sure Many Of You Have Heard In The News That This Board Has Made A Commitment To Pursue Edison Farms.

That Would Be A Good Example Of That, And That Was The Changes Made To The Program That Allows Us To Do That.

Secondly, I Can Speak For The Board On This One, Is That We, Too, Enjoy The Results Of The Referendum.

It Was Time To Go Back To The Folks That Support This Program And Make Sure That We Continue To Pursue Conservation Property And Preservation Property And So I Think The Results That We Got There Was Exactly What We Expected.

And So To Me, That Just Shows The Commitment That We Have To Conservation And I Look Forward To The Next Couple Of Years That We Can Pursue Properties And We Can Make Decisions Like The Ones We Have In Front Of Us Today So We Can Get That Program Back In Gear.

It's No Longer An Exception Program, And That's The Way It Has Been Run.

It Was Like By Exception We Go And Behind Property And Buy It.

Now It Is A Part Of How We Do Business In Lee County And I Think That's A Really Important Piece That We Should Take Away From This.

Thank.

One Quick Thought, The Price On The Ding Darling Piece.

Two Years Ago We Adopted A Policy Here For The Maintenance Of The Parcels That We Buy, We Set Aside Plenty Of Money To Do That.

I Think It Makes This All The More Of A Bargain Where Our Wildlife Officials Are Committed To Maintain This.

There Will Be No Expense On Our Part, So Over The Years This Will Be Even A Bigger Bargain Than Today.

Commissioner Manning: Further Discussion On The Motion?

Commissioner Pendergrass: Apologize, A Little Unusual, If You Will Indulge Me.

There Are A Number Of Ways By Which This County Commission Has Seen To It There Are Acres Of Conservation And Land Set Aside In Perpetuity And Not The Least Of Which Is Through Your Comp Plan Requirements.

You Know, In The Environmental Overlay, Right Now You Require 60% Of A Parcel That's Being Developed Be Set Aside In Conservation, For Example, The Wild Blue Project Is Setting Aside 2500 Acres.

For Conservation Land, And So Any Where Inside That Environmental Overlay, 60% Requirement Outside Of The Overlay It's Between 20 And 30% Requirement.

So, I Would Not Want People To Leave Here Today Thinking That 20/20 Would Be The Only Effort.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

If I Could On That Note, Thank You For Bringing That Up, And No Cost To The Taxpayers For These Parcels Developed, 60% In Conservation, No Cost To Lee County.

Excellent Point To Make, Tags Along With The Discussion We Have Having Now.

A Couple Of Thoughts On The Comments.

I Was Part Of The 84% Majority That Supported 20/20 And Voted For It On Election Day, But I Don't Believe The 84% Is Giving Us Cart Blanche Permission To Buy Money Without Question.

I Got 63% Majority When I Ran For Election And Won And I Still Think Every Day I Have To Come And Prove To You Guys That I'm Doing A Good Job For You, And Of What You Asked Me To Do As A County Commissioner, And All Five Of Us, Make Good Decisions How We Spend Your Tax Dollars So We Will Ask Questions And Scrutinize, That's What You Voted For Us To Do, Important To Protect The Integrity Of The 20/20 Program So It Will Enjoy Support For Generations To Come.

Not As Concerned With Some Comments We Have Only Preserve The A Certain Number Of Acres Per Year, Let's Buy The Right Land, Environmentally Sensitive Land, That Fits Into The Program And That's Why We Made The Changes We Talked About Last Year, So We Could Go After Strategic Purchases That Make Sense For Our Water Quality And Also Sense For The Preservation Of Our Area.

So, I Was Part Of That 84% Majority, But I Was By No Means Giving Permission To Just Buy Without Questions.

So, And With That, I'll Reaffirm My Support For Number 2.

Commissioner Manning: Motion Carries.

Item Number 3.

Commissioner Hamman: Item Number 3, Parcel In Olga, Nomination 550.

91.7 Acres In The Olga Area, In East Lee County.

Purchase Price, \$2.659 Million.

This Is A Parcel That Is On The River Front And Some Of The Questions That I Had Related To This Centered Around The Environmental Sensitivity Of This Lands In Particular.

This Was, Mr. County Manager, Can You Remind Me, What Was The Class Act Vote On This One?

Classic Vote On This Was 7 4 Vote To Move Forward.

Commissioner Hamman: Some Of The Four Members Actually Voted Not To Approve This For Purchase And They Had Some Concerns.

And When I Looked At The Environmental Scoreboard, I Had Some Concerns Myself.

First Of All, As I Just Mentioned, Protecting The Integrity Of 20/20 Is Critical.

We Say It's An Environmental Sensitive Land Acquisition And Stewardship Program In Lee County.

The Program Preserves And Protects Environmentally Critical Land In Lee County For The Benefit Of Present And Future Generations In Southwest Florida, That's What We Say On The Website, Describe The 20/20 Program.

You Pull Up The Scoreboard And Look, How Did This Nomination 550 Rank When Evaluated It For Environmental Sensitivity, It Got A 23 Out Of A Possible 60 Points.

Some Of The High Marks Were For The Flood Management And The Flow Way, But Some Low Marks In The Way Of Native Plants.

No Points For Native Plant Cover, It Has Less Than 25% Native Plants.

No Point For Significant Wide Ranging Species.

It Does Not Have Panther Habitat, Wetlands, Grasslands.

And Scored Low On Land Manageability, Other Uses Make It Hard To Manage.

My Question Was, Do We Have A Threshold That We Like To Reach Before We Move A Parcel Forward For Acquisition For Our Conservation 20/20 Program?

This Does Not Even Seem To Pass The Halfway Mark At 23 Out Of 60 Possible Points.

Mr. County Manager, Have We Ever Set That Threshold That You Are Aware Of?

Commissioners, The Vote To Move Forward Is Not Based On Cumulative Score Of The Categories.

Just Based On A Simple Majority Affirmative Vote Of The Class Act Committee.

Commissioner Hamman: I Think It's Worth The Commission Having A Discussion At Some Points And I Remember Commissioner Kiker Discussing Previously, Do We Want To Move Forward Lands That Don't Seem To Score High On The Environmental Sensitivity Because We Can Alter Them And Make Them Score High Down The Road, Do We Want To Continue To Take It On A Case By Case Basis, Set Up A Threshold, I'm Interested In Interesting That Discussion From My Colleagues.

The Other Question While I Still Have Opportunity, I Would Love To Hear From The Natural Resources Departments What They Plan To Do In The Way Of Water Quality Projects On This Parcel.

We Might Want To Hear From Kathy Olson As Well.

Very Good.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

Natural Resources.

Highest Ranking Had To Do Mostly With The Water Resource Potential For The Property.

Since It's Located Along The Caloosahatchee On The South Side, Uniquely Positioned To Provide Water Quality Treatment From The River Itself.

We Have That Option.

Also A Smaller Watershed To The South Of The Parcel That Leads To This Area That Is A Couple Tributaries That Lead To State Road 80.

Idea Here, And Without All The Unique Environmental Constraints, It Provides A Blank Canvas To Build A Marsh On The Site.

So, Potential Of Bringing Water In From The River, Bringing In A Filter Marsh Type Of Facility, And Then Slowly Releasing That Water To The River To Once Again, Yes, Try To Remove Nutrients Out Of The Water Column, And

You Have An Estimate How Much Water From The River You Could Store On This?

It Would Depend On How Much Land Of That 90 Acres We Could Dedicate To The Site.

Say We Put 40 Acres Or 30 Acres Of It, You Could Potentially Build Half Into A Treatment Facility.

Try To Compare With Other Project We Did In The County, And If You Are Putting 30, 40 Acres In It, With He Could Potentially Remove Maybe 2, 3, 4,000 Pounds Of Total Nitrogen.

So Not Necessarily Volume, But A Matter Of The Retention Time On There, The Type Of Plants In There, And We Are Waiting For The Results From The Bowma Project To See What Kinds Of Facility We Could Maximize Efficiency.

Is This A Typical Size For A Water Treatment Filter Marsh, If You Will, Are We Buying Them Bigger Than That When We Do Them In Other Parts Of The County?

We Have Sites Smaller, 10, 18, 30, 40 Acres, This Is Actually One Of The Larger Sites.

Excellent.

And Do You Have Any Ballpark For What Kind Of Total Maximum Daily Load Credit We Would Get?

Yeah, Again, Using The Comparative Of What We Did Ten Mile And Pal Creek, Anticipating 30, 40 Acres Of Filler Marsh, 4,000 Pounds Of Total Nitrogen Reduction.

What Does That Mean In The Big Picture.

We Are Under Mandate To Reduce The Maximum Daily Load Of Nutrients.

How Does That Help Us?

We Have A Large Task.

Nearly 100,000 Pounds Of Total Nitrogen Removed Right Now, As The Tidal In The Next 20 Years, So, This Will Slowly Get Us There.

It Will Be Incrementally Get Us To The Point.

Any Ballpark Estimate How Much The Filter Marsh Might Cost?

I'm Thinking Around 4, \$4.5 Million.

We Pay For That Out Of The 20/20 Management Fund Or A Different Fund?

We Would Be My Guess, We Would Be Funding Through The General Funds, Through Tmdl Compliance, Much Like The Other Capital Improvements For Water Quality.

Ok.

Thank You, Roland, Appreciate You Answering The Questions.

Mr. Desjarlais, Anything Else You Want Staff To Add?

Unless You Have Other Questions.

No, Thank You, Mr. County Manager, Appreciate The Answers And The Response.

You Know, Again, I Look At This Property, We Are Buying It For Under Appraised Value, Sounds Like We Are Getting A Good Deal On It.

Certainly We Have Made A Huge Effort To Revise The 20/20 Program So That It Would Work Well With Our Water Quality Efforts Throughout The County.

But I'm Interesting To Hear The Board's Discussion On, You Know, Whether We Want To Buy This Land Knowing That It Ranks So Lowly On The Environmental Criteria.

Thank You.

I Have A Number Of Cards For This Item.

If You Do Not Want To Speak And Say I Agree Or Disagree, That's Fine, Too.

Ruby Daniels.

Ruby.

Followed By Phillip Serinian.

Thank You, Commissioner.

I Would, Ruby Daniels, President Of Alva, Inc., I Would Like To Address Some Of The Concerns Commissioner Hamman Just Brought Up.

I Lived In That Area From The Time I Was Two Years Old Until I Married And Moved To Alva.

So I Consider Myself As Much A Resident Of Olga As I Do Alva.

When I Was Growing Up, That Property Was A Mature Citrus Grove And My Dad Worked In That Grove.

And At The Time, There Were Always Lots Of Wildlife In That Area.

Deer, I Don't Know Of Anyone Saw A Panther, But It Was Not Unreasonable To Expect To See A Panther, But Bobcats, Squirrels, So On.

Also There Is A Canal That Goes From The River, It Goes South And Under, South Of Olga Drive, And There Is A Little Pond On The Other At The End Of That Canal.

And During The Rainy Season, You Could Walk Down South Olga Drive And See Otters, River Otters That Had Come In From The River To Play And Feed And Visit That Little Pond.

And If You Were Very Quiet And Sat Down, You Could See Them Because They Would Pop Their Heads Up Here And There.

Today That Property Is Not As Pretty As It Used To Be, And I Would Remind You That One Of The Goals And Missions Of 20/20 Is When You Purchase A Property, To Remove The Exotics, And Restore The Property To Its Natural State.

And In Its Natural State, This Property Would Be A Pine Flatwoods.

And I Can Envision The Property Restored To Its Natural State And Being A Home For Lots Of Wildlife.

And One Last Comment, When You Are Looking For Wildlife, If You Live In The Rural Area, You Know You Don't Look For Them In The Middle Of The Day.

They Are Out Early In The Morning And Late In The Afternoon Because Night Is The Time That They Forage For Their Food.

So, In Terms Of That Report, I Understand Your Concerns But I Wouldn't Be Overly Concerned, Commissioner Hamman, And I Hope You Consider What I Have Said In Your Deliberation And Decision To Vote.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You, Ruby.

Phillip, Followed By Jim Geteman.

Phillip Saranen, A Permanent Resident In The Olga Community, And We Have Done A Lot Of Extensive Studying About This Parcel As Well, And How It Impacts The Environment And Our Community, And The Overwhelming Majority Of People In The Community Want It To Go To 20/20,

And There Have Been Many Sightings Of Native Animals In That Area More Than Perhaps Were In The Report.

And We Have One Of Our Residents Who Lives On Old Olga Road Just Almost Across The Street Stated They Did See Panther Out There At One Time Within The Last Year.

One Of The Key Things Why This Is So Important Is For The Protection Of The Watershed.

With All The Development Along The 80 Corridor, All That Water Comes Down Through There, It's Not Just The Water Out Of The River, But All Those Things Need To Be Filtered So We Can Improve The Water Quality.

And So I Ask You All To Take Into Consideration The Bigger Picture, Not Just The Number Score That It Received.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Jim.

Followed By Barbara Mainster Rollison.

I Live Out In Olga.

I Will Look At A Different Angle.

Go 25 Years Ahead And Think Of What Lee County Will Be Like, The Whole Area Will Look Like.

I Think They Would Be Very Proud Of Us, Commissioners, Citizens, Have This 20/20 Program And We Act On It.

I Mean, I Can't Imagine What This Piece Of Land Would Look Like Out There In 25 Years.

It Would Look Like A Jewel, Including All The Other Lands.

So, Let's Get This Going.

I Would That's The Way You Have To Look At It.

We Made It Through Y2k, But What's Lee County Going To Look Like In 25 Years?

We Need These Spaces.

Desperate.

And I Really Think It Will Show Up.

Thank You A Lot.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Barbara.

Followed By Tom Eicas.

Barbara, I Live On Old Olga Road, I Agree With Everything That Has Been Said In Favor.

I Wanted To Say Septic Tanks, Painted Buntings.

We Have A Lot Of Wonderful Birds Out In That Area, Along With Other Animals.

And Throw In The Protection Of The River, There Is Not A Day That The News Press Does Not Have Articles About The Caloosahatchee, So You Have A Great Opportunity.

I Appreciate Your Questions, Representative Hamman, I Understand That's Your Job.

But I Think All These Speakers Have Made It Pretty Clear, This Is A Good Thing, You Need To Do It, It's For Our Kids, For Our Grandkids, For Yours.

Tom, Followed By Connie Dennis.

This Is A Unique Area Because You Know, It's Waterfront, On The Caloosahatchee, And When An Area Like This Is Gone, You Are Not Going To Have An Opportunity Years Down The Road To Pick Something Up Similar To This.

Other People Have Said About The Watershed Qualities That I Won't Repeat.

And It's The Wildlife That Used To Use This Waterfront Corridor, It Will Be Beneficial For Them In The Future.

And I Would Like To Address That Concern That Somebody Spoke Of That It Does Not Rank High On A Score Card When You Tick Off The Various Conservation Points.

But The Point Here Is Where Do You Start?

Maybe It's Been A Little Bit Abused In The Past For Various Agricultural Purposes Or Whatever, But You Have To Start Someplace Because You Know, They Are Not Making Any More Land.

This Is Available.

A Big Concern For All Of Lee County Is The Runoff From The Caloosahatchee, You Know, Polluting Beaches Far From Olga.

And We Have To Start Somewhere And Nothing Is Perfect But This Is Something That Won't Come Up Again And If We Don't Do It We Won't Have The Opportunity To Start Someplace.

So, I Would Strongly Recommend This Purchase.

Commissioner Manning: Before You Go, Your Last Name.

Eicas.

Commissioner Manning: Connie.

Followed By Don Jones.

That Was Easy.

Connie Dennis, I Live In Alva.

And I Cannot Improve On Anything That's Been Said.

The Only Thing I Did Go To The Property And Went To The River And I Saw The Sand There, And I Just Thought That Would Be A Nice Opportunity For Families To Participate Where The River Is, Because We Don't Have That Opportunity Otherwise.

So, Thank You Very Much For Listening To Us.

And All Your Comments.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Don Jones, Followed By Janet Jones.

Seems To Be A Conspiracy Here.

Hi, Don Jones, Here Today To Show My Support For The Purchase Of The Support Of 550, A Great Asset For The Community.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Janet, Do You Wish To Say Anything?

Yes.

Are You With Him, By Any Chance?

Good Morning, I'm Janet Jones.

I Live In The Olga Area On Brown Road And I Have Owned My Home There Since, Gosh, 1976.

It's A Beautiful Place Out There.

Especially With The Sandy Beach On The Water.

And It Would Be Such A Benefit, Not Just To Us In Our Community, But For The Rest Of Lee County And The Rest Of The Visitors That Would Want To Come And Enjoy That.

And Getting Water Quality Improvement, That's Just A Huge Bonus On Top Of That.

So, Commissioner Hamman, I Do Appreciate Your Questions And Everything, But I Hope That You Will Vote In Favor Of It.

I Hope That All The Commissioners Will.

I Urge You To Do This.

Because This Is A Place That Won't Come Up Again.

Thank You So Much.

Commissioner Manning: Donna Hughes, Followed By Christina Ferrera.

Hello, I'm Donna Hughes, A Winter Resident Of Olga, Homeowner There For Five Years.

I Have Spent Some Time On This Piece Of Land And It's Really Beautiful.

I Just Wanted To Speak In Favor Of Its Great Physical Beauty.

It Has Well Over 100, Probably 200 Live Oak Trees That Are Mature, A Lot Of Palm Trees, A Variety, And If There Are And There Are Some Invasive Species, But You Know, They Have Been Removed Recently And Could Be More Removed, And It Could Be Restored With Native Species.

I Think Is That If You Had A Friends Of This Acreage Group Formed, And There Are A Lot Of Us Here As You See, Who Are Really Behind This Property And Would Like To Develop It In Terms Of Passive Recreation, I've Been An Educator My Whole Life And Worked A Lot In Education With Primary School Kids And Collaborations Between Colleges And Primary School Kids.

It Would Be A Fantastic Outdoor Educational Setting For Kids From Local Schools To Come There And You Know, Do All The Things That You Can Do, Study Science, Study Florida Literature, And Just Be Close To Nature, And It's It's A Great Opportunity And I Really Hope That You All Vote In Favor.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Christina Sierra, Followed By Jerry Camerrer.

I'm Going To Speak From The Tourist Point Of View.

When I Was Trying To Drum Up Support For This Property I Called The Board Of Tourism And They Said Well, The County Commissioners Have Our Interests In Mind If You Want To Support For The Tourists And Talk To The Commissioners.

So We Need This Property To Give Birds A Home Because This Is The Great Birding State, And If We Keep Eating Up The Property With Development, The Birds Will Have No Place To Go.

Even If We Use That Property To Clean Up The River, Make The Water Filter, The Filter Marsh, A Great Place For Birds.

More Tourists Come.

If You Develop, Develop, Develop, There's No Place For Birds To Go, No Longer The Birding State.

Also, Captain For Clean Water Would Be Disgusted If They Heard We Passed Up An Opportunity Where We Could Clean Up A Little Bit Of The Water That Enters The River.

Because They Depend On Tourists To Ride Their Boats.

So, Anyway, I'm Also A Tourist When I Go Places, And What Do I Look For?

I Look For Open Space, Green Parks, Birds, Things I Can't See Where I Live.

I Look For Mountains, Snow.

So, When People Come From Other Places They Want To Come Here And See The Birds, The Wood Storks, Buntings, All The Ibis, Things They Don't See When They Are Home.

So The Tourist Industry Could Go Down, Down.

Down.

That's All.

Hope You Vote For It.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Jerry.

Follow By Martin And The Last Name Begins With F.

Jerry Camera, I Live In Olga.

I'm For The Purchase Of This Land.

I Just Want One Comment, It's The Only Piece Of Land Left Between The Locks And Picnic Island That You Can Take A Boat And Pull It Up To The Shore And Not Get Shot At Or Hollered At Or Get Off My Property.

It's About 1,000 Feet, And Something Else About This Property, The Property, The Other 1,000 Feet By It, I Understand, The Owner Of That Property Will Only Sell That Property To People Who Purchased The 96 Acres.

So, In The Future, The County Still Has An Opportunity To Purchase Another 1,000 Feet Of Frontage, River Frontage, So 2,000, A Quarter Mile The County Could Have Access To, Boaters Could Have Access To.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Martin.

Followed By Rosalie Pristari.

Martin, Sorry About Your Last Name.

No Problem.

Martin Flyshocker, And I Thank You Board For Giving Me The Time.

I Want To Say About This Piece Of Property.

It's A Natural Beach Along The Whole South End Of That River.

And As We All Know, Sand Is Really A Good Filtration Product.

Secondly, Regarding The Animals In An Area, As We All Know, That Are Hunters, That Things Are Not Static.

They Are Cyclic, And So Consequently That Condition, Depending When You Check It, Is Very Variable.

I Understand From Listening To People Here That The Price Is Right.

We Are At A Right Time To Purchase Something Like This.

And I Hope That You All See It As A Very Positive Thing, Like I Do.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Rosalie.

Followed By Gloria Moss.

Good Morning, Rosalie.

We Have Talked To Several Of The You Guys Earlier, Gave You Our Reasons Why We Want To Keep This Land Into 20/20, And You Have Heard A Lot Of The Reasons Already, So I'm Not Going To Elaborate On Them.

I Just Want You To Know That I'm For This Going Into The 20/20 Conservation.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Gloria.

Followed By Richard Carnell.

Hi, My Name Is Gloria, I've Lived In The Area Out There For 14 Years.

Moving From Gladiolas Drive, And It's Like Being Heaven Out There.

I Can't Add Much That Hasn't Been Said Except I Hope You, Mr. Chairman And The Commissioners, Will Vote To Bring This Property Into The 20/20 Program So That We Can Keep It The Way It Is.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Richard, Followed By Paula Carnell.

Richard, Do You Know That Young Lady Back There?

Do You Know That Young Lady Back There?

Afraid I Do, Yes.

She Knows Me Better Than I Know Her.

Commissioner Manning: Go Ahead.

I Am Here To Support This And Urge You To Support It.

This Is An Opportunity You Only Have Once.

If You Miss This Opportunity It Won't Come Back.

The Land Will Be Gone.

It Will Be High Rise, It Won't Be Nature Wise.

Well, Trait, I'm For It.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Paula.

Ok.

Thank You.

Followed By Bob Ibanez.

And The Last Card I Have Is A Jim Sears.

Bob, The President Of River Lawn Terrace Park.

We Have 41 Properties There Where People Are Living.

We Are Off Of South Olga Drive That Borders On This 92 Acres.

We Are Well Familiar With It.

In That Community Area, More So Than Just Ours Also, There Is Several Walking Groups, I Know Some Of Them Go Out And Walk At 4:00 In The Morning, I've Joined Them On Occasion, And Somebody Mentioned That's When You See The Wildlife.

We Have Seen Bobcats, Wild Pigs, If That's What You Are Looking For, I Suppose.

All The Other Normal Types Of Animals That You Normally See Other Places.

But The Eagles And Ospreys Are In That Area Also.

A Report Of Seeing A Panther But I Have Not Talked To Anybody Who Has Seen This. The Other Thing The Community Uses Along South Olga Drive, A Lot Of Walking Groups, Individual Walking Groups That Have Been Growing.

We Belong To Some Of Them.

And The Roads There Are Quite Narrow, With No Shoulders, They Drop Right Off Into The Ditches, With You Empty The Water Into The Caloosahatchee.

It Would Be A Wonderful Addition For The People In That Community And Other People Just Visiting That Place To Walk Through There, If They Should Open Up Walking Trails Or Such.

The Beach On That 92 Acres Is Extremely Unique For My Opinion, For The Caloosahatchee River.

We Have Had Our Kids Down Here And Grandkids, And We Have Spent A Lot Of Time On The Caloosahatchee River, Mainly Between The 75 Bridge On Up To Labelle Area, And In My Recollection, No Area That Has A Beach Like That Where One Can Just Pull Off And Have A Little Picnic.

We Have Personally Taken Our Kids And Grandkids There In The Kayaks Over The Many Years We Have Been Down Here And Paddle Over To It.

It's A Beautiful Natural Sandy Beach As You Have Already Heard.

The Other Thing About The Beach, It Drops Off At A Very Gentle Slope, So When You Have Little Children There, We Don't Have To Worry About Them Dropping Off Into The Deep Water For Quite A Distance.

It's Very Unique.

Like I've Said Already, I Think This Is A Jewel.

You Won't Find Any Other Lands Available Like This On That River And Speaking For My Part, We Will Endorse You Purchasing It.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Thank You.

Jim Sears.

Jim Sears, Seasonal Resident Of Olga.

I Have Two Items Which Were Not Discussed Until My Wife Got Up A Few Minutes Ago, I'll Briefly Mention Them.

Anything That Controls Nitrogen Going Into The River, Any Amount Of Nitrogen Is Going To Help Control The Amount Of Algae And Other Plants That Tend To Cloud Our Canals And Things During The Summer Months.

So, Any Cleaning Of The Water Going In No Matter How Much I Think Is Valuable.

The Second, Two Points I Want To Make, Both With Education And The Natural Biodiversity Of That Area.

I Have Walked Through That A Couple Of Times.

I'm A Botanist Professionally, And Psychologist, The Study Of Algae, Nothing To Do With Psychology, But The Algae, So I Know A Bit About The Nitrogen And The Growth.

But The Land As Donna Hughes Said Has Beautiful Live Oaks, Large, I Guess They Must Have Been Started Whenever The Citrus Grove Stopped.

Lots Of Ferns, And Lots Of Grasslands.

I Don't Know How They Saw No Grassland, I Would Say More Than Half Was In That Area.

What They Really Need Is A Study Of The Fauna And Flora Of That Area.

The Other Issue Is Education Which My Wife Also Alluded To.

I've Made Nature Trails In Places In Massachusetts For Schools With Teachers And Students.

This Is An Ideal Spot For Education Of Our Youngsters Who Today It's Hard To Get Them Off The Computer, Away From The Television.

Here Is A Place That Could Be An Educational Tool For Elementary And Middle School And High School Students To Actually Get Out And See Nature As It Is.

So, For Those Two Reasons, I Would Ask You To Vote For This.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: That's All The Cards I Have.

Public Presentation Of Citizens, Just Want To Make Sure George Fox, Steve Longran, And Francis Donahue Want To Speak On Any Matter.

Ok.

Back To Commissioner Hamman.

Commissioner Hamman: Just One Follow Up Question From The Comments That We Heard Today For Our County Manager And You Can Direct It To The Appropriate Staff.

Regarding The Beach That Many People Spoke Of That You Can Pull Up To And Have A Picnic And Park Your Boat On The Beach And Everything, Is That Going To Be Allowed If We Purchase This For 20/20?

Ask Ms. Olson To Come To The Podium, Please.

Kathy Olson, For The Record.

Well, Obviously Look At The Management Plan But The Intent Is To Allow Picnicking On The Site, Both In The Pavilion That Exists As Well As On The Beach, And We Are Hoping To Have A Kayak Launch On The Beach As Well.

Any Intention To Preserve The Ability To Boat Up To The Site Right Now?

I Don't Know Why You Couldn't Land On The Beach.

Ok.

That's Good.

That's What I Wanted To Make Sure That We Preserve That If We Do End Up Purchasing The Property Because I Know Sometimes We Can Get Pretty Restrictive With Our Management Plan.

Commissioner Kiker: Make Sure We Don't Put A Shooting Range In There Shooting Range, Yeah, Somebody Said Get Shot.

You Know, I Think What This To Me Is Bringing Out Is What Really Has Happened And The 20/20 Program.

There's Always A Lot Of Credence Given To How Many Acres Are There.

But You Know, When We Are Looking At This Purchase, If I've Got The Numbers From Roland, If I Heard Them Right, The Purchase Price Of This Is Only One Third Of The Cost Or The Investment That

Lee County Is Going To Make In Order To Restore The Property, Maintain It, And In This Case, Do, Create A Place For Water Storage.

So, I Think That's One Of The Things That We Need To Look At Is While All These Years Going Along, This Is What's Been Happening, Just Changing The Ownership Of Property From One Person To Another Person Does Not Change Anything.

This Is What's Been Going On.

So, In This Case, Many Times We Get Ahold Of Properties That Have Been Abandoned And Are Tired, If You Will.

We Have To Restore Them.

So, To Me This Looks Like A Bigger Purchase Than Just The Property Itself.

It's A Commitment With The Program That We Have To Do Something With That Property.

And Least Not, I Don't Know If Everyone Here, But I Enjoyed The Conversation I Had With The Olga Gang That Came To My Office.

You Guys Are Scary, I'll Tell You.

Determined.

And Truly Did Enjoy The Conversation With You, It Was A Good Conversation.

Thank You For Taking The Time To Come And See Us.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: Any Other Comments?

I Have One But I Will Refrain From That.

Echo What I Heard Ruby Daniels Say, Some Of The Class Act Members Found The Land In Today, It Had Been A Farm, I Remember It When It Was A Citrus Grove But As We All Well Know So Much Of Our Maintenance Program And Commissioner Kiker Just Made Reference To This Has To Do With Restoration.

We Are Not Frozen In Time Forever With A Condition That Some Of These Members Saw.

We Have Huge Potential Here For Improvement And Almost, I Mean, Certainly We Are Going To Find Use For Water Quality Restoration As Well As Land Restoration.

And All Of This Is Funded And We'll Do It Incrementally In The Years Ahead.

But It's The Potential This Land Offers That I Think We Need To Be Looking Ahead As To What We Can Do And I Have Found Myself Supporting Purchases, Or Land Development, For Instance, On Corkscrew Road, Where The Land, They Were Going To Put Far More Density Than I Was Happy With, But The Developer Would, Had Committed Himself To Do Great, Monumental Restoration Efforts To Have Surface Water Flow Again And Wildlife Habitat Tied To Another Wildlife Habitat, And That Mitigation Was Critically Important And He Was Looking Ahead And Convinced Me, And I Know The Potential Is Available And Even More So, And The Location, Location, Location, On This, On The Caloosahatchee River, A Once In A Lifetime Opportunities And I Know In The Final Analysis You'll Say, I Know You Will Make It A 5 0 Vote.

I Knew You Were On The Fence About It.

So I Wanted To Ask The Question.

Commissioner Manning: Commissioner Hamman Is Deferring To The District Commission

Thank You For Coming Down, This Is Another Great Asset To The Lee County 20/20 Program, A Better Program Than 20 Years Ago, And Thank You For The Support The Last Four Years.

Thank You For Coming Down.

I Look Forward To Supporting That.

If It's Timely, Mr. Chairman, I Would Move Approval.

Commissioner Manning: Motion To Approved Agenda Number Three On The Administrative Agenda, A Second?

Discussion, Objection?

Motion Carries.

Thank You Very Much.

[Cheering]

Commissioner Manning: Please Leave Quietly.

Let's Take A Two Minute Break.

Managecommissioner Manning: We Have Two Public Hearings And A Walk On Item.

Defer To The County Attorney.

Walk On Item Number One.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

Assistant County Attorney.

I Have For Presentation The First Public Hearing On Today's 9:30 Agenda, Vac20160004, To Vacate A Public Utility Easement And Drainage Easement Located At 1512 East 9th Street Lehigh Acres.

I Have Examined The Affidavit Of Publication With Respect To This Request And I Find It Legally Sufficient To Proceed With A Public Hearing On This Case.

I Am Entering The Affidavit Into Records At This Time.

Commissioner Manning: Questions By The Board?

Seeing None, Is There Anyone In The General Public Who Wishes To Speak On This Item?

Public Hearing Number One, Seeing None, Back To The Board.

Motion By Commissioner Mann To Approve, Seconded By Commissioner Hamman.

Discussion, Objection, Motion Carries.

Item Number Two.

Good Morning, Commissioners, Assistant County Attorney.

I Have An Affidavit Of Publication, Examined That With Respect To Form And Content.

It, Too, Is Legally Sufficient To Proceed With The Hearing, I Will Give The Affidavit To The Clerk.

This Is Case Vac2016 00019, Petition To Vacate, And To Vacate A Portion Of A Platted Public Utility And Drain Age Easement, At 11260 Kennedy Court And 13420 Rickenbacker Parkway In Fort Myers.

Commissioner Manning: Any One In The General Public Wishing To Speak?

Seeing None, Motion To Approve, Discussion, Motion Carries.

Thank You, John.

Commissioner Manning: Walk On Item, And That Is Authorized Continued Use Of Mowing Contractor For D.O.T. Roadways, Assuming It's Lee D.O.T.

Mr. Chair.

Chris.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

This Is A Request For Mowing Services For D.O.T. Roadways Area 1, 2, And 3, Due To Administrative Error On The Renewal Period.

We Are Asking The Board For Permission To Extend One Additional Year Renewal Period With The Current Gender, J.S.M. Services, Inc., Until November 30, 2017.

This Will Allow Staff Time To Put This Out To Bid And Be Awarded And To Continue Mowing Services.

Questions By The Board?

Seeing None, Is There Anyone In The General Public Who Wishes To Speak On This Item?

Seeing None, Back To The Board For A Motion.

Motion To Approve By Missioner Man.

Seconded By Commissioner Kiker.

Discussion, That's All That I Have.

Next Is Commissioner Items And Appointments.

Commissioner Mann.

Pendergrass.

Commissioner Pendergrass: One Thing Announcement, Commissioner Hamman Is Going To, F.C.U. Games, Making It To The Ncaa Tournament.

Do You Go Up To Orlando?

I Didn't.

Thank You, Congratulate Them, The Men's And Women's Team And St. Michaels Boys And Girls Varsity Team Going On The 23rd.

I Stayed Up Until 12:30 Before The Game Finally Ended, It Was A Rough Time.

That's All I Have.

Commissioner Kiker: I Don't Know If It's Fortunately Or Unfortunately, Saved A Trip To Washington.

We Were Talking About National Flood Insurance, And They Have At The Last Minute Decided To Have A Closed Room Session, So We Are Definitely Counting On Our Representative Rooney And Rooney And Company To Represent Us Well.

Maybe If You Could, Glen, Give Us An Update On Where We Are With That.

Mr. Chair.

Thank You, Commissioner Kiker.

As You Say, The Florida Delegation To U.S. House Of Representatives Was Going To Hold A Hearing In April On The National Flood Insurance Program.

They Have Suddenly Decided To Meet In A Closed Door Session With The House Financial Services Subcommittee Tomorrow Morning At 8:30 A.M.

Of Course.

Given That, We Would Like To Respectful Request That Both Representatives Rooney Attend That Meeting And Advocate On Behalf Of Your Legislative Platform, Emphasize The Importance To Lee County, People May Not Be Aware Southwest Florida Accounts For Roughly 5% Of All Premiums Paid Annually Into The Program.

And Lee County Has 2.5% Of All The Policies Nationwide.

So, Affordability And Transparency And Rate Setting, All The Mapping Issues That We Have Encountered Over The Years, Obviously We Would Really Like The Representatives To Advocate For Those Issues On Our Behalf.

The Maps Are Done With Real Science, Correct?

Just Kidding.

Actually, If You Look At The Federal Level Often, Some Of The Cuts They Are Talking About Is Changing The Way The Mapping Is Done, And Who Is Able To Perform It And How It's Funded, Is That Right?

The President's Budget Blueprint Zeros Out The Funding For New Mapping, So It Would Be A Question At That Point, Would New Mapping Efforts Continue, If So, Would That Be Would That Be Our Local Government Piece Of Business To Conduct?

And That Might Not Be Such A Bad Thing If It Is Funding Aside, With He Have That Figure That Site Out.

It Gets Complicated.

Not Only Asking The Folks That Are Insured To Pay, And Pay Extra, In Some Cases, And As A Local Entity May Be Absorbing Some Of The Costs Now.

So This Thing Continues To Get Bigger And More Expensive And So, And I Agree, I Don't Know If You Need Something From The Board, Glen, In Terms Of Requesting That Our Representatives Attend That Session.

Commissioner Kiker, I Think If It's The Consensus Of Board, We Would Work With Chairman Manning To Send Both Representatives A Little Note Asking Them To Do That.

Commissioner Manning: The Board Ok With That?

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Manning: Two Items, The First A Letter Of Support To Governor Scott Regarding State Funding Of Water Quality Improvements.

I Sent You Each A Copy Of The Letter I Will Send.

Anybody Have Any Questions?

Thank You Mr. Chairman For Sending The Letter.

We Need A Motion To Motion To Approve.

Seconded By Commissioner Hamman.

Motion Was Made By Commissioner Mann, Discussion?

Objection?

Motion Carried.

The Next Item I Have Is To Discuss The Proposed Captiva Island Water Wastewater Alternative Study.

That's A Mouthful.

Commissioners, This Is Something That We Could Have Approved Administratively, But Thought It Was Best The Board Be Aware Of It.

The We Have Been Working With Captiva, The Planning Panel Now For Over Ten Years, Really Started At The Request Of Commissioner Janes, And They Have Asked To Have Lee County Utilities, The Expertise, Really Take A Look At What It Would Take To Create A Sanitary Sewer System On The Island To Serve The Residences And The Commercial Areas On Septic.

Just A Handful Of Small Private Treatment Facilities.

There's Been A Lot Of Information Developed, And What We Would Like To Do Is To Have Lee County Utilities Formalize The Information, Hire A Consultant, To A Study That Would Provide The Captiva Group An Alternatives List Of What Could Be Done To Create Sanitary Sewer, Kind Of What The Costs Might Be For Each Of Those Alternatives, And Then What The Structure Of Some Type Of A Group Would Look Like In Order To Be Able To Fund Those Improvements In The Future.

It Would Formalize Everything.

A More Detailed Discussion.

We Anticipate The Study Would Be Less Than \$100,000 But Still Wanted To Make The Board Aware Of This And Make Sure There Were No Issues With Going Forward.

Questions By The Board.

Just To Comment, It Happened The Regional Planning Council Last Week That I Spoke With Councilman Mick Denham, Who Brought Up This Issue Of Captiva, And Wastewater Treatment And The Future And It's A Little Bit Scary, But Folks On Both The Islands There That Are Concerned What Goes On With The Package Plans, And Time To Look At Alternatives.

So, This Is Very Timely And There Are People On The City Council On Sanibel That Hope It Will Move In This Direction.

So That's Good.

Any Further Comments, Questions?

Not Treated Sewage Into The River, We Need To Be Cautious And So I Support The Study, Anything We Can Do To Prevent The Sewage Going Into The Waterways.

I Support The Idea Of Looking At This As Well.

My Own Question, Why Wouldn't We Bring This On A Blue Sheet For The Commissioner To Actually Vote On?

Like We Do Any Other Study?

Because It's Under 100,000?

We Anticipate It Will Be Under \$100,000, So We Can Approve That Administratively.

Commissioner Manning: Roger, Did You Want To Say Anything?

Larry?

I'm Good.

Commissioner Manning: Need A Motion?

We Have Consensus.

Committee Appointments.

Commissioner Man.

I Have None.

I Have None.

I Have None.

I Have None.

Commissioner Manning: County Manager Items, I Have None.

Do You Have Any?

County Attorney Items, I Have None, Do You Have Any?

Public Presentation Of Matters By Citizens Is Next.

The First Card I Have Is George Fox.

Thank You, Sir.

Appreciate It.

It Doesn't Take Much To Ride Down The Road To See That Construction Is Really Taking Off In Lee County, Good To See, As A Lifelong Member, A Citizen, And My Family Back To The 1800s, I Have Always Supported Growth, And Supported Midpoint Bridge, The Big Fight For Years, I Think It Was The Best Thing.

You Had To Say That.

I Do Support It.

But Anyway, You Know, Very Concerned, I Mean, I Love It.

I Think That The Economy Is Great.

But We Do Want To Keep An Eye On Overheating And The Market Turning Speculative, Prices Rising Too Fast And All Matters.

And We Want To Avoid The Whole Mortgage Collapse Like We Did Ten Years Ago, And So I Wanted To Speak My Peace As A Citizen Of Lee County And Hopefully My Commission Will Keep An Eye On That, And Work To Keep It As Healthy As Possible Without It Overheating And Eventually Collapsing Upon Itself.

We Know It's A Boom Bust Economy, Always Has Been Here, But There Are Things That Can Be Done And Tones And Attitudes That Can Be Maintained To Keep Things As Stable As Possible And So We Can All Enjoy Life In Lee County, You Know, Consistently Instead Of Great Periods Of Tremendous Prosperity, And Followed By Horrid Collapses Ance Boom Bust.

Sit Well With My Soul If My Commission Would Do Everything It Can To Promote Lee County But Keep It As Stable As It Possibly Can Be.

You Know What I Mean.

Have A Good Day.

Steve.

So, Good Morning To All The Commissioners And As Well As All The Lee County Employees In Attendance Today.

Thank You For Allowing Me To Speak.

All One Needs To Do Is Read The News Press And It's Clear How Busy All Of You Are In The Many, Many Important Projects You Deal With On A Daily Basis.

I Just Witnessed It For The Last Hour And A Half.

Congratulations For That.

Steve Longran, I Addressed You Along With Three Other Residence, The Fence Problem On Orange River Boulevard.

I'm Pleased To Say Today The Only Reason We Have Been Here Is To Congratulate You And Thank You For A Job Well Done.

We We All Think In Today's Political Climate It's Very Important To Recognize All Of You For Several Things, And Across The Board.

Number One, You Allowed Us To Present A Problem, Gave Us A Fair Opportunity To Listen To The Problem And Tell Our Story.

Much Appreciated.

Secondly, Analyzed The Position We Took.

And Third, An Answer In Two Short Weeks.

You Took Action.

And Fourth, A Commitment To Resolve The Situation In May Or Sooner.

Which Is Really Great.

And Really What I'm Here Trying To Say Is We Want To Thank You For Your Commitment To Public Service, Willingness To Help And To Help A Small Part Of The Community.

Pine Ridge Is Just A Small Part Of The Problems You Deal With Every Day, So We Feel Important To Have Our Chance To Be Heard.

It Was Extremely Important To Us.

When I Got The News The Fence Was Going To Be Resolved, I Joked With Christina, Sent Her A Note And Said Christmas Morning At Pine Ridge And Everybody Wants To Know When It's Going To Be.

And As Soon As I Asked That Question, I Had An Answer The Next Morning.

So, It's Just Been A Tremendously Good Experience, And So Because Of That, Pine Ridge Has Formally Adopted Orange River Boulevard For Litter Control.

We Will Take Care Of That Section Of The Road.

Thank You To All Of You For Your Public Service.

The Situation Is A Great Example Of The Process Working Properly And Demonstrates You Care And Please Continue Your Fine Work On Behalf Of All Residents Of Lee County.

Thank You.

Commissioner Manning: That's The Last Card That I Have.

If Anyone Wishes To Speak, Fill Out A Card.

Thank You.

I Have To Talk To The Microphone, Mr. Karl.

Karl Vo, I Thank You For Listening To Me, Even Though I Did Not Fill Out A Card, It Was On The Other Card.

Audubon In Southwest Florida Has Two Issues, One Of Sending Water South Of The Big O, And Voted On This And Saving The Old Cape Coral Golf Course, And The Big O South Has 20,000 Acres That We Need To Buy Too Clean Up The Water That Goes To Caloosahatchee.

Nine Years Ago I Spoke In Fronts Of The Everglades Coalition, Asking Them To Sends The Water South And Nothing Has Occurred, And It Might Not Even Occur This Year Unless You Give It Your Undivided Support.

Representative Caldwell Is The Key.

He Is The Kingpin To Doing This, I Think It Has The Support Of The Senate But It Needs Support Of The Florida Representatives As Well To Clean Up Our River.

You Know, They Say The Farmers Are Losing 1,000 Jobs, We Lose Hundreds Of Thousands Of Jobs If It Keeps On Going Because People Leave When The Water Is Dirty, People Get Sick, And They Don't Come Back.

And The Fishermen And The People Who Collected The Crabs, They Are Gone.

There's No Crab Pods Left In The Caloosahatchee.

When We Had 15 To 20 Families, Depending On A Living For This, And Our Sea Grass Is Gone, And Our Fishing Guides Are Getting Less People To Do This.

So I Ask You To Please Prevail On The Legislature In Any Way, Shape Or Manner, Because It's Going To Take Years To Get This Reservoir Going.

And It Is Killing Our Sea Grasses En Mass Now As I Speak.

The Second Thing I Would Like To Talk About Is The Cape Coral Golf Course.

I've Collected Over 9,000 Signatures To Save The Old Golf Course From Being Developed.

Speaking Of Wildlife On There, There's Fox, There's Coyote, There's Bobcat, There's Otter, There's Eagles With Eaglets In The Nest As I Speak.

And They Have Changed The Spots Where You Can Petition People In Our Public Libraries To, For Example, Save The Old Golf Course.

What Has Happened, They Put Us In Places Where We Cannot Speak To The Public.

Our Amendment Rights Have Been Taken Away From Us, When You Cannot Speak To The Public.

You Might As Well Do Away With That Program.

Now, I've Talked To Mark Who Is The Attorney And He Blames The Library.

The Library Blames Mark, Or The Attorneys.

But Something Has To Be Done So We Have Our Amendment Rights Back Or Abolish The Program.

It's No Good Where Those Spots Have Been Delegated, Particularly In The Library.

And The Last Thing I Would Say Is We Are Going To Have A Save Our Cape Coral Golf Course For Green Space Today, A Rally, Inviting Each And Every One Of You To Come.

It Will Be At, On Palm Tree Boulevard Near Where The Electric Company Has Its Headquarters.

Thank You So Much For Allowing Me To Speak A Little Longer.

Commissioner Manning: County Manager Items On The Workshop That We Have Not Updated.

This Afternoon, Continue Conversation On Amendments.

Commissioner Manning: No Further Business To Come Before Us, We Will Adjourn, Thank You.

