



**EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Community Development/Public Works Center
1500 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor, Conf. Room 2C**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2018
3:00 pm**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes– November 14, 2017
3. 2016-2017 revised final Season Summary Report
4. Member Reports
5. Next Meeting – March 13, 2018

To appeal a decision made at this hearing, a record of the proceedings will be needed. The person appealing the decision is required to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

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Draft

MINUTES REPORT EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC) Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Laura Greeno, Chairman
Ed Elms

Betsie Hiatt
Mike Myers

Lee County Government & Representatives Present:

Becky Sweigert, DCD Planning, Principal Environmental Planner
Amanda Swindle, Assistant County Attorney
Pam Hendry, DCD Admin., Recording

Public Participants: None

Introduction

Ms. Greeno called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. in the second floor conference room 2C of the Community Development/Public Works Center, 1500 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor, Ft. Myers, Florida.

Approve Meeting Minutes – August 24, 2017

Mr. Elms said his name was misspelled in two places.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of Mr. Elms' name. Mr. Elms seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Myers moved to keep Laura Greeno as Chair and Betsie Hiatt as Vice-Chair. Mr. Elms seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2016-2017 Final Season Summary Report

Ms. Sweigert said this summary has been pared down to no longer include the cities, so it only has ETAC's monitoring information.

Mr. Elms asked if there was a fledgling for Bayshore Commons last year. Becky said yes it was late in the season.

Ms. Sweigert said she left the Three Sisters on Boca Grande nest on the list since it was declared as lost last year and it will come off for next season.

Ms. Greeno asked if Ms. Sweigert knew the total number of nests that FWC has in Lee County. Ms. Sweigert said they have over 100 total. Ms. Greeno said it looks like we've had a drastic decline but because we can't see a lot of the old ones, we can't monitor them. Ms. Sweigert said she will put a note under the table that this is just the data from the committee. She said she was trying to put in the cities' data but was having

discrepancies on what they were calling active and inactive and failures so it wasn't consistent with what the committee would've recommended in terms of activity level. Ms. Hiatt asked how many nests were removed from the report. Ms. Sweigert said between 10 and 13, and 9 of them were probably active. She said stability-wise we're the same but she did want to start representing the data more to just reflect the committee because some of the municipalities are changing and some don't even monitor.

Ms. Sweigert said she can put in another column to show a countywide comparison. Ms. Hiatt said that's a good idea because we did the previous year.

Mr. Elms said in 2010, 2011, 2012 there were a lot of fledged chicks and then it dropped down. Between 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 the nest summary shows it went from 59 active nests and chicks fledging to 39. He asked if that was the year she started counting only the unincorporated. Becky said no, we just started that last season. Ms. Greeno said in those high number years we were doing fly-overs. Ms. Sweigert we were doing flights and the state was doing flights, so we had better data and now the problem is we're getting more and more nests that we can't get to. She said she noticed that the FWC locator on their web site shows an update for a timeframe of 2015 and 2016 where they have a lot of updates on nests for which we have no information. For instance, Telegraph Creek is shown as active. She said it was odd to her that that was on there so she emailed the list of all the nests that we either can't get to or don't have good data for that the State had data for and asked them to send it to her, and it's about 20 to 25 nests. So that will be coming once they get it together. She was told the information's a bit old, but she'd still like to know because if there are coordinates for them, maybe we could get to them now.

Ms. Greeno asked if they can start a tally of territories declared lost or abandoned because this past year we did a lot and we lost a lot, from Hurricane Irma too.

Mr. Elms asked if Ms. Sweigert was going to keep the Singing Pines nest on the report because he's not going out there anymore. Ms. Sweigert said she'll probably take it off the next season's report because the tree is not going to survive much longer, but we still have the same territory which is now active. Mr. Elms said he'll check it a couple of times during the season.

Mr. Myers said it'd be nice if we had some kind of footnote because this information is great but you don't know if you're comparing year to year, and if we had a total that included total nests with the incorporated areas, that would be nice to know if the nests in the county are stable or decreasing. He said it looks like we're in the 40 nests range and then it dropped in 2013-2014. Ms. Sweigert said that was the January 2013 bad rain, we had storms and trees came down. Mr. Myers said there might be another nest drop off with Hurricane Irma. Ms. Sweigert said she'll make a note on the weather event there. Mr. Myers said other than someone just assuming it was because we had so much more development or it was weather related, or a combination.

Ms. Greeno asked about the Janie and Lisa's nest. Ms. Sweigert said she took it off.

Ms. Greeno said last year the old nest in Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve had birds in it and it has birds in it this year. Ms. Sweigert said the LE-024 was the one in the back by the mangroves and the one that was in the front was LE-16. Ms. Greeno said she has some coordinates. She said there's a new structure, not a nest yet, and last year they did a dummy little nest that was sad, but this year Ms. Bear's got pictures of them working on a different tree in the same location on the trail system.

Update on FWC Species Action Plan Webinar

Ms. Sweigert said the new bald eagle coordinator is Brie Ochoa and her role isn't as much as when we had Michelle to help with technical assistance or answer technical questions. Now, they're directing us more to the local regional biologists. They still have the enforcement measures, so we still have law enforcement ready for action if there's disturb, harm, harass, take. The new process is in place, they're not processing permits anymore. You have to get the permits through the federal government if you need one. She said she's having a hard time with the web sites because some days they're up and running, some days they're not, some days the information's available to help and some days it's not. You can still utilize the FWC nest locator for information and they said they'll keep it updated, but they won't update it regularly. They have the species action plan, it's non-regulatory, they'll keep their violations. They have broader objectives but the same goal. She went over the species action plans; to implement land management practices, protect them from disturbance, watch for the local population decline, partnerships. She said they're working more with Audubon, Eagle Watch or different programs to get data and they're going to be more receptive to receiving data from their partnerships, as she sees it. She said she's a little bit worried about that in terms of making sure that it's good data. Their monitoring is what she's still not sure about because they won't develop that until 2018 and that concerns her just from the standpoint of how do we know we're meeting our goals if we don't have that in place.

Mr. Myers said the big take-away for us in consulting is they're out of the permitting business. You have to go to the Feds now. Where you'd get a disturbance permit from FWC, now you're going to have to get it through US Fish & Wildlife. He said anyone who does any kind of permitting at the federal level knows that it takes a long time.

Ms. Sweigert said having to just contact your local regional biologist, not really utilizing the bald eagle coordinator has been tough because they're not as familiar with the territories. She said she's been in contact with Brie a lot, and Amy Clifton out of Lakeland on both eagles and burrowing owls. Basically, they gave us the web site for technical service assistance but it was giving her problems not working sometimes and she's hoping it's just some errors on the updating to make sure links are working and she knows that FWC is working very hard to ensure their web site is up to date because of this change. She said her take was, if you have an existing permit and you haven't acted upon it and you still want to do it, they'll still honor it, but it doesn't mean you may not still need that federal permit. Mr. Myers said a condition in a lot of those old permits was a \$30,000.00 or \$40,000.00 contribution to the eagle fund as well, so if you hadn't made that payment, do you have a permit? Ms. Sweigert said you may want to just do the federal permitting. Mr. Myers said but do you want to go through a federal process? He said years ago we

used to deal with US Fish & Wildlife and not FWC and Al Bagazzo was always really good to work with, and when they down-listed the eagle you had to deal with both US Fish & Wildlife and FWC.

Ms. Sweigert said the PowerPoint is on FWC's web site if you want to look at it. Some of the questions' answers were: statewide surveys will be done on intervals, they'll still collect, just not updating at the same rate; the monitoring issue is still not clear, they're relying on their partners; outside funding, there's still some; contact your local biologist; Jarrod is the database guy; still doing eagle necropsies; what happens to the permits under reference in terms and conditions of a federal, does it still apply; and basically prior to the rule changes still in effect, abide by those conditions. So, even if you have a permit from the state you can't disregard that permit. You still have to abide if you haven't finished it or if you're in progress with the permit. She said the biggest thing is the monitoring to make sure that we don't have population decline and we don't see issues because at the federal level, if one whole area gets take permits, then we have a population sink where we decline, but federally at a national level it's not a big deal, but to us it really is so that's why the monitoring and information we have will be more important.

Mr. Myers said the feds really issue a take permit in the sense that you can actually take the nest and the tree. You're still going to have the buffer requirements and all that and mitigation money having to be paid, so there's still protection measures that are going to be in place. Ms. Sweigert said it's still scrutinized for what you can get a take for. It's not for just any development, there're still those issues you have to overcome, which is positive.

Members Reports – Post Hurricane Irma

Mr. Elms said there's been no activity at Moody River Estates location but back in September he saw one adult at the original nest. Two adults were observed sitting in the Bayshore Commons nest, one was sitting low in the nest today possibly incubating eggs. The Lalonde has only a partial nest and no activity was observed this morning. At the Donald Rd/Pritchett nest two adults were observed steadily for the past two to two and a half months, no eggs yet, and two adults were observed perched above the nest today.

Ms. Hiatt said at the Bank of America nest she did not see any eagles and a couple of the branches came down on the west side of the nest after the storm but it still looks pretty sturdy, so they've definitely been there. At the Gloria & Cubles nest the tree is still standing but it lost a big branch so it's got three decrepit old branches holding the nest in place and it's a good sized nest, but didn't any eagles. She said the Helen Road nest is gone and she spent quite a bit of time trying to see if they'd chosen another tree but did not see anything. The Pacosin Dr. nest came down in April but she presumed that two big chicks fledged because they were huge in March. She said there're some sticks in the tree now, not a nest yet, but they've done some work. She said at the old Fire Station nest last year someone called because the property was listed for sale and she went out to check on the old nest which was gone. She then found a new good sized nest in a nice, healthy pine tree and she doesn't remember specifically if that nest was on the property that the people were inquiring about, but there has been extensive exotic

removal up front on the property. She said she couldn't see the nest this time so it might have come down during the hurricane. Ms. Sweigert said she hasn't heard about it but she left the layer on in case anybody came in we'd still have the circle on. Ms. Hiatt said maybe they're going to put a for sale sign up. Ms. Sweigert said she'll look into it. Ms. Hiatt said she didn't get back to Quail Trail but we had anecdotal comments that the eagles were there last year so she'll check it out. She asked if there was another nest off Alcorn that Ms. Sweigert was going to show her. Ms. Sweigert said she thinks the nest may be on Calusa Land Trust property so would have to get access. She said they can go to the end of Royal Oakley road and maybe check it out from there.

Mr. Myers said he saw no eagle activity at the St. Charles Harbor nest. He said the Coconut Pointe Time Share is a lost nest. Davis Road had no activity in over five years. At A & W Bulb there's very little left of the top of the tree and no adults were seen the area yet. He said at the Daniels Market Place location he hasn't seen the eagles but there's nest material in the old nest tree. The Robalo nest can't be seen unless it's a windy day so the bamboo is blowing aside. At Jonathan Harbor two adult eagles were perched in the pine snags to the south, but no new nest material was in the old nest tree. At the Alico Road location he saw an eagle in October perched in the nest tree from last year, and the alternate tree is full of nest material, but he saw no adults in the tree yet. Lakes Park keeps seeing eagles perched on the cell tower and there's some material that could've been left from the Ospreys, but he doesn't know if they're nesting yet. At Pub & Pickle he saw two adults perched on top of the nest tree and some nest material has been added to the nest tree. Ms. Sweigert said the tree died just recently. Mr. Myers said at the Lexington Middle nest, new nest material's been added to the tree next door, just to the east. He said Andy Woodruff saw the eagles in the nest tree yesterday.

Ms. Sweigert said the FWC web site is showing a potential nest in the Charter Club (across from Lakes Park) and they've given it a number but she went there one day and saw a great slash pine but saw only a few sticks.

Ms. Sweigert said she got a report of a possible nest very near Jonathan and St. Charles Harbor, in a community called Sanibel Sunset Villas. She said Audrey from SCCF got the call and was going to go in there and look at it and get back to her. She said it made her wonder because St. Charles Harbor isn't active. Mr. Myers said he'll drive by next time he's out there.

Ms. Hiatt said she heard eagles are nesting on a cell tower in the old golf course in Cape Coral. She said the neighborhood nearby has been watching the eagles and said they nested there last year and are active again this year. Mr. Elms said he'll check his Cape Coral list and call Justin Haller about it. Some discussion followed about Cape Coral nests.

Ms. Greeno said she hasn't seen any eagles at the Lehigh Acres WWTP nest. She said at the Galt Preserve nest she's pretty sure they're incubating.

Ms. Sweigert said Ms Bear is going to email her report to her and she'll let them know

about the Vacation Lane and the St. Jude nests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2017.

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2016-2017 Lee County Eagle Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC) Bald Eagle Nesting Season Summary

Nest Number	Nest Name	Location	Nest Activity	Fledgling #	Nest Condition	Nest Tree Species	Comments
LE-002	St. Charles Harbor	34-45-23	Active	1	Good	Slash pine	
LE-006K	Singing Pines	31-43-25	Inactive	0	Small	Dead Slash Pine	No activity, nest tree is dead and nest is small with vegetation starting to grow over it
LE-006K	Bayshore Commons	31-43-25	Active	1		Slash pine	new nest found in Bayshore Commons.
LE-010	Quail Trail	31-43-22	Inactive	0	Gone	Australian pine	unable to locate the nest and didn't observe
LE-018A	Manatee Bay	26-45-22	Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-020A	St. Jude	35-45-22	Inactive	0	Good	Australian Pine	Adults present but no chicks raised
LE-023	Post Office/St. James Preserve	26-45-22	Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	slash pine died from pine boring beetles
LE-026B	Donald Rd/Pritchett	30-43-25	Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-028C	Coconut Point Timeshare	06-47-25	Inactive	0	Bad	Slash Pine	Nest pretty much gone
LE-038C	Temple Judea	29-45-24	Active	2	Good	Australian Pine	Australian Pine tree is dead
LE-043B	Moody River Estates	15-44-24	Inactive	0	Good	Slash Pine	The alternate nest located near lot 40 within Moody River Estates was cut down on 6/16/2017. Original nest is gone but tree is good shape.
LE-044A	Devonwood	35-45-24	Inactive	0	Gone	Slash Pine	declared lost in 2016
LE-045	Ida's	22-43-24	Inactive	0	Gone	Slash Pine	no activity
LE-047	Capri Ln	07-44-22	Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-053	Vacation Lane	02-46-22	Active	2	Good	Australian Pine	
LE-056	Lehigh Acres WWTP	30-44-27	Active	0	Good	Slash Pine	No activity
LE-057	Pinehurst	31-43-22	Inactive	0	Gone	Australian Pine	unable to locate a nest
LE-058	Daniels & I75	22-45-25	Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	Nest down at the end of nesting season, May 2017.
LE-061	Gloria & Cubles	16-44-22	Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-063	I-75/Luckett	14-44-25	Inactive	0	Small	Slash Pine	no activity. Nest is small.
LE-069	Robalo	10-45-24	Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-070	Jonathon Harbour	10-46-23	Inactive	0	Small	Slash Pine	Adults present and some attending to the nest but no incubation observed.
LE-071	Watrous	36-45-23	Inactive	0	Gone	Australian Pine	Adjacent homeowner indicates the nest and nest tree are gone.
LE-071A	Pub and Pickle	31-45-24	Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	Given the old Watrous Number by FWC during the 2015-2016 nesting season. One chick was taken to CROW on April 22, 2016. The chick was on the ground malnourished and dehydrated. Returned to nest in May 2016.
LE-072	Boca Grande	14-43-20	Inactive	0	Poor	Australian Pine	nest on Jose Gaspar Island declared lost nest in 2016

2016-2017 Lee County Eagle Technical Advisory Committtee (ETAC) Bald Eagle Nesting Season Summary

Nest Number	Nest Name	Location	Nest Activity	Fledgling #	Nest Condition	Nest Tree Species	Comments
LE-072A	Three Sisters	12-43-20	unknown			Australian Pine	
LE-081	Bank of America	28-44-22	Active	2	Good	Australian Pine	
LE-087	Captiva Dr. (Captiva)	02-46-21	Active	1	Good	Australian Pine	
LE-093	Alico Road	04-46-25	Active	0	Small	Cypress	Two adults were present, added nest material to the tree but no incubation observed.
LE-100	Barrancas Dr	31-43-22	Inactive	0	Small	slash pine	
No #	Helen Road	31-43-22	Active	1	Good	Australian Pine	
LE-102	Galt Preserve	35-45-22	Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-105	Lexington Middle School	04-46-22	Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	
LE-107	Pacosin Dr	06-44-22	Active	2	Good	Australian Pine	Nest is down at the end of nesting season.
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Nesting Season	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016*	2015-2016 ETAC	2016-2017 ETAC	2016-2017*
Active Nests	43	32	29	30	52	19	47
Failed Nests	2	5	3	3	6	1	2
Fledged Chicks	59	39	37	27	39	27	47
Young fledged per Active Nest	1.37	1.21	1.27	1.11	1.33	1.42	1

All Lee County

ETAC Data only

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