

In Re: Florida Cabinet Meeting

Florida Cabinet Meeting

August 23, 2022

PHIPPS REPORTING

Raising the Bar!

STATE OF FLORIDA

IN RE: MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET

CABINET MEMBERS: GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHLEY MOODY
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JIMMY PATRONIS
COMMISSIONER AGRICULTURE NIKKI FRIED

DATE: Tuesday, August 23, 2022

TIME: Commenced at 9:00 a.m.
Concluded at 11:44 a.m.

LOCATION: Cabinet Meeting Room
Lower Level, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL

Stenographically Reported by:

Angie Adler, RPR

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1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2 OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND
3 Secretary Shawn Hamilton
4 Portia Sapp, Florida Dept. of Agriculture
5 and Consumer Affairs
6 Erin Albury, Florida Forest Service

7 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. Trustees,
8 Board of Trustees Internal Improvement Trust Fund,
9 Sean Hamilton.

10 MR. HAMILTON: Good morning. As an Air Force
11 guy, I don't get to say it, but after the general,
12 just gotta say hoorah. I just got to. You can't
13 help it around him.

14 Good morning, Governor, General Moody, CFO
15 Patronis and Commissioner Fried. For today's
16 meeting, there are 20 items on the Board of
17 Trustees' agenda.

18 Item 1:

19 MR. HAMILTON: Item 1 is a request to approve
20 the minutes from the March 29th Board of Trustees
21 meeting. The department recommends approval.

22 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
23 approve. Is there a second?

24 MS. FRIED: Second.

25 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objection, the

1 motion carries.

2 Item 2:

3 MR. HAMILTON: Item 2 is a request to approve
4 the Lignumvitae Key Aquatic Preserve Management
5 Plan. The management plan was recently approved by
6 the Acquisition and Restoration Council on June
7 10th, 2022. The department recommends approval.

8 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
9 approve. Is there a second?

10 MS. FRIED: Second.

11 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objection, the
12 motion carries.

13 Item 3:

14 MR. HAMILTON: Item 3 is the consideration of
15 an after-the-fact application from Dolphin Research
16 Center, Incorporated, for a renewal and
17 modification of an expired five year sovereignty
18 submerged lands lease to increase the preempted
19 area for an existing marine mammal sanctuary
20 research and educational facility.

21 The project was noticed. No objections were
22 received. Department recommends approval.

23 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
24 approve. Is there a second?

25 MR. PATRONIS: Second.

1 MS. FRIED: Second.

2 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Okay. Hearing no
3 objections, the motion carries.

4 Item 4:

5 MR. HAMILTON: Item 4 is the consideration of
6 an application from Eagle LNG Partners LLC for a
7 new five year sovereignty submerged lands lease for
8 a private commercial docking facility. A new 25
9 year sovereignty submerged private easement for an
10 access channel and the authorization for the
11 severance of sovereignty material. The project
12 will accommodate the development of a natural gas
13 liquefaction and export facility that will include
14 a fueling pier and mooring of a single LNG vessel.

15 The project was noticed. No objections were
16 received. The department recommends approval.

17 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
18 approve. Is there a second?

19 MS. FRIED: Second.

20 MR. PATRONIS: Second.

21 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Okay. No objection, the
22 motion carries.

23 MR. PATRONIS: Governor, that's a real
24 exciting project. I just gotta -- I know there's
25 some people here from Jacksonville. Who's from

1 Jacksonville in the back of the room for that
2 project? I think I saw Herschel here. Is Herschel
3 back there, too? Thank you all for being here.
4 This is such a -- this is a big deal to be able to
5 have LNG exports out of Jacksonville. Cool stuff.

6 Item 5:

7 MR. HAMILTON: Item 5 is consideration of a
8 request from the Florida Department of
9 Transportation for a modification of deed
10 restriction and to provide consent to FDOT to lease
11 a portion of the subject parcel to Seven Kings
12 Holdings, Incorporated.

13 If approved, language within the deed will be
14 revised from road purposes to public purposes to
15 allow Seven Kings Holdings, Incorporated to install
16 additional parking and a dock that will be
17 associated within adjacent proposed restaurant that
18 will be open to the public.

19 FDOT will receive all lease fees which will be
20 used toward future state-funded transportation
21 projects. Department recommends approval.

22 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
23 approve. Is there a second?

24 MR. PATRONIS: Second.

25 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objections, the

1 motion carries.

2 Item 6:

3 MR. HAMILTON: Item 6 is approval to donate
4 and convey approximately 14,114 acres of state
5 owned Section 16 school lands and swamp and
6 overflow lands located in Big Cypress of the United
7 States National Park Service to complete the Big
8 Cypress Conservation Act.

9 Over the years since the act was passed, the
10 department has worked closely with the National
11 Park Service in acquiring and conveying lands
12 within Big Cypress. This conveyance will complete
13 the transfer and the National Park Service will
14 deposit \$1,044,480 into the State School Trust Fund
15 for the reimbursement of acquisition costs.

16 Department recommends approval.

17 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
18 approve. Is there a second?

19 MS. FRIED: Second.

20 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objection, the
21 motion carries.

22 Item 7:

23 MR. HAMILTON: Item 7 is consideration of an
24 option agreement to acquire a conservation easement
25 over 615 acres within the St. Johns River Connector

1 Florida Forever Project from Crippen Properties,
2 LLC, for \$2,070,000. This conservation easement
3 will protect important habitat for numerous
4 impaired species in the area and provide base
5 buffering to nearby Avon Park Air Force Range.

6 This property is within a wildlife corridor of
7 the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and the
8 conservation easement will be monitored by DEP's
9 Office of Environmental Services.

10 The department recommends approval.

11 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
12 approve. Is there a second?

13 MS. FRIED: Second.

14 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Any objections?

15 (No response.)

16 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing none, the motion
17 carries.

18 Item 8:

19 MR. HAMILTON: Item 8 is consideration of an
20 option agreement to acquire a conservation easement
21 over 3,634 acres within the St. Johns River
22 Connector Florida Forever Project from Abington
23 Preserve, LLC, for \$7,750,000. The conservation
24 easement will provide an important buffer to the
25 Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park and continue

1 to support rural agricultural practices compatible
2 with ecosystem functions essential for resilient
3 and sustainable wildlife populations, these
4 properties within the wildlife corridor of the
5 Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

6 The conservation easement will be monitored by
7 the DEP's Office of Environmental Services. The
8 department recommends approval.

9 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
10 approve. Is there a second?

11 MS. FRIED: Second.

12 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection, the motion
13 carries.

14 Item 9:

15 MR. HAMILTON: Item 9 is consideration of an
16 option agreement to acquire a conservation easement
17 over 11,950 acres within the Horse Creek Ranch
18 Florida Forever Project from Carlton Horse Creek
19 Partners, LLC, for \$37,818,750, and the designation
20 of the Florida Department of Environmental
21 Protection as the monitoring agents and
22 confirmation of the management policy statement.

23 This conservation easement with coordination
24 from the Southwest Florida Water Management
25 District will ensure the protection of wildlife and

1 water resources of over 16,000 acres within the
2 Peace River Basin. This property is within the
3 wildlife corridor of the Florida Ecological
4 Greenways Network and the easement will be
5 monitored by DEP's Office of Environmental
6 Services. The department recommends approval.

7 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
8 approve. Is there a second?

9 MS. FRIED: Second.

10 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. Hearing no
11 objection, the motion carries.

12 Item 10:

13 MR. HAMILTON: Item 10 is consideration of an
14 option agreement to acquire approximately 376 acres
15 within the St. Joe Timberland Florida Forever
16 Project from George J. Mahr for \$1,310,000. The
17 acquisition of the parcel will expand Tate Hell's
18 State Forest and increase the forest ecological
19 value and provide additional public access and
20 recreational activities. The property will be
21 managed by the Florida Forest Service as a part of
22 Tate's Hell State Forest.

23 I also want to make note that Franklin County
24 is also eligible for payment in lieu of taxes,
25 which provides funds to offset the loss of property

1 to tax revenue when the Board of Trustees acquires
2 conservation and recreation lands. The department
3 recommends approval.

4 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
5 approve. Is there a second?

6 MS. FRIED: Second.

7 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objection, the
8 motion carries.

9 Item 11:

10 MR. HAMILTON: Item 11 is consideration of an
11 option agreement to acquire 768 acres within the
12 Wolfe Creek Florida Forever from the Trust For
13 Public Lands for \$1,958,400. With this
14 acquisition, the Board of Trustees have acquired
15 over 11,000 acres in the immediate area which will
16 provide a critical buffer for the Whiting Field
17 Naval Air Station and provides a strategic addition
18 to the adjacent state forest.

19 This property is within the wildlife corridor
20 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and
21 will be managed by the Florida Forest Service as
22 part of the Blackwater River State Forest.

23 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
24 approve. Is there a second?

25 MS. FRIED: Second. And I have a comment on

1 these two items. First of all -- it's for Items
2 Number 10 and 11. Thank you so much for bringing
3 these two forward. I support these acquisitions of
4 these two properties which we managed, of course,
5 by my department and the Florida Forest Service.
6 These two projects will bolster existing state
7 forests. The land within the St. Joe Timberland
8 Florida Forest Project is ranked number 2 in the
9 climate change lands project category. It will
10 offer protection from future development to provide
11 protection for water resources and native
12 ecosystems. The land in the Wolfe Creek included
13 historical and architectural and archeological
14 sites.

15 Both these land acquisitions are important to
16 our state's forest environment and our history, so
17 thank you again for bringing this forward.

18 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you, Commissioner. And
19 Governor, as I'll constantly say and always say,
20 I'm amazed at the job that the department and
21 agency in our land acquisition staff are doing to
22 bring these properties into forever conservation.
23 With this agenda, we've bought over 17,000 acres
24 into permanent conservation, so hats off to them
25 for putting these irreplaceable lands into the

1 future generations' hands.

2 So with that, this concluded the department's
3 portion, but I would like to turn Items 12 through
4 18 to be presented by Portia Sapp with the
5 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
6 Division of Aquaculture, and Items 19 and 20 will
7 be presented by Erin Albury with the Florida Forest
8 Service.

9 MS. SAPP: Good morning, trustees. Today I
10 have seven items for your consideration. All of
11 the items have been reviewed by FWC and the
12 Department of Environmental Protection, Florida
13 Coastal Office, and none of the agencies had any
14 comments.

15 Additionally, the National Marine Fisheries
16 Service and the Army Corps have reviewed the items
17 and determined the activities proposed are not
18 likely to have adverse impacts and are compliant
19 with our general programmatic permit.

20 Item 12:

21 MS. SAPP: So Item 12 for your consideration
22 is a request to modify two existing bottom leases
23 in the Mosquito Lagoon in Volusia County to allow
24 use of the full water column. One parcel is 3
25 acres in size. The other is 5 acres. They were

1 originally approved in the 1980s. Staff recommends
2 approval.

3 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
4 approve. Is there a second?

5 MS. FRIED: Second.

6 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objection, the
7 motion carries.

8 Item 13:

9 MS. SAPP: Item 13 for your consideration are
10 two new one and a half acre leases requested by
11 Near Futures Group, LLC, and Michael Todd Brackin
12 in St. George Sound in Franklin County for oyster
13 aquaculture businesses. The proposed site is
14 located in gulf sturgeon critical habitat, but the
15 applicants propose to use floating gear which is
16 authorized in our programmatic general permit.
17 Staff recommends approval.

18 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
19 approve. Is there a second?

20 MS. FRIED: Second.

21 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hearing no objection, the
22 motion carries.

23 Item 14:

24 MS. SAPP: Item 14 for your consideration is a
25 new two acre lease, requested by Shana Alford, in

1 Escambia Bay in Santa Rosa County to expand an
2 oyster aquaculture business. Again, the site is
3 located in gulf sturgeon habitat, but the applicant
4 proposes to use floating gear, so staff recommends
5 approval of this item.

6 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
7 approve. Is there a second?

8 MS. FRIED: Second.

9 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection, the motion
10 carries.

11 Item 15:

12 MS. SAPP: For Item 15, FDACS is requesting
13 two new five acre and seven new two acre bottom
14 leases adjacent to the Corrigan's North Aquaculture
15 Use Zone expansion in Levy County. The location of
16 the proposed parcels will allow the applicants to
17 incorporate into the existing Aquaculture Use Zone
18 upon approval.

19 The original AUZ was approved in 2014 and is
20 comprised of 13 parcels. Staff recommends approval
21 of this item.

22 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
23 approve. Is there a second?

24 MS. FRIED: Second.

25 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection. The motion

1 carries.

2 Item 16:

3 MS. SAPP: Item 16, FDACS is requesting 15 new
4 two acre bottom leases adjacent to the Pelican Reef
5 Aquaculture Use Zone in Levy County. The location
6 of the parcels will allow the applicants to
7 incorporate into the exiting AUZ which was
8 originally approved in 1999 and it consists of 90
9 parcels.

10 In September 2014, the Board of Trustees
11 authorized acts to modify the existing bottom
12 leases to allow use of the water column, and we ask
13 for the same authority with these leases. Staff
14 recommends approval of this item.

15 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
16 approve. Is there a second?

17 MS. FRIED: Second.

18 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection, the motion
19 carries.

20 Item 17:

21 MS. SAPP: Item 17, FDACS is requesting three
22 new 4.2 acre bottom leases adjacent to the Dog
23 Island East Aquaculture Use Zone in Levy County.
24 The Aquaculture Use Zone was approved in 2014 and
25 is currently comprised of 25 parcels. Again, the

1 Board approved modification of these parcels in
2 September of 2020, so for consistency, we're asking
3 for the same authority with these and staff
4 recommends approval of this item.

5 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
6 approve. Is there a second?

7 MS. FRIED: Second.

8 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection. The motion
9 carries.

10 Item 18:

11 MS. SAPP: My last item, FDACS is requesting
12 19 new two acre bottom leases adjacent to the Gulf
13 Jackson Aquaculture Use Zone, also in Levy County.
14 The Aquaculture Use Zone was originally approved by
15 the trustees in 1992 and is comprised of 162
16 parcels, and in August of 2017, the Board approved
17 modification of those leases to water column upon
18 request as well, so again, we're asking for the
19 same authority with these new parcels if approved
20 and staff recommends approval of this item.

21 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Okay. I move to approve.
22 Is there a second?

23 MS. FRIED: Second.

24 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection, the motion
25 carries.

1 MS. FRIED: And I have a comment, too. These,
2 all these 15 through 18 are all aquaculture
3 expansions in Levy County which will greatly
4 benefit the economy, the local community, as well
5 supporting Florida's important aquaculture and
6 larger agriculture industry, so thank you, Portia
7 and your team, for bringing these forward to us.

8 MS. SAPP: Thank you, trustees.

9 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Okay.

10 MR. ALBURY: Good morning.

11 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Hey.

12 MR. ALBURY: We have two Rural Family Lands
13 Protection Program items for your consideration
14 this morning.

15 Item 19:

16 MR. ALBURY: The first is Item Number 19,
17 Hendrie Ranch conservation easement in Highlands
18 County. We are requesting approval of an option
19 agreement to acquire a 663 acre perpetual
20 conservation easement within the Hendrie Ranch
21 project from J & D Hendrie, LLC, and designation of
22 the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
23 Services Florida Forest Service as a monitoring
24 agency.

25 The trustees' purchase price is \$1,595,500,

1 1,500,000 or 94 percent of the purchase price may
2 be provided through a grant from the U.S. Fish and
3 Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Program
4 administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife
5 Conservation Commission.

6 Additionally, the Nature Conservancy is
7 providing a \$100,000 endowment to provide for the
8 long-term management of the property. Our partners
9 with TNC, NFWC are represented today by Wendy
10 Matthews and Lara McFarey(phonetic). Staff
11 recommends approval of the item.

12 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Okay. I move to approve.
13 Is there a second?

14 MS. FRIED: Second.

15 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection. The motion
16 carries.

17 Item 20:

18 MR. ALBURY: Second item, Item Number 20, Buck
19 Island Ranch conservation easement, also in
20 Highlands County. We are requesting approval of an
21 option agreement to acquire an 1883 acre perpetual
22 conservation easement within the Buck Island Ranch
23 project from Archbold Expeditions in designation of
24 FDACS' FFS as the monitoring agency.

25 Trustee purchase price is \$4,067,000.

1 74 percent of that or \$3,015,000 of the purchase
2 price may be provided through a grant from the U.S.
3 Department of Agriculture Natural Resource
4 Conservation Service. Dr. Hilary Swain is here
5 representing Achbold.

6 Staff recommends approval of the item.

7 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: All right. I move to
8 approve. Is there a second?

9 MS. FRIED: Second.

10 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: No objection. The motion
11 carries.

12 MS. FRIED: Also, Governor, the rule on Family
13 Lands Protection Program has been one of my top
14 priorities throughout my administration. I just
15 wish the legislature had continued to prioritize it
16 as well, as we could have done so much more.

17 Administered by the FDACS and our Florida
18 Forest Service, it's programs like this that will
19 ultimately protect Florida's natural lands and
20 environment through vital conservation efforts, so
21 thank you again, Erin, for all the work that you
22 all do.

23 MR. ALBURY: Thank you, Commissioner.

24 GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Okay. Thank you.

25 * * * * *

ERRATA SHEET

Meeting of the Governor and Cabinet

Meeting Date: August 23, 2022

Page	Line	Error or Change	Reason for Change
60	9	Sean to Shawn	Incorrect spelling
65	5	Omit nearby	Extra word
72	15	Omit expansion	Extra word
73	7	Change exiting to existing	Incorrect word
77	12	Change rule on to Rural and	Incorrect words
60	24	Add Ms. Moody: Second	Missing detail
61	10	Add Ms. Moody: Second	Missing detail
62	1	Omit Ms. Fried: Second	Incorrect detail
62	19	Add Ms. Moody: Second and Mr. Patronis: Second	Missing detail
64	19	Add Ms. Moody: Second and Omit Ms. Fried: Second	Missing detail
65	13	Add Ms. Moody: Second and Mr. Patronis: Second and Omit Ms. Fried: Second	Incorrect detail
66	11	Add Ms. Moody: Second and Mr. Patronis: Second and Omit Ms. Fried: Second	Incorrect detail
67	9	Add Ms. Moody: Second and Mr. Patronis: Second and Omit Ms. Fried: Second	Incorrect detail
68	6	Add Ms. Moody: Second and Mr. Patronis: Second	Missing detail
71	5	Add Ms. Moody: Second	Missing detail