

**FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST GOVERNING BOARD
QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mara Gambineri, (Chair) Chief of Staff, Florida DEP; Deborah Denys, Former elected official of a county government; Noah Valenstein, Representative of a nonprofit organization; Frank Mingo, Former elected official of a metropolitan municipal government; Vacant, Representative of the development industry.

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Reeves (Program Manager), Shauna Allen (OMC Manager), Patricia Henry (Senior Attorney), Lucia Cortez (Planner, Region 2), Melanie Orozco (Planner, Region 3), Callie DeHaven (Director of State Lands), Andrew Fleener (Deputy Director of State Lands), Jeremy Pe (Division of State Lands), Reilly Allman (Division of State Lands), La'Datrea Manatee (Division of State Lands), La'Cheryl Scurry (Division of State Lands), Asiayana Horne (Division of State Lands)

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Reecy, Lauren Cruz, Jay Scott, Deborah Drum, Somer Pell

VIRTUAL VIA GOTOWEBINAR

Frances Alford, Jeremy Allen, Almartha Barrett, Terry Bentley, Ken Bradshaw, Jill Buckley, Ross Dickerson, Scott Eastman, Carla Gaskin, Misty Green, Leah Harnish, Lois La Seur, Jared Lee, Celeste Lyon, Jenny Polynice-Hall, Deborah Resos, Bruce Ritchie, Rebecca Robinette, Eric Seib, Arlene Taylor, Sheila Theus, Catherine Vecchio, Jan Kirwan

**Item 1: Opening
Roll Call/Establish Quorum
Call to Order**

Chair Gambineri called the February 12, 2025, meeting of the Florida Communities Trust Governing Board to order at 9:00 a.m.

Linda Reeves was introduced as the moderator for FCT Governing Board meeting. Shauna Allen was introduced as the facilitator for the meeting. The quorum was established with four members present.

Item 2: Announcements

No announcements from the Board members.

Linda Reeves presented the 30th Anniversary Celebration for the Florida Communities Trust.

Ken Reecy, the former Executive Director of FCT, reflected on his time in the role and how the program's legacy and ongoing success continue to make an impact.

Shauna Allen provided a few housekeeping rules for the meeting including Public Comment Instructions.

Item 3: Consider the August 14, 2024, Meeting Summaries.

Staff recommended approval of the meeting summaries.

No comments or questions from the Board.

No comments or questions from the Public.

The item was approved by general consent with no objections.

- APPROVE**
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:**
- WITHDRAW**
- NOT APPROVE**
- OTHER:**

Item 4: Staff Reports – New Staff presented

FCT staff members: Lucia Cortez, Planner for Region II and LaCheryl Scurry, Administrative Support for FCT

Annual Report

Melanie Orozco provided an update for FCT 2023-2024 on the two projects that closed successfully and the acreage acquired across the state. The allocation of projects across the state Region I has 33.4%, Region II has 34.3%, and Region III has 32.3% of acreage in FCT. We have been actively encouraging more submissions for FCT projects.

Question from the Board: Deborah Denys requested email copies of the factual numbers reported.

Comments from the Board: Mara Gambineri remarked that the distribution and representation are equally spread throughout the state.

No comments or questions from the Public.

Item 5: Process for Parks and Open Space Ranking and Selection

Shauna Allen presented the grant application, timeline, evaluation process and final Governing Board approval process for the FY2024-2025 project applications.

Comments from the Board: Mara Gambineri noted that site visits prior to property approval are very helpful in facilitating the application process.

No comments or questions from the Public.

Item 6: Presentation by Representatives from Regions of completed FCT project sites for 5 year stewardship

1. Region 1 – Wakulla County
Somer Pell, Assistant County Administrator of Community Development
2. Region 2 – Hillsborough County
Jan Kirwan, Conservation Parks Coordinator
3. Region 3 – Palm Beach County
Deborah Drum, Director, Dept. of Environmental Resources Management

Comments from the Board: Deborah Denys applauded all Regions representatives for their resilience during the pandemic and accomplished projects with FCT how great all the work that was done.

Noah Valenstein applauded Palm Beach County for their consistency applying for FCT grants.

Item 6: Presentations, Acknowledgements, Closing Comments

Linda Reeves presented lapel pins to the board members and presenters, and photos were taken.

Board members were presented with embossed FCT walking sticks and encouraged to get lost in our parks.

Item 7: Closing Comments

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2025, at 9 a.m. This is a change from the previous scheduled date. Will return to the Douglas Bldg., Room 137.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gambineri adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent with no objections.

DRAFT