

**ITEM 2:**

Consider the December 9-10, 2021, meeting summaries.

**DSL STAFF REMARKS:**

None

**DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the meeting summary.

**ARC RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

**APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFER**

**WITHDRAW**

**NOT APPROVE**

**OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Acquisition and Restoration Council Meeting Summary

**Public Hearing:** December 9, 2021

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Council Meeting:** December 10, 2021

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Department of Environmental Protection  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
Conference Room 137  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

and via Webinar

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### DECEMBER 9, 2021

#### Members in Attendance:

Mr. Erin Albury, FFS via Webinar  
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member  
Mr. Tom Houston, FWC  
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member via Webinar  
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member  
Ms. Mara Gambineri, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

#### Item 1: Call to Order at 1 p.m.

DEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Mara Gambineri, called the hearing to order and asked council members to introduce themselves. She also announced DEP and FWC received a \$33 million dollar grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for acquisition of 32,000 acres along the Apalachicola River. There were no additional council announcements. ARC Staff Director, Shauna Allen provided housekeeping announcements including webinar instructions and information for public comments.

**Item 2:** Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 1 Proposal Presentations for Aucilla Corridor, Bar-B Ranch, Charlie Creek, Eight Mile, Foshalee Slough, Johnson Homestead, Lake Sampala Timber and Land, River Property, and the South Prong of the St. Mary's River.

**Discussion:** Mr. Peter Kleinhenz, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TT), presented the Aucilla Corridor proposal in Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties. The 18,609-acre property proposed for fee and less-than-fee acquisition links conservation lands and significant ecological and cultural features. Approximately 85% of the proposal falls within the Wacissa Basin Management Action Plan and 69% falls within Priority 2 of the Florida

Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN). In addition to the documented listed species, the property includes seepage marshes, third magnitude springs and cultural resources associated with sinkholes on the property. The proposal builds off existing conservation lands increasing water quality benefits and optimizing land management activities including prescribed fire and pine restoration. TT is actively working the area with landowners establishing conservation easements.

Mr. Shane Wellendorf, TT, presented the Foshalee Slough proposal in northern Leon County. This less-than-fee proposal consists of 945 acres adjacent to the Red Hills Conservation project and is managed for recreation, hunting, and aesthetics. The property has been owned by the Ireland family since the 1940s. Conservation of the property would have natural resource and wildlife benefits and link to the larger conservation network formed by other conservation easements. The property is within Priority 2 of the FEGN and includes 80% wetlands surrounded by forested uplands managed with prescribed fire. There are 14 rare and listed species and three archaeological sites documented on the property.

Mr. John Maehl, Martin County, presented the Bar-B Ranch proposal in western Martin County. The fee simple proposal consists of 1,910 acres and is managed by the single owner as recreation land. The mesic and sand pine flatwoods and wetlands adjacent to the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area and Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area provide an opportunity for hydrologic restoration with benefits to the natural lands component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The property is historically connected through the slough system from the Loxahatchee River to the St. Johns River Basin. Martin County values natural lands and conserving conservation lands for recreation and wildlife and has been working closely with Palm Beach County and others in the Pal-Mar area. Mr. Maehl also stated that the county will bring forward an ordinance for land acquisition funding to support partnership efforts with the state.

Mr. Carl Salafrio, Environmental Consulting and Design, presented the Eight Mile proposal in Dixie County. The 5,706-acre property proposed for less-than-fee acquisition consists of mixed wetlands and uplands in the Crystal and Suwannee river basins that eventually discharge into the Gulf of Mexico. Uses include silviculture and hunting on the property dominated by flatwoods and forested wetlands. The property is within Priority 2 of the FEGN and is adjacent to existing conservation lands providing for local and landscape connectivity.

Mr. James Hancock, landowner, presented the Lake Sampala Timber and Land proposal in Madison County. The 1,347-acre property located between Live Oak and Tallahassee was historically managed for timber. Proposed for less-than-fee acquisition, the property consists of shrub/scrub wetlands, wet prairie, titi swamp, freshwater marsh and hydric pine flatwoods. It is adjacent to existing conservation lands and the Sampala Lake ARCCO and Koblegard Agricultural and Conservation easements. There is a large black bear population on the property that lies adjacent to Sampala Lake and the site of the San Pedro Mission dating back to the 1600s. Acquisition would conserve the southern half of the lake and the wildlife corridor around the lake.

Mr. Ramesh Buch, North Florida Land Trust, presented the South Prong of the St. Mary's River proposal in Baker County. The 1,146-acre property is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and is one of two properties that are proposed for conservation easements. The landowner is negotiating with the NRCS Healthy Forest Program for the northern property. Program budget limitations will not cover the cost of both properties. The property is included the Florida Wildlife Corridor and contributes to the protection of the South Prong headwaters. Features of the property include a mixture of pine flatwoods, cypress swamp and hydric hammock. It is managed for a diversity of species and age classes with integrated wildlife management and forestry. There are no improvements other than logging roads on the property used for educational purposes, property management tours and resource and property management training. The property has been recognized at the state and national level for stewardship and was awarded 2018 Florida Outstanding Tree Farm.

Mr. Jim Strickland, on behalf of Julie Morris, presented the Charlie Creek proposal in Hardee County. The 1,534-acre property proposed for less-than-fee acquisition represents the remainder of the property currently under a Rural and Family Lands easement. The property is within Priority 1 of the FEGN and lies just outside of the phosphate district within the Peace River basin.

Mr. Strickland, on behalf of Julie Morris, presented the Johnson Homestead proposal in DeSoto County. The less-than-fee property includes 703 acres adjacent to the Peace River State Forest in the Peace River to Green Swamp corridor. Located within Priority 3 of the FEGN, the property has high surface water priority and priority wetlands with high ecological significance.

Mr. Strickland, on behalf of Julie Morris, also presented the River Property proposal in Highlands County. The 3,068-acre property is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and lies on the Kissimmee River. The property lies within Priority 1 of the FEGN and has high value to the water management district for restoration. If developed for more intensive land uses it would prove detrimental to the river.

There were no further comments.

**ARC Action:** No action required.

**Item 3:** Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendment Presentations for Myakka Ranchlands, Maytown Flatwoods, St. Joe Timberlands, and Wolfe Creek Forest.

**Discussion:** Mr. Strickland, on behalf of Julie Morris, presented the Myakka Ranchlands - J Bar C Ranch West Boundary Amendment. The proposed property is 622 acres located in Manatee County and consists of the remaining portion of property added to the project a few months ago. The property is surrounded by proposed conservation easements and has both mining and development interests. The property is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and is currently leased.

Mr. Logan Holtz, Land Advisors Organization, presented the Maytown Flatwoods - Buck Lake

Boundary Amendment. Located in Volusia County, the 554-acre property is surrounded by the Buck Lake Conservation Area, Volusia FAS Mitigation Bank and other existing and proposed conservation easements. Proposed for less-than-fee acquisition, the property includes prairies and flatwoods with large natural lakes forming the headwaters of Buck Lake. Used for recreational purposes, there is mining interest in the property. The owner would like to see the property remain in conservation.

Mr. Jeremiah Thompson, SVN Saunders Ralston Danzler Real Estate, presented the St. Joe Timberlands - Whiskey George Creek Timbers Boundary Amendment. The 370-acre property in Franklin County is bordered by Tate's Hell State Forest and Whiskey George Creek. The property has some improved roads and nine potential homesites with two man-made waterbodies providing recreational fishing opportunities. FFS is a willing manager for the property proposed for fee simple acquisition.

Mr. Doug Hattaway, Trust for Public Lands, presented the Wolfe Creek Forest - Wolfe Creek Timber Boundary Amendment. The 760-acre parcel in Santa Rosa County is one of three tracts that protect and conserve the largest contiguous longleaf pine ecosystem in Florida. The partnership effort includes DEP, FFS, USDA Forest Service, Santa Rosa County, NAS Whiting Field and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership to name a few. The property is used for silviculture and is within Priority 1 of the FEGN. FFS is a willing manager for the property proposed for fee simple acquisition.

There were no further comments.

**ARC Action:** No action required.

**Item 4:** Take Public Testimony on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 1 Proposals and Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendments and other Florida Forever Projects.

**Discussion:** Ms. Allen reviewed the public testimony guidelines and mentioned several letters of support for projects and proposals provided to the council (Aucilla Corridor proposal, Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project, Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project, Pal-Mar project, Wekiva to Ocala Greenway project) and additional correspondence received prior to the meeting (Defenders of Wildlife support for Cycle 2 proposals, FWC support for South Prong proposal, Nature Conservancy and Audubon support for Bar B Ranch proposal, Audubon support for Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project). Chair Gambineri noted a phone call from Drew Bartlett, Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, in support of the Bar B Ranch.

Ms. Melissa Hill, National Wildlife Federation Gulf of Mexico Program, spoke in support of the Aucilla Corridor Proposal. Ms. Hill emphasized the connectivity of the proposal to fill a gap in the conservation corridor from the Florida/Georgia border to the Gulf of Mexico. The proposal protects several springs and a significant portion of the Wacissa BMAP and springs priority focus area. The proposal provides protection for floodplain function and water quality for the

Aucilla River, protecting flow ways and decreasing runoff and associated pollutants. The proposal area provides 18,000 acres of landscape conservation, wildlife habitat and adds 5,000 acres for public use and enjoyment.

Mr. Greg Knecht, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), submitted a letter of support and spoke in favor of the Bar B Ranch. He stated that while TNC is not often the loudest voice of Everglades Restoration, they have a long history of land protection including the 1998 Talisman acquisition in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the 2012 donation of the Everglades Headwaters Wildlife Refuge conservation area. The Bar B Ranch is a perfect opportunity to provide natural area protection, water quality, water quantity and habitat benefits.

Mr. Herschel Vinyard, on behalf of Martin County, also shared his support of the Bar B Ranch proposal.

Mr. Jody Walthall, Apalachee Audubon Society, spoke in favor of the Foshalee Slough proposal. He mentioned his first introduction to Lake Iamonia in 1963 on the opening day of duck season and the impact of development he has witnessed around the lake and the watershed feeding into the lake. Mr. Walthall stressed the importance of the ecology of the lake and protection of the adjacent lands and ecosystems from development. He also stated his support for the Aucilla Corridor proposal.

Ms. Rebecca Perry, Conservation Fund, spoke in favor of the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest project and mentioned Jimmy Bullock of the Resource Management Service and Lauren Day of the Conservation Fund. She thanked ARC for their support of the project goal of working to protect 200,000 acres of longleaf forest and maintain ecological benefits and forest-based jobs while demonstrating the efficacy of longleaf forest restoration and management using prescribed fire. The next phase of the project is 8,250 acres along the Escambia River in the Florida Wildlife Corridor with support from many participating partners and the sponsor.

Mr. Willy the Losen, Putnam Land Conservancy, spoke in favor of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project. The Conservancy has been conserving land since 2006 and is supportive of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. He described priorities for 2022 including the Deep Creek corridor and protection of the central Florida white cedar hydric hammock community, one of a few remaining. The Calkins addition of 240 acres would add protection to 1.5 miles of the Deep Creek corridor and provide legal access to the Office of Greenways and Trails from a willing seller. There is also an 11,000-acre NRCS easement to the west under negotiations. He mentioned proposing a boundary amendment to include an undeveloped subdivision that would plug a hole in the greenway. In closing, he expressed support for the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project, Big Pine Preserve partnering with the Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor (O2O) partnership and North Florida Land Trust.

Mr. Greg Braun, Chairman of Hobe Sound based consortium of non-profit organizations working on the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters initiative, spoke in favor of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project. He shared the success of the community outreach effort, provided copies of

letters from local governments, non-profits, homeowners associations and other community groups to raise over \$3 million to aid in the acquisition of properties from willing sellers.

Mr. Anthony Zunino, Guardians of Martin County, spoke in favor of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative (Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem) and the importance of the project as a link between Jonathan Dickinson and Atlantic Ridge state parks and the wildlife corridor. He stated the property is under extreme development pressure with a vast amount of wild undisturbed property, 6,000 acres in three parcels. He asked the council to raise the priority to make acquisition funds available.

Mr. Byron Flagg, Alachua County Conservation Land Negotiator for the Alachua County Forever Land Acquisition Program, spoke in favor of the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Ecosystem project. Focusing on the boundary of Alachua and Marion counties and their adjacency to I-95, the county is obtaining appraisals for the Carr family parcels to acquire property forming a corridor in partnership with the Alachua Conservation Trust, Alachua County and the property owners. He asked for the priority to be increased to help encourage property owners and give the project the momentum it needs. He is also supportive of the North Florida Land Trust efforts towards the Lake Kerr property acquisition in the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project.

Ms. Peggy Carr submitted a letter of support and spoke in favor of the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project she and her husband started in 2000. She recalled the efforts of her team at the university of Florida to develop the Florida Ecological Greenways network in 1995 with including Tom Hctor and Larry Harris and the role it plays in decision-making. The small project achieves many of the same goals that larger projects do with three purposes, maintain ecological connectivity, provide recreational opportunities and interpret the home of Archie and Marjorie Carr, a significant historical site.

Ms. Linda Deuver, Executive Director for Mockernut Hill Botanical Garden, spoke in favor of the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project that is near the botanical garden. She described her long game perspective having worked in the project area for 30 years, beginning with her first assignment as plant ecologist for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. She has traveled the state documenting the best examples of natural communities and noting the diversity in Marion County. With the financial support of her family, she established the 109-acre botanical garden and is currently working with the Alachua Conservation Trust to set up a non-profit for the long-term management. The state could help encourage other owners to support conservation connecting the sinkholes and ecology of Marion County.

Ms. Carrie Sekarak, Deputy District Ranger for the Ocala National Forest, on behalf of the Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Florida, Kelly Russell, spoke in favor of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project. She shared good neighbor authority that allows for shared stewardship, land acquisition and conservation funding. The project contributes to habitat connectivity, the wildlife corridor, and the O2O corridor. Acquisition of the Big Pine Preserve tracts along Lake Kerr eliminates an inholding barrier to management of 22,000 acres of Longleaf pine sandhill restored to prime condition, aids recovery of the Red-cockaded

woodpecker and protects the historic Kerr City listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With over 2 million visitors annually, the site can serve as a public education center interpreting the value of longleaf pine and prescribed fire in our history.

Ms. Natalie Fausel, Palm Beach County, spoke in favor of the Pal-Mar project and asked that it be ranked as a high priority project. Since 1992, this project consisting of 36,000 acres has been 75% acquired. The project was the prototype for Florida greenways covering a unique ecological greenway extending from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Okeechobee, hosting 39 rare species and forming the headwaters of the northwest fork of the Loxahatchee River. Included within the CERP, the project provides regionally significant groundwater and aquifer recharge for Martin and Palm Beach counties. Benefits include protecting regionally significant habitat, flood reduction, and protecting public water supplies by protecting coastal wellfield areas. Plans are underway for the County Commission to approve \$4 million toward acquisition and the county is working with the Division of State Lands to add key information to update the benefits of this project.

Vice Mayor Chip Block, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Chairman of the Water Resource Task Force and Vice Chair of Sustainable Palm Beach County, spoke in favor of the Pal-Mar project asking that it be moved to a high priority project. He stated that both Palm Beach and Martin counties have devoted resources and acquisition dollars to the Loxahatchee River and Indian River Lagoon. Both are important to CERP and water quality and water supply in southeast Florida.

Mr. Matthew Gitkin, President of Jupiter Farms residents including thousands of families that rely on well water, spoke in favor of the Pal-Mar project. He stated that the project is under threat of development and asked what happens to the viability of the drinking water for these families. He asked the council to remember when Pal-Mar mattered and restore its status on the priority list.

Mr. Drew Martin, Sierra Club, spoke in favor of the Pal-Mar project. He noted that the Sierra Club has worked to increase funding for acquisition and the project has available land with willing sellers.

Mr. John Meyer, Jupiter Farms Community South Indian River Water Control District, spoke in favor of the Pal-Mar project. Noting the high-quality flatwoods, hydric hammock and wet prairies of the site, it is vulnerable and subject to increasing impacts from ORV use and the lack of protection. The project is a critical greenway connection to Jonathan Dickinson, Dupuis and Corbett WMA and protects hydrology base flows, water quality and salinity moderation for the southwest fork of the Loxahatchee River. The project contributes to regional water storage vitally needed for flood protection, aquifer recharge and water quality which are critical issues for the communities that rely on the surficial aquifer for water supply. The project checks all the boxes for acquisition and preservation to supplement past efforts by the state and county.

Ms. Lilly Andersen-Messec, North Florida Program Director for the Florida Native Plant Society, spoke in favor of the Wolfe Creek Forest project. She visited the proposed acquisition as

part of the Land Management Review team for the Blackwater River State Forest and noted that the property would be in good hands and restored to Longleaf pine. She spoke of the seepage slopes on the property where rare and endangered carnivorous plants thrive and the lilies and terrestrial orchids that live on the slopes feeding the blackwater streams.

Mr. Jim Adamski, Friends of the Wekiva River, spoke in favor of the Wekiva to Ocala Greenway project. He urged the council to sustain the ranking for the project, a biologically diverse and hydrologically important resource containing numerous springs. The property is under threat for development and recreation is important to the local economy.

Mr. Robert Robbins, Sustainable Palm Beach County, spoke in favor of the Pal-Mar project. He stated the project is 75% acquired. The remaining patchwork quilt of individual lots cannot be hydrologically restored to provide the most benefits until they have been acquired. This project is a key linkage between Lake Okeechobee and the ocean. He concluded by asking the council to rank the project as a high priority to acquire the remaining 25%.

There were no further comments.

**ARC Action:** No action required.

Chair Gambineri recognized the efforts of the applicants highlighting the significant features and resources of the properties and acknowledged the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Florida Forever program with the acquisition of over 869,000 acres at a cost of \$3.2 billion. There were no further comments.

The hearing was adjourned at 3 p.m.

## **DECEMBER 10, 2021**

### **Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Tim Parsons, DHR  
Mr. Erin Albury, FFS via Webinar  
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member  
Dr. Thomas Eason, FWC  
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member via Webinar  
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member  
Ms. Mara Gambineri, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

### **Item 5:** Call to Order at 9 a.m.

DEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Mara Gambineri, called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Parsons to lead the pledge of allegiance. Hearing there were no announcements from council members, she asked ARC Staff Director, Shauna Allen, to conduct the roll call. The

quorum was established with seven members in attendance. Ms. Allen noted corrections to agenda items 7, 11 and 14, and provided housekeeping instructions and information for public comments.

**Item 6:** Consider the October 8, 2021, meeting summary.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the meeting summary.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the summary with Dr. Parsons seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

**Item 7:** Consider the proposed 2022 Acquisition and Restoration Council calendar.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the proposed calendar.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the calendar with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

#### **ARC STAFF REPORTS**

**Item 8:** Items approved by the Division of State Lands via the online negative response process since the October 2021 ARC meeting.

**DSL Staff Remarks:** Ms. Allen stated one incompatible use request for an easement across the Cross Seminole Trail was approved via the negative response process.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** No action required.

**Item 9:** Status report on Land Management Reviews completed by the Division of State Lands from July to September 2021.

**DSL Staff Remarks:** Ms. Allen stated the Office of Environmental Services conducted onsite reviews of nine managed conservation lands during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021-22 and the results were provided for information.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** No action required.

## FLORIDA FOREVER

**Item 10:** Develop the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Ms. Allen stated, there are 125 projects on the list to be ranked and prioritized. ARC members have submitted their vote sheets and we will now develop the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List. The process contains three parts: ranking, breaking any ties, and approving the final list.

**Ranking Step:** Each ARC member submitted their ranking numbers for each project within categories. These numbers were revealed for members by category. Members confirmed their numbers were correct for projects in each category.

**Tie breaker Step:**

**Critical Natural Lands Category:** Blue Head Ranch, Panther Glades and Wekiva to Ocala Greenway. Dr. Eason moved to rank Blue Head Ranch higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously. Dr. Eason moved to rank Panther Glades higher, Dr. Palmer seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Critical Natural Lands Category:** Ichetucknee Trace and Upper Shoal River. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Upper Shoal River higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category:** Middle Chipola River and Welannee Watershed Forest. Dr. Palmer moved to rank Welannee Watershed Forest higher, Dr. Eason seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category:** Dade County Archipelago and Lake Santa Fe. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Dade County Archipelago higher, Dr. Parsons seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category:** Crayfish Habitat Restoration and Hall Ranch. Ms. Griner moved to rank Crayfish Habitat Restoration higher, Mr. Albury seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Less-Than-Fee Category:** Little River Conservation Area and West Aucilla Buffer. Ms. Peppers moved to rank West Aucilla Buffer higher, Dr. Eason seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Climate Change Lands Category:** Cupon Bight/Key Deer and Northeast Florida Blueway. Mr. Albury moved to rank Northeast Florida Blueway higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

**Discussion:** Dr. Eason asked for time to review the rankings and asked how the high, medium,

low priority is calculated. Ms. DeHaven responded that it is the work plan priority based on cumulative acres, the top third is high, then medium and so on. Dr. Eason stated he appreciated the efficiency of the process revised a few years ago. He also expressed appreciation to the FWC staff for taking the lead on reviewing the FNAI analysis and their own analysis to come up with their rankings. Rather than a gemstone analogy, Dr. Eason compared the process to selecting the best quarterback of all time from a list of world class quarterbacks. There were no further comments.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve 2022 Florida Forever Priority List with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

**Item 11:** Vote on whether the Aucilla Corridor, Bar-B Ranch, Charlie Creek, Eight Mile, Foshalee Slough, Johnson Homestead, Lake Sampala Timber and Land, River Property, and the South Prong of the St. Mary's River 2022 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals will proceed through the project evaluation process for potential addition to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Vote on the proposal.

**Discussion:** Ms. Peppers stated that of the several projects heard on the previous day, she prefers a robust presentation that details the merits of each project. This is a big deal for DSL to take projects to the next level and the details are important.

**ARC Action:** ARC members voted unanimously by seven yes votes for each proposal to initiate a full review.

**Item 12:** Vote on whether to amend the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever Project boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 576 acres in Manatee County with a prorated tax assessed value of \$842,913.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

**Item 13:** Vote on whether to amend the Maytown Flatwoods Florida Forever Project boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 554.75 acres in Volusia County with a tax assessed just value of \$273,500.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Eason

seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

**Item 14:** Vote on whether to amend the St. Joe Timberlands Florida Forever Project boundary to add three parcels totaling approximately 388 acres in Franklin County with a prorated tax assessed just value of \$883,375.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

**Item 15:** Vote on whether to amend the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever Project boundary to add three parcels totaling approximately 757 acres in Santa Rosa County with a prorated tax assessed just value of \$1,339,024.

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

**Discussion:** None.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Peppers notified the Chair that she was abstaining from the vote. Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by six members to approve the amendment.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS

**Item 16:** Consider a 10-year update to the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 2742).

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the management plan.

**Discussion:** Ms. Yasmine Armaghani, Division of Recreation and Parks, provided an overview of the 713-acre Fort Pierce Inlet State Park (FPISP) management plan update. She also noted Park Manager Cassandra Meadows and District Biologist Scott Tedford were available to answer questions. Located in St. Lucie County, the park was once used as a navy training ground prior to World War II. The park was acquired by the state in 1973. Visitation recorded for Fiscal Year 2020-21 was over 277,000. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, fishing and surfing. The park includes seven natural communities and has documented eight imperiled plants and 23 imperiled animals. Resource management objectives include 105 acres of spoil area restoration and control of 50 acres of exotic plants. Land use proposals identified in the update include mitigating stormwater issues at the park entrance, repaving the park road, day use area improvements, consideration of overnight tent camping in Tucker Cove and adding a residence in the park support area.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the management plan update with Dr.

Eason seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

**Item 17:** Consider a 10-year update to the Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area Management Plan (Lease Nos. 4116 and 4226).

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the management plan.

**Discussion:** Ms. Hannah Klein, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, provided an overview of the Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area management plan update. She also noted District Biologist Steve Glass was available to respond to questions. The 16,430-acre property was acquired in 1994 by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Board of Trustees under the Save Our Rivers program as an addition to Bull Creek in Osceola County. Subsequently, boundary adjustments were made to separate Triple N Ranch from Herky Huffman/Bull Creek in 1996. The purpose of the acquisition was to conserve, protect and restore cultural resources, and ecological resources while providing compatible recreational opportunities. The property is comprised largely of mesic flatwoods (48%) and dome swamp (15%) and provides habitat for imperiled habitat including the Florida sandhill crane, little blue heron and gopher tortoise. There are also two known archaeological sites. Recreational uses include fishing and camping. Facilities include a shooting sports complex, picnic areas, camp sites and a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail. In FY 2019-20, the FWC recorded 29,650 visitors on the property. Proposed resource management includes prescribed fire and management of the fire adapted communities, establish a primitive campsite along the Florida National Scenic Trail and designated walk-in entrance from Holopaw Community Park.

**ARC Action:** Mr. Albury made the motion to approve the management plan update with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

**Item 18:** Consider a 10-year update to the Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area Management Plan (Lease No. 4100).

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the management plan.

**Discussion:** Ms. Dylan Haase, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, presented the Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area management plan update. She also noted Lead Area Biologist Jason Slater was available to answer questions. The 10,470-acre property was acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District (1991, 5,230 acres) and the Board of Trustees (1994, 5,103 acres) in Putnam and Marion counties. The purpose of the acquisition was to expedite restoration of the St. Johns and Ocklawaha river systems. The property is comprised primarily of floodplain swamp (40%), improved pasture (12%) and wet flatwoods (10%) and provides habitat for numerous imperiled species including the roseate spoonbill, gopher tortoise and little blue heron. There are nine known archaeological sites. Recreational uses include hunting, fishing, horseback riding and hiking on the 9.5 miles of trails with related amenities. Visitation recorded in FY 2019-20 was 28,401 visitors. Resource management objectives include management of fire adapted communities, recreation assessment, hydrologic restoration plan,

and assess adding a parking area and kiosk west of State Route 19.

**ARC Action:** Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the management plan update with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

**Item 19:** Consider a 10-year update to the Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area Management Plan (Lease No. 4608).

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the management plan.

**Discussion:** Mr. Matthew Stanna, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, provided an overview of the Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area management plan update. He also noted Area Manager Matt Barker was available to respond to questions. The 2,148-acre property in Lafayette County was acquired in 2008 by the Board of Trustees. The property is adjacent to Mallory Swamp Restoration to the west and other conservation lands are nearby. Initially acquired as a gopher tortoise mitigation park, it is managed to promote habitat conditions for the gopher tortoise and associated upland species. Natural communities on the property include mesic flatwoods (35%), dome swamp (16%) and sandhill in restoration (12%). Imperiled species include the wood stork in addition to the gopher tortoise. There are 12 recorded archaeological sites. Recreational uses include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and environmental education. Facilities for recreational use include a picnic area, 26 miles of roads and eight miles of trails. In FY 2019-20, there were 30,316 visitors by vehicle count estimate. Management objectives include implementation of the forest management plan, recreation assessment, hydrological restoration plan and assess adding a viewing platform.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the management plan update with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

**Item 20:** Consider an amendment to the Honeymoon Island State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 3202).

**DSL Staff Recommendation:** Approve the management plan amendment.

**Discussion:** Mr. Tyler Maldonado, Division of Recreation and Parks, presented an overview of the Honeymoon Island State Park management plan amendment. The amendment is proposed to begin construction for an entrance expansion project in advance of the management plan update scheduled for the February 2022 ARC meeting. Located in the Dunedin/Tarpon Springs area, the Dunedin causeway consisting of a two-lane road with two bridges and multiple county public use areas is the only access to the park. In addition, there is a condominium development along the causeway on Honeymoon Island just outside of the park entrance. With over 2,000 parking spaces and 1.5 million visitors a year, the park is the most visited in the system. Traffic congestion blocking the condominium entrance is common. The current alignment of the entrance includes three entry lanes with two toll booths which will be improved with the addition of one toll booth and two more lanes. The existing dry retention pond will be enlarged from 20,000 sf to 36,000 sf to accommodate the increased stormwater requirements. The proposed

improvements are the first of a series coordinated with the City of Dunedin, Pinellas County and FDOT to address the congestion issues that will be further detailed in the management plan update.

**ARC Action:** Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the management plan amendment with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

**ARC Announcements:** Chair Gambineri announced the next ARC meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2022, at 9 a.m. and the FCT meeting will be on February 16, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Tallahassee. Dr. Eason wished everyone happy holidays. Ms. Griner made the motion to adjourn with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.