

ITEM 6:

Consider the October 8, 2021, meeting summary.

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

Date: October 8, 2021

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Department of Environmental Protection
Marjorie and Archie Carr Building
Conference Room 170
3800 Commonwealth Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399

and via Webinar

Members in Attendance:

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

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

COUNCIL MEETING

Item 1: Call to Order at 9:03 a.m.

DEP ARC Chair Callie DeHaven called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Palmer to lead the pledge of allegiance. Chair DeHaven spoke about D. Lane Green's service to the Acquisition and Restoration Council from 2005 until 2012. Dr. Palmer commented on Mr. Green's passion for conservation and his impact on Tall Timbers, his teamwork, love of serving on ARC and prescribed fire. ARC Staff Director Shauna Allen conducted the roll call and the quorum was established with seven members in attendance. Ms. Allen provided housekeeping items and instructions for in-person and webinar attendees. Chair DeHaven expressed appreciation to staff for technology assistance with the meeting.

Item 2: Consider the August 13, 2021, public hearing and meeting summary.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the meeting summary.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Mr. Albury made the motion to approve the summary with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

ARC STAFF REPORTS

Item 3: Items approved by the Division of State Lands via the online negative response process since the August 2021 ARC meeting.

DSL Staff Remarks: Ms. Allen stated several items were submitted and approved via the negative response process including two management plan amendments for the Caloosahatchee Regional Park and Blackwater River State Forest; three management plans for properties less than 160 acres for Cady Way Trail, Camp Milton Historic Preserve and Tree Hill Nature Center.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 4: 2021 Annual update on the Division of State Lands conservation easement monitoring program.

DSL Staff Remarks: Ms. Allen stated during Fiscal Year 2020-21, DSL acquired seven new conservation easements and monitored 46 of the 136 easements owned by the Board of Trustees.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 5: Annual Land Management Review Team findings and the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council 2021 Annual Report.

DSL Staff Remarks: Mr. Keith Singleton, Division of State Lands/Office of Environmental Services, discussed the Annual Land Management Review required by statute to determine if properties are being managed in accordance with the purpose for acquisition and the approved management plan. All managed areas reviewed in FY 2020-21 were found in compliance. Areas meriting special mention by the review teams included Point Washington State Forest (Walton), Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park (Monroe), Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area (Franklin, Gulf) and Weedon Island Preserve (Pinellas). The reviews found that managers are dedicated professionals doing an excellent job.

Mr. Singleton also presented the Annual Land Management Uniform Accounting Council report for FY 2020-21 which compiles expenditures of the agencies and includes profiles of each managing agency. In addition, Mr. Singleton stated the division contacted over 200 participants with an online survey for the land management review process. With responses from over half of those contacted, the results will be used to improve the process.

Mr. Singleton stated another review conducted by the Department Inspector General on Land Management Review Oversight found the agency needed a mechanism to address compliance with short-term goals during the land management review and reporting to the ARC. Mr. Singleton stated this is being addressed through a performance measure improvement plan and will include a report of short-term goals for the land management review teams.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 6: Division of State Lands Acquisition Update Presentation.

DSL Staff Remarks: Mr. Robbie Parrish, Division of State Lands/Bureau of Real Estate Services, began his presentation with a reminder that this is the 20th anniversary of Florida Forever and a banner year for acquisition made possible with the collaborative efforts of many partners. FY 2020-21 was the best year in over 12 years with the acquisition of over 46,000 acres at the cost of \$106 million. Mr. Parrish noted regardless of the size, each acquisition requires the same effort from the team. In September, the Board of Trustees approved the acquisition of 16,500 acres for six properties at a cost of \$47 million not including \$7 million in partner funding. Mr. Parrish also gave a statewide tour of the active projects in the acquisition pipeline highlighting the strategy of working with partners to connect conservation lands to opportunity areas, fill in corridors for wildlife and leverage additional funding. Featured areas included Wolfe Creek Forest and Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest, Devil's Garden, and the Kissimmee St. Johns River Connector and Corrigan Ranch.

Discussion: Chair DeHaven thanked all the agency and conservation partners that have boots on the ground and tell us what is important. She acknowledged they know the resources.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 7: ARC Ranking Tool overview.

DSL Staff Remarks: Mr. Jon Oetting, Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), discussed the science information provided to the ARC and managing agencies in the ranking tool. The Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment which compiles data layers for 16 of the measures, provides a baseline for tracking progress, identifies priorities, informs acquisition decisions and provides accountability. The Ranking tool, initially developed by DEP staff, was revised in 2019 by FNAI to make it more user friendly. The tool includes the best available scientific data for criteria and measures in the Florida Forever Act for the ARC to evaluate and prioritize projects. Mr. Oetting noted the Microsoft Excel based tool is not required to rank the projects.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

Item 8: Consider whether an approximately 5-acre parcel of state-owned land managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area is no longer needed for conservation purposes in exchange for approximately 19 acres of private property.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the exchange request.

Discussion: Ms. Diane McKenzie, Division of State Lands/Bureau of Real Estate Services, provided an overview of the proposal to exchange five acres of isolated uplands, not actively managed, in the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area. The proposed relatively undisturbed 19-acre exchange parcel containing mesic and wet flatwoods, prairies and bogs, provides a four-to-one net conservation benefit and is contiguous with the managed area. The FWC is supportive of the exchange and DHR found no effect on historic properties. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: Mr. Albury made the motion to approve the recommendation to the Board of Trustees with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC concurred with seven members in favor of the recommendation.

FLORIDA FOREVER

Item 9: Hear presentations and take Public Testimony on the Florida Forever 2021 Cycle 2 Proposals and other Florida Forever Projects.

Discussion: Mr. Keith Fountain, representing the landowner, presented the Adams Ranch II proposal and the family's desire to make sure the ranch is eligible for protection through Florida Forever. The areas of the Lake Marion Ranch not currently on the list or protected by easements are known for protection of diverse habitats and include dry prairie and longleaf pine. The St. Lucie Ranch is the home place for the family and contributes to regional hydrology, working closely with the St. Johns River Water Management District. Mr. Fountain summarized his presentation with a request from the family to add both ranches to the Adams Ranch project.

Deborah Drum, Environmental Resources Management Director for Palm Beach County, spoke in favor of raising the priority for the Pal-Mar project to a high work plan priority. Ms. Drum noted that Palm Beach County, the third most populous county in the state and the second largest county in area, manages over 32,000 acres in the county. She also noted the increasing illegal activities, dumping and development pressure on the Pal-Mar area elevating the need for acquisition to protect the headwaters of the Loxahatchee River.

Dr. Palmer asked what the county was doing about the illegal activity. Ms. Drum stated they were working closely with Martin County where many of the activities were occurring to proactively address the issues.

Commissioner Doug Smith, Martin County, spoke in favor of the Atlantic Ridge project and the 15-year process to completely restore and rebuild Kitchen Creek. Regarding the Pal-Mar project, Commissioner Smith highlighted the 26,000 acres acquired in the project with only 9,500 acres remaining that are at risk. He discussed restoration of the network of conservation lands, headwaters, greenway networks and wildlife corridor the county has acquired with partners and identification of additional lands for acquisition. Commissioner Smith concluded his remarks with a request to modify the Pal-Mar boundary to add the Chimney parcel and the Loxa-Lucie proposal.

Chair DeHaven asked Commissioner Smith to clarify if his request was for ARC to decide outside of the boundary amendment process. Commissioner Smith stated he was taking advantage of the opportunity to point out these upcoming opportunities and highlight the progress they have made so far. The commission has approved the Loxa-Lucie proposal and is working on an acquisition strategy.

Dr. Palmer asked about the Chimney parcel and the conservation easements acquired in the project. Commissioner Smith noted that while the county and the water management district own some parcels, the other privately owned parcels make it a challenge to manage.

Vice Mayor Chip Block, Jupiter Inlet Colony and Chairman of the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force, spoke in favor of Ms. Drum's proposal to protect and restore the wild and scenic Loxahatchee River.

Ms. Alicia Sanders, on behalf of Palm Beach County Commissioner Maria Marino, spoke in favor of the request to elevate Pal-Mar to a high priority work plan item.

Mr. Robert Robbins, Sustainable Palm Beach County Board member, spoke in favor of Pal-Mar as the least expensive land with the most connectivity and a patchwork quilt of ownerships that cannot be effectively managed. He noted some of the tools for restoration and management cannot be used with private inholdings.

Mr. Drew Martin, Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group, spoke in favor of Florida Forever funding, acquiring inholdings and moving the Pal-Mar project up in priority. He noted this key acquisition because of location and price, protection for the federally designated wild and scenic river and improving the environment. Mr. Martin also requested support for the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative in Martin County and the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project.

Mr. Greg Braun, Executive Director of Guardians of Martin County, presented the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project grassroots initiative to document species to update the FNAI database and raise \$3 million in funding to support acquisition of properties. He stressed the development pressure on these properties with relatively intact habitat adjacent to the urban services boundary and the potential for fragmentation, increased flooding, hydrology and water quality impact for the Loxahatchee and St. Lucie rivers. Mr. Braun concluded that the Loxa-Lucie name was to draw attention to protection for the headwaters of both the Loxahatchee and St. Lucie rivers.

Mr. Todd McNew, Conservation Fund, spoke in favor of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project and the 140-acre tract recently acquired on Bridge Road by the Fund. This parcel is the first step in establishing a conservation corridor between Atlantic Ridge and Jonathan Dickinson State Parks. They plan to either donate or bargain sale the property to the state to establish a larger state park footprint in the area. He asked to elevate the project ranking to allow the state to partner with their efforts.

Ms. Griner asked what category the project was in. Mr. McNew responded it was in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives which was 22 on the 2019 priority list.

Dr. Eason commented that presenters ask ARC to increase the rank but that is not how the process works. He understands it is their intent to take advantage of the opportunity to present to the members individually to consider their ranking.

Chair DeHaven asked if there were willing sellers in the project area. Mr. McNew responded there are interested sellers in the project footprint but none that they were moving forward with at this time.

Mr. Charles Barrowclough, Executive Director of Treasured Lands Foundation, spoke in favor of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative for Martin County. He emphasized the fundraising and educating decisionmakers along with building long-term funding for acquisitions in the region. He asked ARC to consider moving up the Atlantic Ridge project in the ranking and of the need for hydrologic restoration for the Kitchen Creek Preserve.

Mr. Greg Braun summarized the efforts of the Loxa-Lucie Initiative to continue outreach with the support of the Martin County Commission, Town of Jupiter Island, Indian Rivers Coalition, Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council and numerous other conservation groups and homeowners' associations.

Mr. Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife, provided a letter of support for Adams Ranch II, the proposed boundary adjustments and 2022 Priority List project rankings. Mr. Wimmer spoke in favor of the project contributing to conserving important components of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network, species habitat and recovery of the grasshopper sparrow.

Dr. Eason expressed appreciation to the speakers and that he is aware of the issues and management challenges with Pal-Mar. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: No action required.

Recess: Council approved recess during Item 9 at 9:48 a.m., with Chair DeHaven making the motion and Dr. Eason seconding. The meeting resumed at 9:58 a.m. and established a quorum by roll call with seven members present.

Item 10: Consider a project evaluation report for Adams Ranch II 2021 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposal.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the project evaluation report.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the project evaluation report with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 11: Vote on whether to add one 2021 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposal to the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposal to be added as a project to the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List. If approved, consider adding the Lake Marion Ranch to the Adams Ranch Florida Forever project boundary and adding the St. Lucie Ranch to the Bluefield to Cow Creek Florida Forever project boundary.

Discussion: Ms. Peppers asked why DEP prefers that the property be added to another project. Ms. Sine Murry responded a project is designed around an area of resource interest to promote conservation on a landscape scale. Staff recommendations are based on the resources on the property, purpose for acquisition and comprehensive perspective. Both ranches have different resources on a regional scale. The Marion Ranch has high quality uplands, habitat corridor, connectivity and buffering for the adjacent conservation lands and fits into the ecological corridor in the Kissimmee Valley. The St. Lucie Ranch is within the Indian River South restoration plan for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and is adjacent to and compatible with the Bluefield to Cow Creek project.

Dr. Eason asked if there is any difference process wise to the acquisition decisions and if there are any benefits. Chair DeHaven stated that it shouldn't make a difference although we are currently working in the Bluefield to Cow Creek project.

Ms. Griner asked about the ranking of Bluefield to Cow Creek and Adams Ranch. Ms. Deborah Burr responded Bluefield to Cow Creek project was added to the list last year and is ranked number 26 and Adams Ranch is ranked number two.

Dr. Eason commented that he puts a lot of weight on what the willing landowner requests. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: ARC voted unanimously by seven members to add the Adams Ranch II proposal to the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List.

Ms. Griner made the motion to add Adams Ranch II to the boundary of Adams Ranch with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC approved the motion by a unanimous vote of seven members.

Item 12: Consider a staff recommendation to remove Seven Runs Creek Final Phase from the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Removal of the Seven Runs Creek Final Phase project from the priority list because it is 90% complete.

Discussion: Ms. Murray presented the proposed removal stating statute and rule allow us to remove a project from the list when 90% has been purchased. The remaining acres are still eligible for acquisition. The Less-than-Fee project in Walton and Washington counties includes 7,441 acres and with 7,109 acres acquired is 97% complete. The project around the Nokuse Plantation protects conservation lands between Eglin Air Force Base and the Apalachicola National Forest.

Dr. Eason asked if projects that were removed were tracked on the Substantially Complete list. Chair DeHaven responded that Substantially Complete is a separate category on the list. Ms. Murray added projects 85% complete are included in that category. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the project removal with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to remove the project from the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List.

Item 13: Vote on whether to amend the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary to add three parcels totaling approximately 125 acres in Marion County with a tax assessed market value of \$714,497.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: Ms. Joanna Reilly-Brown, Alachua Conservation Trust, presented the boundary amendment to add 125 acres of forested uplands and wetlands within the optimum boundary of Price's Scrub State Park. The property is offered by the Green and Carr families and surrounds the Proctor inholding conservation easement. Neighboring owners support the proposal and have conservation intent. The property provides gopher tortoise habitat, rare plant species and includes a sinkhole lake. Acquisition of the property would allow for expanded recreational uses on existing trails, connectivity to existing conservation areas, and improved water quality in Rainbow Springs.

Ms. Deborah Green, landowner and biologist, spoke in favor of the proposal discussing the elevation change on the property and diversity of habitats. The property is strategically positioned to expand the Florida Wildlife Corridor and will likely encourage other owners to support conservation acquisition for neighboring properties.

Ms. Marsha Green, landowner, spoke in favor of the proposal discussing her father Alex Green's purchase of the "Farm" 50 years ago. She mentioned spending many weekends at the Farm with her family and living there when her daughter was born. Her brother and sister moved to the Farm and her brother-in-law owns the Proctor inholding. As trustee for the property her responsibility was to do what was best for the land and she supported acquisition for Price's Scrub.

Ms. Susan Carr, landowner and niece of Archie and Marjorie Carr, spoke in favor of the proposal and about her father Tom Carr who was friends with Alex Green and long-time neighbors on the property. The proposal includes 20 acres of 140 total acres that she has been restoring to improve habitat for gopher tortoises. Ms. Carr also mentioned that the property is a large chunk of native habitat and wetlands in a rapidly growing area of north Marion County.

Ms. Peggy Carr, daughter-in-law of Archie and Marjorie Carr, spoke in favor of the proposal and shared a quote from Archie Carr that provided inspiration to the family. She mentioned the ecological connectivity of the proposal and requested to rank the project higher on the priority list. There were no further comments.

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

Due to a technical issue, Item 14 was presented to the council after Item 15.

Item 15: Vote on whether to amend the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary for the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection to add five parcels under three ownerships totaling approximately 198.51 acres in Collier County with a tax assessed market value of \$855,313.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Earl Pearson, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, presented the boundary amendment to add five parcels with three owners to the project in Collier County. Most of the property is located near McIlvane Marsh and is managed collaboratively by Collier County, Collier Seminole State Park, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Ecological Reserve, and Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The property includes wetlands, mangrove swamp and mixed wetlands. The Hegner parcel is one acre surrounded by state owned conservation lands and includes beach coastal berm and beach habitat. The surrounding lands are popular public beach and sea turtle nesting beach monitored by the Division of Recreation and Parks. There were no further comments.

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

Item 14: Vote on whether to amend the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary for the Division of Recreation and Parks to add one parcel totaling approximately 2.86 acres in Flagler County with a tax assessed market value of \$566,320.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: Ms. Angel Granger, Division of Parks and Recreation, presented the boundary amendment to add one parcel adjacent to the Washington Oaks Garden State Park in Flagler County. If acquired, the property would expand recreational opportunities and buffer prescribed

fire management. The property consists of dense scrub habitat and unique coquina formations and is within the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

Ms. Heather Nagy, Conservation Acquisitions Coordinator for North Florida Land Trust, spoke in favor of the boundary amendment as a buffer for management activities and eliminating potential development that would impact native habitat and create challenges for management.

Mr. Michael Lagasse, Interim Resiliency and Resource Stewardship Coordinator for Flagler County, spoke in favor of the boundary amendment noting the rarity of being able to attach coastal property to a state park in Flagler County where development is rapid. There were no further comments.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Item 16: 2021 Florida Ecological Greenways Network update.

Discussion: Mr. Jon Oetting, FNAI, presented the update to the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) model, map and relationship to the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Mr. Oetting gave a brief overview of the history of the FEGN beginning with the 1990's legislation for greenways and Dr. Hocter's initiation of the greenways model in 1998. The FEGN was completed and included in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment and the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. The Wildlife Corridor Coalition promoted the highest priorities (1-3) of FEGN. In 2020, the DEP funded the FEGN update in collaboration with FNAI and Dr. Hocter. The components of the FEGN include a wide range of resource data layers in the analysis to identify ecological hubs at the landscape scale.

Mr. Oetting discussed development of the FEGN Strategic Priorities. This new analysis and overlay will include connectivity analyses for wide-ranging species, open water, existing conservation lands, and achievable scale focus. It will also and identify bottlenecks with limited options for connectivity to help prioritize decisions and inform DEP, ARC and Florida Forever.

Dr. Tom Hocter, Director of the Center for Landscape Conservation Planning at the University of Florida, commented on the history and next steps. He noted that the Wildlife Corridor legislation ensures that Florida will remain a leader in wildlife corridor science and conservation and those who played key roles like Larry Harris, Reid Noss, and Peggy Carr, and the Technical Advisory Group that makes all of the decisions about data and how to prioritize the network. Regarding next steps, Dr. Hocter discussed the FEGN data sets, updating the CLIP database and policy work with partners to expand protection beyond the Florida Forever program.

Chair DeHaven thanked both Mr. Oetting and Dr. Hocter and informed the participants that staff would be available following the meeting for further discussions. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 17: Landscape Conservation Presentation.

Discussion: Mr. Brian Branciforte, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, presented information on the agency's habitat and species conservation issues and the goal of shifting conservation efforts to be more proactive. He also highlighted the potential for Florida 2060 to focus the conversation on a sustainable, healthy, connected Florida with landscape conservation. Key concepts to this approach are systems focused, forward thinking, collaborative, science based, communicated across all sectors and outcome based. Also collaboration on tools and data with conservation partners as in the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint and engaging with local landowners to achieve conservation goals. Mr. Branciforte described the gopher tortoise payment for ecosystem services pilot project as one example of incentivizing habitat management and conservation on private lands. He also discussed the Ecological Report Card that measures results over time and broadening the Landscape Conservation Strategic Initiative to include non-traditional partners.

Chair DeHaven asked how the compensation was determined for the gopher tortoise pilot project and if there were other species that would fit the model. Mr. Branciforte replied it was on a per acre basis for only one year. They are looking at the panther with a similar model, however it is funding dependent.

Dr. Eason responded that Deb Burr was the person who implemented the program. His guidance was to keep it simple in working with the landowner, not to make it complicated or cumbersome on the agency or partner. Gopher tortoises work well because they are umbrella species that benefit many others. The challenge is funding and looking at ways to connect using ARC and DEP state lands as the connection point to deliver conservation across the landscape. He would like us to take the science and move it into policy, decision-making and delivery more effectively and efficiently. Emphasizing the role of private landowners and working landscapes collectively working on the blueprint for conservation.

Chair DeHaven agreed with Dr. Eason and the benefits of working with partners and private owners on conservation.

Ms. Griner commented on private landowners, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that are ready and eager to be partners and participate in payment for ecosystem services that the lands provide in addition to the commodity they produce. She spoke to the emotional connection to the land that she shares and supporting the private landowner as the best stewards of their property.

Chair DeHaven concluded the comments noting there are lots of tools in the toolbox and support from the leaders and legislature gives us momentum to continue this work. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: No action required.

CLOSING COMMENTS

ARC Announcements: Chair DeHaven announced the upcoming Florida Forever application deadline for 2022 Cycle 1 due on October 31, Florida Communities Trust Board meeting scheduled for December 7, and the next scheduled ARC meeting for December 9 and 10, 2021, in Tallahassee. Dr. Palmer commented that he enjoyed the presentations. Chair DeHaven thanked Robbie Parrish and his team, Gary Ballard, Dr. Parsons and Ms. Peppers for attending virtually and everyone for their time and attention.

Public Comments: Mr. Joshua Daskin, Archbold Biological Station, commented that they are working with Florida Wild and the Florida Wildlife Coalition to further conservation of the Florida Wildlife Corridor that is 50% conserved thanks to many agencies and partners over the past 20 years. He congratulated ARC and DSL on acquisition of the six parcels that total over 17,000 acres in the corridor contributing to the protection of wildlife habitats and economic benefits from open spaces, agriculture, tourism, recreation and cycling of water and nutrients. He encouraged collaboration on the 22% of the remaining 8 million unprotected acres that are Florida Forever sites. There were no further comments.

Dr. Palmer made the motion to adjourn with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.