

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20040555

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve the recommendation of the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee to pursue for acquisition approximately 102 acres in Township 46S, Range 27E, Section 12 on Wildcat Drive, known as Conservation 20/20 Nomination 256. Authorize staff to enter negotiations with the property owners.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: The Board must approve advisory committee recommendations for Conservation 20/20 Program acquisitions and must authorize necessary expenses for the negotiation process.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Begins the negotiation process to buy environmentally sensitive lands needed for native plants and animals, flood control, water quality, water supply, and public use.

2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY: 06
COMMISSION DISTRICTS 05

CLD

3. MEETING DATE:

05-18-2004

4. AGENDA:

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE
- APPEALS
- PUBLIC
- WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:
(Specify)

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE 96-12
- ADMIN. CODE
- OTHER

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

- A. COMMISSIONER
 - B. DEPARTMENT Independent
 - C. DIVISION County Lands AR
- BY: *Karen Forsyth*
Karen L. W. Forsyth, Director

7. BACKGROUND: In July 1996, the Board adopted Lee County Ordinance 96-12 and in November 1996, the citizens of Lee County approved the referendum to levy certain millage for the purposes of acquiring and restoring identified environmentally critical or sensitive lands within Lee County. The Conservation Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) was formed and has been evaluating land nominations based upon Board approved criteria and parameters.

CLASAC recommends that Conservation 20/20 Nomination 256 be pursued for acquisition for the reasons stated in the attached report. Acquisition of this parcel does not conflict with any transportation, school district, emergency management services or County utility plans. The preliminary title research has been completed and no substantial title problems were found.

CLASAC continues to recognize the potential for off-site mitigation credits in recommended parcels, as required by Ordinance 96-12. However, mitigation credits may not necessarily be obtained for each acquisition due to the specific environmental resource type, condition and/or location of off-site mitigation desired by the regulatory agencies for any given project. Award of any credits will be made at the time when County projects apply for them. This is consistent with the letter opinions from the South Florida Water Management District (June 17, 1996) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (June 27, 1997).

Funds to process and purchase Nomination 256 will come from Account No. 20-8800-30103.506110.

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services			G County Manager
<i>K. Forsyth</i>				<i>John Reigane 5-4-04</i>	OA <i>AS 5/5/04</i>	OM <i>AS 5/5/04</i>	Risk <i>WR 5/5/04</i>	GC <i>AS 5/5/04</i>
								<i>MS 5/5/04</i>

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty
Date: 5/4/04
Time: 4:20 PM
Forwarded To:
Co. Adm.
5/5/04 9AM

RECEIVED BY
COUNTY ADMIN: *SH*
5/5/04
9:50 AM SLT
COUNTY ADMIN
FORWARDED TO: *AR*
5/5/04
4pm

MS

CRITERIA		SCORE	COMMENTS
A. SIZE AND CONTIGUITY			
1. Size of Property			
a.	≥ 500 acres	6	
b.	400 to < 500 acres	5	
c.	300 to < 400 acres	4	
d.	200 to < 300 acres	3	
e.	100 to < 200 acres	2	
f.	50 to < 100 acres	1	
g.	< 50 acres	0	101.5 acres
2. Contiguous to:			
a.	Coastal waters and other sovereignty submerged lands	4	0
b.	Existing preserve area, c.e., wma or refuge	4	0
c.	Preserve areas officially proposed for acquisition	2	0
B. HABITAT FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS			
1. Native Plant Cover			
a.	≥ 75 % of the property has native plant cover	8	8
b.	50% to < 75% has native plant cover	4	
c.	25% to < 50% has native plant cover	2	
d.	< 25% has native plant cover	0	Most exotics have been removed - funded by USDA assistance program
2. Significant for wide-ranging species			
	Panther Habitat, wetlands, ponds, grass lands, etc.	2	Wetlands, ponds, and grass lands on site, which are foraging areas for migratory birds (sandhill cranes were seen foraging on adjacent property during field review). Panther and bear habitat.
3. Rare and Unique Uplands			
a.	Scrub, hammock, old growth pine	2	
b.	Mature, second growth pine flatwood	1	1
4. Diversity			
a.	5 or more FLUCCS native plant community categories	2	
b.	3 or 4 FLUCCS native plant community categories	1	1
c.	2 or less FLUCCS native plant community categories	0	Wet meadow, cypress heads, slash pines, oaks

D. LAND MANAGEMENT/RECREATION/PLANNED LAND USE		COMMENTS
1.	Good Access for Public Use and Land Management	
	Parcel can be accessed from a freeway, expressway, arterial street, or major collector	3
	Parcel can be accessed from a minor collector or local street	2
	Parcel can be accessed from a privately-maintained road that is dedicated for public use	1
	Parcel can only be accessed by a private road or does not have physical or legal access	0
		Wildcat Drive is unpaved and is not county-maintained
2.	Recreation/Eco-Tourism Potential	
	Score depends upon the variety or uniqueness of potential public uses. Examples of appropriate public uses include paddling sports, fishing, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, photography, nature study, and environmental education	0-2
		Private road and remote location limit high public use potential. Good potential for hiking, nature study, photography and environmental education if road becomes public-maintained.
3.	Land Manageability	
	75% or greater of the perimeter of site is surrounded by low impact land uses	3
	50%-75% of the perimeter of site is surrounded by low impact land uses	2
	25%-50% of the perimeter of site is surrounded by low impact land uses	1
	Less than 25% of the perimeter of the site is surrounded by low impact land uses	0
		Completely surrounded by land planned for low density development (maximum density allowed is 1 du/10 acres) and wetlands. Mostly undeveloped at present.
4.	Development Status (Maximum 4 points)	
	a. The Parcel is Approved for Development or is Exempt from Clearing Regulations	4
	b. The Parcel is Zoned for Intensive Use	2
	c. Future Land Use Map: Intensive Land Use Category	1
		4 Ag. Exemption 0 AG-2 0 DRGR and Wetlands (Mostly wetlands)
TOTAL POINTS		30
COMMENTS: ALL EXOTICS WERE ERADICATED PER USDA ASSISTANCE GRANT.		
RECOMMENDATION: Pursue for acquisition		

