



Nassau County
Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM)
Committee Agenda
April 21, 2022

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2022 CLAM Meeting
3. Update on CLAM Polling (Pageen Hanrahan, P.E., The Trust for Public Land)
4. Bond Referendum Ballot Language Recommendation
5. CLAM Nomination Update
6. Meeting Schedule Update

**Nassau County
Conservation Land Acquisition and Management
January 20, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
County Commission Chambers,
James S. Page Governmental Complex
Yulee, Florida**

A Conservation Land Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Committee meeting was held this 20th day of January 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, Yulee, Florida.

Chair Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Present Committee Members were Brandy Carvalho, Bill Watson, Bill Korn, Chris Hill, and Leonard Wood. Also present were Denise May, Assistant County Attorney; Taco Pope, County Manager; Holly Coyle, Assistant Planning Director; and Melissa Lucey, Deputy Clerk.

It was moved by Mr. Korn, seconded by Mr. Hill, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting as presented.

Ms. Coyle came to review Item 3, *CLAM vision and project overview*. She provided a PowerPoint presentation on CLAM vision and project overview. She informed the committee that the nomination period would close on January 31, 2022, and to date, 17 nominations have been received. She advised that the County is also looking to acquire parcels. She reviewed the Conservation Network near Nassau County. There are four priority areas within Nassau County: Atlantic to Okefenokee Corridor, Amelia Conservation, Northeast Florida Timberlands to Osceola Greenway, and East Nassau Conservation. She requested to get the Committee's support and adopt the project areas formally with a resolution at the next meeting. Mr. Pope advised that if the Committee agrees on the priority areas, the next phase would be to continue working with North Florida Land Trust in determining key parcels within those corridors.

Next, Ms. Coyle discussed Item 4, *Consideration of Project Area Approval*. The Committee briefly discussed the CLAM ranking map evaluation process, the significance of the projects, and the plans and goals of CLAM. Following careful consideration, the committee declined the proposed resolution and recommended that Ms. Coyle and staff include central and western areas and encompass the rest of Nassau County and work on specific areas with the heat areas and greatest populated areas.

Ms. Coyle reviewed Item 5, *CLAM Nomination schedule update*. She provided the Committee with an updated nomination schedule. She requested to extend the time to review and evaluate the proposals to 90 days, noting that the first 30 days would be to work with property owners to get their owner's buy-in and sign off on the applications.

It was moved by Mr. Korn, seconded by Mr. Watson, and unanimously carried to approve the updated nomination schedule.

Ms. Coyle addressed Item 6, *Introduction of Key Partners*. Ms. Coyle introduced Ramesh Buch and Heather Nagy, North Florida Land Trust (NFLT), and Pegeen Hanrahan, Trust for Public Lands (TPL).

Ms. Pageen came forward with a Powerpoint presentation. She stated that the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Resolution in December 2019 for the 2020 ballot; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conservation language was not included on the ballot. She reviewed the previously adopted language, there was overall support from a survey of 59 percent, and she suggested another survey. Ms. Hanrahan stated that there is only a 15-word title and 75-word body limit pursuant to Florida Statutes. She requested feedback or any updates from the Committee regarding the language. Further discussion ensued regarding the ballot language and timeline for updates.

Mr. Buch appeared via "Zoom" and stated that the properties identified are great locations and will match up with the heat map.

Pam Heart, Amelia Forever, appeared via "Zoom" to provide feedback from previous ballots. She expressed her concerns with recreation access language and the possible objections from the public. She suggested considering preserving land naturally and not always for recreation access.

Margaret Kirkland, Amelia Tree Conservancy, appeared via "Zoom". She informed the Committee that there would be more nomination applications. She stated that she would review the ballot language and provide some potential ballot language.

It was moved by Mr. Korn, seconded by Mr. Hill, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.



REFERENDUM BALLOT LANGUAGE

SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The ballot language for the bond referendum was presented to the Committee on November 18, 2021, by Ms. Pegeen Hanrahan, P.E., Southeast Conservation Finance Director with the Trust for Public Land. Revised language, based on comments received from the Committee, was provided to you via email on February 23rd. The final language, provided below, has been reviewed by the County Attorney and found to be acceptable.

NASSAU COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR LANDS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND RIVERS

To acquire lands that improve water quality in rivers, creeks, and drinking water sources; protect natural areas, beaches and the St. Mary's, Nassau and Amelia Rivers; reduce flooding, conserve wildlife habitat, and provide outdoor recreation, shall Nassau County be authorized to issue General Obligation Bonds, not exceeding maximum lawful interest rates, maturing within 30 years, not exceeding 30 million dollars payable from ad valorem taxes, with citizen oversight and full public disclosure of all spending? (75 words)

___ YES, FOR BONDS

___ NO, AGAINST BONDS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

At your meeting on April 21st, staff will be asking the Committee to make the following recommendations:

- 1) Recommendation to accept the ballot language as presented.
- 2) Recommendation that the Board of County Commissioners direct the Supervisor of Elections to place the referendum on the November 2022 ballot.