

**Cone Ranch Environmental Advisory Panel  
Recap of Meeting on August 14, 2009 at 9:00 – 11:00 AM  
County Center**

**Environmental Advisory Panel Members**

Heidi McCree, Chair  
Rosanne Clementi, Vice Chair  
Hugh Gramling  
Vivienne Handy

Pamela Jo Hatley  
Dr. Felix T. Haynes  
Denise Layne

**Technical Resource Group**

Mark Adams\*  
Jack Berlin  
Will Bissett  
Steven Blaschka  
Hank Ennis\*  
Susan Fernandez  
Pete Fowler  
Lucia Garsys\*  
Paula Harvey \*

Ed Helvenston, Sr.  
Mike Kelly  
Renee Lee \*  
Mike Merrill  
Richard Miller \*  
Jim Roberts  
John Sheahen\*  
Tim Simon  
Bob Stetler\*

Edith Stewart  
Eric Sutton\*  
Paul Vanderploog  
Andrew Zodrow  
Mark Barcelo\*

\* Not in attendance  
\*\* Late Arrival

Heidi McCree, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Ms. Layne moved and Ms. Hatley seconded the motion to approve the Recap of the July 20, 2009 meeting.

Ken Jones, Principal of (the Florida Conservation and Environmental Group, LLC (FCEG) was introduced and he described the purpose for the LLC. It was created to look at environmental projects; land use; investment services; through the use of finance and banking contacts in 60 countries. They desire to preserve Cone Ranch in perpetuity and believe that Water Resource Services cannot do that preservation.

As part of the presentation, the Nature Conservancy's (NC) representative, Keith Fountain, described the 99,000 acres that the NC has helped to preserve statewide by conservation easements. Mr. Fountain further explained how the NC could be involved with the FCEG and the County in this proposal.

The Panel had numerous questions of the proposers. One of the questions was related to the ELAPP Committee examination of the site for possible purchase. Pete Fowler reported that the ELAPP General Committee met on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and decided the Cone Ranch site should be reevaluated. Public Comment is scheduled for the ELAPP Committee on September 15 and in October the site list goes to the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board. Any recommendations would go to the BOCC in December.

As a result of the Panel review of the FCEG proposal, the following information was requested from staff for the next meeting: 1) What is the legal procedure to sell Cone Ranch; 2) Can the

land be sold to FCEG; 3) How does the land sale process work in county government; 4) Is there a land management plan; 5) Will there be an appraisal of the property; 6) Can we see a map of the Cone Ranch section which is under consideration for ELAPP purchase.

At the close of the meeting, FCEG distributed packets with their materials.

For the next Panel meeting a presentation on mitigation banking was requested. EPC, SWFWMD, and Tetra Tech, a private contractor, will present the process of mitigation and talk about a current example of mitigation being conducted by a private contractor. The Panel also requested that staff prepare a possible schedule of meeting beginning in October.

Three members of the public gave public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM.