

Morgan, Jean

From: Haynes, Felix [fhaynes@hccfl.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 10:32 AM
To: Stewart, Edith
Subject: FW: Cone Ranch Advisory Panel Input

From: Haynes, Felix
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2009 6:27 PM
To: Haynes, Felix
Subject: Cone Ranch Advisory Panel Input

Cone Ranch is a treasure. Wetlands restoration is vital. However, since Hillsborough County took ownership of the property, it has fallen short of its obligations to the land and to its ultimate owners, the citizens of Hillsborough County, by not creating and executing a land management plan.

Regardless of which disposition alternative is recommended by the Panel (including retention of ownership by the County), the final recommendation that goes to the BOCC should contain the following components:

1. Create a robust structure of all available legal mechanisms to protect the land as permanently as possible from development.
2. Ensure the development and adoption of a complete land management plan to protect and restore Cone Ranch.
3. Use all the authority possessed by BOCC to ensure that the plan is carried out.
4. If the plan is not developed and carried out within a set time period (say three to five years), urge that action be taken by BOCC to either legally require the execution of the plan (if land sold to a non-governmental purchaser) or to select another disposition alternative (if a governmental body retains ownership).
5. Create a mechanism to allow public access to some portion of the property for recreation activities consistent with protection of the land.
6. If BOCC selects any disposition alternative to convey ownership of any portion of the property to a non-governmental entity, the sale should be by competitive bid process regardless of the profit status of the purchaser in order to insure that the interests of Hillsborough County taxpayers are protected.

Felix Haynes