

RESOLUTION 92-149

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE; PRESCRIBING THE PURPOSES AND AUTHORITY OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PRESCRIBING THE MEMBERSHIP THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, it is vitally important for the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") to protect the County's environmentally sensitive lands for protection of the health of the general public, protection of species, and preservation of precious undeveloped open space; and

WHEREAS, the environmentally significant lands within the County have a variety of characteristics that render such lands appropriate for certain uses or appropriate for no uses other than for open space; and

WHEREAS, there are myriad ways of protecting environmentally sensitive lands, ranging from fee simple public ownership to conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, the significance of the County's environmentally sensitive lands should be prioritized in order to facilitate decisions regarding the best ways to acquire or protect the lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. Creation of the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee.

There is hereby established a voluntary advisory board, to be known as the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee (ELMAC). Appointments of members of the Committee shall be in the manner set forth herein. Notice of openings shall be published, and members shall be appointed by majority vote of the Commission pursuant to this Resolution. Applicants for Committee membership shall follow the procedures set by the Commission regarding advisory board applications, and shall assure the Commission of the lack of conflicts and potential conflicts of interest. This Committee is advisory only and may be abolished, disbanded or reorganized at any time by the Commission.

Section 2. Purposes and Duties of the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee.

(A) The general purpose of the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee shall be to advise the Commission on matters related to environmental acquisition and management, and recreational planning and programming for acquired lands. This Committee will provide a forum for multiple interests and user groups to express their wishes for management of County-owned lands and recreational facilities.

(B) The specific duties of the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee are those specifically assigned by the Commission, and may include:

1. identifying and evaluating undeveloped lands adjacent to bays, rivers, lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, etc., for acquisition as public passive recreation areas;

2. developing a countywide inventory of environmentally sensitive lands;
3. for purposes of acquisition, devising a methodology by which a priority ranking may be assigned to the County's environmentally sensitive lands;
4. researching and evaluating potential acquisition funding mechanisms;
5. assisting staff in developing management plans for lands that the County has acquired/is planning to acquire;
6. assisting in lobbying efforts at the State level to secure sources of State funding for environmental lands purchases and planning;
7. researching other jurisdictions' environmental lands acquisition and management programs; and
8. performing other appropriate tasks that may be assigned by the Commission in the future;
9. planning for the protection of watersheds which are sources of potable water.

The above-listed duties may be amended or supplemented, from time to time, but only as deemed necessary or desirable by the Commission.

Section 3. Authority of the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee.

(A) The Committee shall have the authority to elect officers from its membership, to serve the needs of the Committee. Officers elected by the Committee will be a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

1. Chairman - the duties of the Chairman will be to preside at all meetings and to see that the work is carried out in a constructive and businesslike manner. The Chairman of the Committee or his/her appointee will be the liaison to work closely with the County Administrator or his/her designee. The Chairman will appoint special committees where and when needed to work on any of the aforementioned duties, and will oversee the work of such subcommittee.

2. Vice-Chairman - the Vice-Chairman will preside in the absence of the Chairman and will be available to assist the Chairman when requested.

(B) Further, the Committee shall have the authority to set the time and place for its meetings. The Committee will meet on a schedule, and at a time and place to be determined by the Committee. Meetings may be rescheduled or a special meeting called by the Committee at any regular meeting. In addition, the Chairman shall have the authority to call a special meeting. Upon a decision to cancel a meeting, Committee members and the Commission shall be notified by phone if the decision is made less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting; otherwise, notification shall be by letter. Meetings will be advertised as to time and place. Each meeting will have a prepared agenda for distribution, and records will be kept. A majority of currently-appointed Committee members will constitute a quorum for the conducting of Committee business.

(C) The Committee will carry out its responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner. Any expense incurred by the Committee or a member thereof, in pursuing its duties, may be reimbursed by the Commission, so long as prior approval is obtained from the Commission.

(D) The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Commission, in open session, at least once annually. Said reports shall only be made by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee, upon the advice of and consent of a majority of the Committee.

Section 4. Membership of the Committee.

(A) To the extent possible, the Committee will be made up of nine (9) members. To the extent possible, the Commission shall appoint Committee members from the following groups or with the following affiliations:

- A member of the Florida Engineering Society;
- A member schooled in a natural science: ecology, biology, botany, etc.;
- A member with background or education in active outdoor sports;
- A member of a local environmental group (general environmental activism);
- A member of the Chamber of Commerce's Environmental Committee;
- Two (2) year around residents of Manatee County, one of whom shall be a resident of one of the communities on Anna Maria Island or Longboat Key;
- A representative/employee of the Manatee County School Board;
- A member with background/education in banking, finance, or real estate.

(B) The County Administrator or his/her designee is hereby assigned the responsibility of providing clerical and administrative support to the Committee. The County Attorney's office will be responsible for the legal needs of the Committee, but only as specifically directed, from time to time, by the Commission.

Section 5. Terms and Eligibility Requirements.

(A) Terms of service on the Committee will be for one (1) year, with re-appointment at the discretion of the Commission. Members whose terms have expired may continue serving until the Commission selects a replacement.

(B) A member missing any three (3) consecutive meetings shall be removed from the Committee upon the recommendation of a majority of the Committee. The Commission may either appoint a new member for the remainder of the term, or, in the sole discretion of the Commission, determine that it is in the best interest of the County to reinstate the member.

(C) Should any member of the Committee resign before completion of his/her term of office, the Commission may appoint other(s) to complete the balance of the term of that position.

(D) The terms of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be restricted to no more than two consecutive one-year terms in those offices.

Section 6. Administrative Coordinator.

The County Administrator or his/her designee shall serve as the staff liaison to the Committee and shall establish procedures consistent with County policy concerning Committee appointments, development of budgets, expenditures of County funds, providing of clerical services and meeting facilities and performing other administrative matters which affect the normal operations of the Committee.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall be effective as of July 1, 1992.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 3rd day of June, 1992.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Kathy A. Sull
Chairman

ATTEST: R.B. SHORE
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Donald C. Shore - Deputy Clerk