

**MANATEE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION/TOUR
Bradenton, Florida
January 31, 2017**

Present were:

Bill Webster, Chairman
Bob Nicholson, Vice-Chairman
Randall Cooper
Bradley Hawkins
David Landers
Debbie Lansing
Ingrid McClellan
Patsy Ugarte

Absent were:

Mike Burton
Patrick Healy
John McDonald
Jim Parks
Charles Richards
Richard Smith
Scott Tussing

Also present was:

Mike Elswick, Resource Management Division Manager, Parks and Natural Resources
Marcus Campion, Resource Management Superintendent, Parks and Natural Resources
Randy West, Senior Ranger, Parks and Natural Resources
Quantana Acevedo, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court

Chairman Webster called the work session to order at 2:01 p.m.

TOUR OF PRESERVES – WEST COUNTY

Mike Elswick, Resource Management Division Manager, and Marcus Campion, Resource Management Superintendent, Randy West, and ELMAC members toured the following preserves:

1. Robinson Preserve
Discussion ensued regarding the tower materials, prescribed burning, salt flat habitat, campsite for Blueways Paddling Trail (access from water only), group campsite (reservation only for Fridays and Saturdays), wildlife, Robinson Expansion – Phase II (including fishing allowances, exotics removal, rubberized running track, oyster bars, saltwater marsh plantings, box turtles, gopher tortoises, access road from 9th Avenue Northwest, 100 kayak tubes, half-cent sales tax funds, Mosaic Fertilizer LLC contribution, and Capital Improvements Program), Winston Tract clean-up, and status of trail to Perico Preserve.
2. Perico Preserve
Discussion took place about Perico Preserve being a bird sanctuary to migratory birds, seagrass monitoring areas (charge \$330,000 per acre), killdeer bird, gopher tortoises onsite, Rookery Island, plantings for next phase, no bicycles allowed near wetlands, rabbits and snakes, trail to Robinson Preserve will be complete within one year, no bees onsite, and oyster bar restoration.

3. Neal Preserve
Discussion proceeded as to cotton growing onsite, archeological site due to burial mounds, watershed mobile phone audio tour (only one in the County thus far), mangroves, Boxleaf or Spanish Stopper trees, Neal Preserve tower is not as tall as the one at Robinson Preserve, ongoing exotics removal such as Rosary Pea, and the use of Coin Vine.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Webster adjourned the work session at 4:49 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____