



DRAFT MINUTES

Eagle Sanctuary Steering Committee

January 28, 2010 - 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

City of Pembroke Pines City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room
10100 Pines Boulevard
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Welcome - *Doug Young, Chair, Eagle Sanctuary Steering Committee*

Attendees: Doug Young, Chair, Victor Suarez, Kelly Smith, Trisha Norton, Al Griffin, Ken Schneider (recorder), Grant Campbell, Diane Guidry, Barry Heimlich. City of Pembroke Pines Representative: Sharon Williams. South Florida Water Management District: Carole Morris, Lead Intergovernmental Representative. Absent: Diana Guidry, Brian Mealey

Minutes of December 5, 2009 meeting were **APPROVED**

Business Issues

1. Carole provided an update on the C-11 and C-9 impoundment projects. Plans are now being reformulated, with the value of the State's share of the land under discussion. C-11, in Weston, has priority. C-9 would not be constructed in the immediate future. It will border the City of Pembroke Pines land (that comprises the proposed Bald Eagle Sanctuary) on the south and west. As envisioned, it could contain up to four feet of water, which would be overflow from C-11. Committee members discussed the possible impact upon the eagles' foraging territory. Inundation and de-vegetation would likely adversely affect some terrestrial prey, while possibly improve the supply of fish and their predators. **Carole will be attending a meeting on site at C-11 tomorrow and will provide the Committee with another update at our next meeting.**
2. Ken updated the status of the eagle nest. Eggs hatched on or about January 22, on schedule. Last year, the first eaglet became visible 22 days after hatching. Based upon last season's experience, the number of visitors is expected to increase from mid-February until the eaglets depart the nest tree around late May.
3. Sharon reported that the ordinance to designate the Eagle Sanctuary in 2012 would be accommodated by the City Comprehensive Plan now under review.
4. Doug approached FP&L about use of the power pole in front of the nest for mounting the planned Eagle Nest Cam, but received a letter from the company stating that, as a regulated public utility, it could not offer financial support, and that policies limit what can be put on poles to electrical, cable and phone services.
5. Ken reviewed progress on the critical tasks that must be completed if an Eagle Nest Cam is to be in place before October 1, 2010, when the next breeding season begins. Generally, the project is about one month behind schedule in initiating and completing tasks. The completion deadline was missed for the Concept Paper and Cost Estimates, both of which were due by January 1 at the latest. The Project management Timeline calls for contacts with Sponsors to be accomplished by February 1. At least once in the past, the FWC has required nest cameras to be placed at least 20 feet from the nest. Construction of a pole and camera platform would require clear-cutting a path to the nest tree for heavy equipment, a much greater disturbance to the habitat than if a small camera were installed on one of the large branches in the nest tree. Grant suggested that a tethered pole would involve less digging, though a concrete platform and footings for the cables would still be necessary. Committee



members received assurance that all on-site work would be done outside the breeding period. The feasibility of even carrying out the Nest Cam project was questioned. **Kelly moved that the project should not proceed if FWC prohibits placement of a camera on the nest tree.** Her motion was seconded, but **failed (2 Yes to 7 No)**. In the discussion it became clear that the Committee wishes to provide Doug with discretion to continue to consider alternative camera placements. There was consensus that our concerns must be forcibly expressed as soon as possible, in a meeting with FWC, with a view to obtaining their provisional opinion as to feasibility of placing the camera on the nest tree. **Doug agreed to contact Richard Zambrano of FWC as soon as possible. Doug will also contact possible sponsors (NBC-6 and Comcast). In addition, Doug will brief and seek the promotional support of John Ogden, Director of Bird Conservation, Florida Audubon, as well as others active in conservation. Doug will provide us with e-mail progress reports on his efforts and results.**

6. Re-establish liaison with Broward School Board – Doug **TABLED**
 7. Action Items for next meeting – **in bold print above**
- VI. Other Business (NONE)
- VII. Next Scheduled Eagle Sanctuary Committee Meeting:
- Date: February 25, 2010 (Tentative)**
Time: TBD
Location: City of Pembroke Pines City Hall, Meeting
Room: TBD
- VII. Adjournment at 5:45 PM