



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Miscellaneous

J.4.

3/24/2020

Subject:

Approval of Board to send letter to The Nature Conservancy, District 4

Fiscal Impact:

None

Dept/Office:

District 4 Commission Office

Requested Action:

Approval of letter to The Nature Conservancy RE: EEL Program

Summary Explanation and Background:

This item is presented to the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of Vince Lamb. Brevard County EEL program funding sunsets in 2024, the past funding of the program was approved by referendums in 1990 and 2004. The funding requirements of the maintenance of the EEL program is too large to be funded by the general fund. There are possibilities of presenting another referendum to the electors in 2020 or 2022 however, the referendum process starts with polling and data collection. The Nature Conservancy has offered to lead the polling effort. Based upon polling results, the Board of County Commissioners could vote to put the item on the 2020 ballot until August 17, 2020. A Political Action Committee (PAC) will be formed and funded to educate the voters of this issue. More than 75% of Conservation Land ballot initiatives get voter approval. The informal EEL Program Referendum Team consist of Jim Swann, Laurilee Thompson, Keith Winsten, Bo Platt, and Vince Lamb.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

None



March 25, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4

RE: Item J.4., Approval to Send Letter to The Nature Conservancy

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 24, 2020, tabled discussion to approve a letter to The Nature Conservancy for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program to the July 7, 2020, Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Deanna Scott
Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/kp

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner
EELs Program Manager



Adam Snyder
Conservation Campaigns Manager
The Nature Conservancy
2100 1st. Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Dear Mr. Snyder,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, I would like to request technical advice and assistance from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in connection with our efforts to secure reliable continuing funding for the land and water conservation efforts of our Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. This program has been funded using ad valorem taxes authorized by voter referenda in 1990 and 2004, which expire in 2024.

I understand the TNC voluntarily assists local governments with research and development of recommendations on strategies for achieving dedicated, ongoing sources of public funds for land and water conservation. We would like to invite you to provide this type of information and analysis to the Board of County Commissioners. Our objective is to find the best alternative to continue funding this program with regard to our residents, visitors and taxpayers.

We are not only interested in the factual information that you can provide, but also the opinions and recommendations on public funding measures available to us and the strategies to enact these options into public policy measures. That would include understanding the public's priorities and attitudes concerning land and water conservation, environmental outreach, outdoor recreation and natural areas - including trails and wildlife habitat.

Information provided to this Commission will be public record as a matter of law. This request does not in any way commit public funds to the efforts of the TNC regarding this request nor does it require public disclosure of any confidential information of either organization. In addition, this request does not imply that any recommendations provided to this Commission will be considered for public policy enactment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We eagerly await your response. Please contact me if I can provide any assistance.

Respectively,