

MONROE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LAND AUTHORITY  
GOVERNING BOARD

July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Governing Board of the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Land Authority held a budget meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. The meeting was a hybrid format with the Governing Board members assembled at the Marathon Government Center located at 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida. Members of the public attended both in person and via Communications Media Technology (CMT) using a Zoom Webinar platform. Chairman David Rice called the meeting to order at 10:26 AM. Present and answering roll call, in addition to Chairman Rice, were Commissioner Craig Cates, Commissioner Michelle Coldiron, Commissioner Holly Raschein, and Commissioner James Scholl. Attending in person was Executive Director Christine Hurley. Attending via CMT were Senior Property Acquisition Specialist Mark Rosch and Office Manager Dina Gambuzza.

The only item on the agenda (Item D) was Land Authority discussion and direction of FY 23 Budget request. Ms. Hurley addressed the Board regarding the Land Authority's submitted draft budget and new opportunities arising from the partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to pre-acquire conservation land in Florida Forever projects in the Keys. During FY 22, staff have successfully contracted for over \$5 million in purchases, with over \$3 million eligible for resale to the State. The Florida Keys Stewardship Bill includes a \$5 million per year goal for state acquisition of land inside the Florida Forever conservation land boundary. In order to leverage \$5 million annually, Land Authority staff would need to contract for an estimated \$6-\$7 million in property. This necessitates an additional staff person.

Ms. Hurley discussed revising the Land Authority's proposed FY 23 budget to include the additional staff position to achieve the goals of the County and State. The position would assist with pre-acquiring and reselling conservation land to the State to more fully use the State's Florida Keys Stewardship Act funding. No vote was taken but the Board was supportive of the proposal and requested the change be made for the budget hearings in September.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM.



Minutes prepared by:



Christine Hurley  
Executive Director

Approved by the Board on:

8/17/22