

**MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR/WORKSHOP**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** August 27, 2002, at 9:41 a.m. in the Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

1.A. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Warren H. Newell  
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts

Commissioner Burt Aaronson

Commissioner Addie L. Greene  
Commissioner Mary McCarty  
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus  
Commissioner Tony Masilotti  
County Administrator Robert Weisman

Assistant County Attorney Ernest W. Chasseur

Deputy Clerk Joseph Smith

2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

(CLERK'S NOTE: Workshop Item 5, the Homeless Task Force Report, was canceled.)

2.A. **ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, SUBSTITUTIONS**

County Administrator Weisman noted the agenda changes as follows:

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**ADD-ON:** Staff recommends motion to approve:

**A)** a Reimbursement Grant Agreement with the Indian Trail Improvement District to provide funding not-to-exceed a maximum amount of \$250,000 for park improvements on the County's retention area parcel; and

**B)** The simultaneous transfer of ownership of the County's Northlake Boulevard retention area located at 88th Place North and Coconut Boulevard to the Indian Trail Improvement District for park and drainage purposes.

**SUMMARY:** This Agreement provides funding to reimburse the Indian Trail Improvement District an amount up to \$250,000 for the cost of County-approved park amenities on the county's retention area parcel. The Indian Trail Improvement District will be responsible for the maintenance of the retention area and these improvements. Simultaneous with the execution of this agreement, the County will transfer ownership of the retention area parcel to the District for its use for park and drainage purposes. The County will reserve and retain unto itself a drainage and flowage easement. District 6 (ME) (Eng)

1                    6C-2

**ADD-ON:** Proclamation declaring the week of September 2 - 8, 2002 as Miami Dolphins Kick-Off Week in Palm Beach County. (Sponsored by Commissioner Aaronson)

**REVISED TITLE & SUMMARY:**

**A)** Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. A002-1 (R2002-0229; dated February 26, 2002) with the Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. (AAA) increasing funds by \$454,902 for a new amount not-to-exceed \$2,369,238 for the period January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 for Older American-s Act (OAA) funding;

**2.A. B CONTINUED**

~~**B)** Budget Amendment of \$505,445 in DOSS OAA (Fund 177); and~~

~~**C)** Budget Transfer of \$50,543 from Reserve-Contingency General (Fund 001).~~

**SUMMARY:** This amendment increases OAA funding for Title III-B/Transportation services by \$45,726, Title III-B/In-home services by \$214,504, Title III-C-2/Home Delivered Meals by \$58,598, Title III-C-1/Congregate Meals by \$22,485, and Title III-E/National Family Caregiver Program by \$113,589. ~~A budget transfer from the General Fund is needed in order to provide the required County match of \$50,543 (10%).~~ (DOSS) Countywide except for portions of Districts 3, 4, 5, and 7 south of Hypoluxo Road (TKF) (Comm Serv)

**ADD-ON: Staff recommends motion to:**

**A) approve** a Declaration of Seepage Management, Easement and Release Agreement;

**B) approve** a Partial Assignment, Bifurcation and Amendment of Lease;

**C) approve** a County Deed conveying 570.77 acres to the South Florida Water Management District; and

**D) adopt** a Resolution authorizing the conveyance to the South Florida Water Management District.

**SUMMARY:** On June 6, 2000, the County entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the South Florida Water Management District (R2000-0806) for the sale to SFWMD of a 60.6% interest in the 627-acre McMurrain Farm property in the Ag Reserve for \$13,982,535 (\$14,500/acre). Amendment No. 1 reduced the acreage by 52.37 acres, with corresponding reduction in the purchase price to \$13,734,881. The closing was contingent upon 1.) a favorable IRS ruling on the tax treatment of sale proceeds received from SFWMD; 2.) execution of a seepage agreement addressing responsibility for damages caused by seepage from the reservoir intended to be constructed on this property by SFWMD; and 3.) execution by the farmer under the existing lease of the property of a lease amendment addressing issues of concern to SFWMD. The IRS has issued a favorable ruling and the Seepage Agreement and Lease Amendment will satisfy the remaining two contingencies. The closing with SFWMD is scheduled for August 29, 2002. The County will receive \$13,734,384 at closing. (PREM) District 5 (HJF) (FD&O)

**ADD-ON: Staff recommends motion to approve:**

**A)** an Airport consent to Assignment of an Airport Rental Car Lease and Concession Agreement dated November 10, 1998 between the County and National Rental Car System, Inc. (R98-1882D) to South Florida Transport, Inc. d/b/a Thrifty Car Rental; and

**B)** an Airport Consent to Assignment of an Airport Ground Lease Agreement dated October 5, 1993 between the County and National Car Rental System, Inc. (R93-1267/R97-2118D) to South Florida Transport, Inc. d/b/a Thrifty Car Rental; and

**C)** an Airport Consent to Assignment of an Airport Rental Car Lease and Concession Agreement dated November 10, 1998 between the County and Alamo Rent-A-Car, LLC (R98-1878D/R2000-053D) to ANC Rental Corporation; and

**D)** an Airport Consent to Assignment of a Development Site Lease Agreement dated December 7, 1993 between the County and National Car Rental Systems, Inc. f/k/a NCR Acquisition Corporation (R93-1587D/R95-670D) to ANC Rental Corporation; and

**E)** an Airport Consent to Assignment of an Airport Ground Lease Agreement dated December 7, 1993 between the County and National Car Rental Systems, Inc. f/k/a NCR Acquisition Corporation (R93-1586D/R95-670D) to ANC Rental Corporation; and

**F)** a First Amendment to an Airport Rental Car Lease and Concession Agreement dated November 10, 1998 between the County and South Florida Transport, Inc. d/b/a Thrifty Car Rental (R98-1882D); and

**G)** a First Amendment to an Airport Ground Lease dated October 5, 1993 between the County and South Florida Transport, Inc. d/b/a Thrifty Car Rental (R93-1267/R97-2118D).

## **2.A. B CONTINUED**

**SUMMARY:** ANC Rental Corporation ("ANC"), the parent company of two Airport rental car concessionaires, National Car Rental System, Inc. ("National") and Alamo Rent-A-Car, LLC ("Alamo"), has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. In a recent motion before the Bankruptcy Court, ANC petitioned the Bankruptcy Court seeking approval to assign various agreements that National and Alamo have entered into with the County to ANC and South Florida Transport, Inc. d/b/a Thrifty Car Rental ("South Florida"). Under the terms of the agreements with the County, written consent of the County is required prior to an assignment. A hearing on the motion in Bankruptcy Court is scheduled on September 4, 2002. ANC and South Florida are requesting the County consent to the assignments, which are subject to Bankruptcy Court approval, prior to the hearing. South Florida has agreed to amend the agreements being assigned to it by National to provide the County with a corporate guaranty from Thrifty Car Rental ("Thrifty"). In the event South Florida is unable to provide the County with a corporate guaranty from Thrifty within 90 days of the effective date of the amendments, the County will have the option of terminating the agreements with South Florida. Approval of the assignments by the Bankruptcy Court will help to ensure the Department of Airports continues to maintain its current revenue stream under those agreements. Countywide (KLW) (Co Atty)

## **2.B. ADOPTION**

**MOTION to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Masilotti, and carried 7-0.**

- 3. 9:30 A.M. WORKSHOP - See pages 8-9.**
- 4. 2:00 P.M. WORKSHOP - See pages 10-11.**
- 5. 3:00 P.M. WORKSHOP (HOMELESS TASK FORCE REPORT) - CANCELLED.**
- 6. REGULAR AGENDA - See pages 3-8.**  
**TIME CERTAIN 2:00 P.M. ITEM 6.C.1 - See page 9.**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT - See page 11.**

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## **6. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **6.A. CLERK**

#### **6.A.1.**

WARRANT LIST DATED AUGUST 23, 2002. APPROVED 8-27-2002

COMPUTER CHECKS	\$16,075,321.53
WIRE TRANSFERS	1,687,592.16
MANUAL	71,086.97
	\$17,834,863.90

**MOTION to approve the warrant list. Motion by Commissioner Masilotti, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 7-0.**

**REGULAR AGENDA B CONTINUED**

**6.A.2.**

CONTRACTS LIST SIGNED BY THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR OR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, TOTALING \$3,082,990:

**a.**

TERM CONTRACT WITH ODUM-S SOD AND MEYER-S TURF FOR \$667,400 TO FURNISH AND INSTALL SOD ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2002, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14, 2003, PER BID 02-160/MM. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**b.**

RENEWAL OF TERM CONTRACT WITH WEISER SECURITY SERVICES FOR \$2,235,590 FOR SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FROM OCTOBER 1, 2002, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003, PER BID 01-182/JF. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**c.**

EXTENSION OF TERM CONTRACT WITH SAL-S ABATEMENT AND SIMPSON & ASSOCIATES FOR \$150,000 FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT SERVICES FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2002, THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2003, PER BID 01-075/FS. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**d.**

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1484**

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX CATEGORY G 2001-02 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA JUDO INCORPORATED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FOR THE 2002 JUNIOR U.S. OPEN JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS AUGUST 3-4, 2002, FOR THE GRANT PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 1-AUGUST 7, 2002. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**e.**

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1485**

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX CATEGORY G 2001-02 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH SKI CLUB OF THE PALM BEACHES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 FOR THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL WATER SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS JULY 24-28, 2002, FOR THE GRANT PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 1-AUGUST 5, 2002. APPROVED 8-27-2002

f.

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1486**

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX CATEGORY G 2001-02 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH U.S. AMATEUR CONFEDERATION OF ROLLER SKATING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FOR JUNIOR WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP AUGUST 15-18, 2002, FOR THE GRANT PERIOD OF MARCH 1-AUGUST 20, 2002. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the contracts list. Motion by Commissioner Masilotti, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 7-0.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA B CONTINUED**

### **6.A.3.**

MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF APRIL 8, 2002; ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD OF APRIL 16, 2002; REGULAR OF APRIL 16, 2002; WORKSHOP OF APRIL 23, 2002; ZONING OF APRIL 25, 2002; REGULAR OF MAY 7, 2002; ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD OF MAY 7, 2002; ZONING OF MAY 23, 2002; WORKSHOP OF MAY 28, 2002; BUDGET WORKSHOP OF MAY 30, 2002; REGULAR OF JUNE 4, 2002; REGULAR OF JUNE 18, 2002; ZONING OF JUNE 19, 2002, WORKSHOP OF JUNE 25, 2002; AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF JULY 24, 2002. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Masilotti, and carried 7-0.**

### **6.B. ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **6.B.1. BUDGET TRANSFER 2002-1740**

BUDGET TRANSFER OF \$10,000 IN THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND FROM RESERVES FOR DISTRICT 1 TO A1A BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT - DISTRICT 1, FOR STRUCTURAL CONSULTANT TO VERIFY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ESTIMATE FOR REPLACEMENT COSTS OF THE A1A BRIDGE STRUCTURE. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the budget transfer. Motion by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Masilotti, and carried 7-0.**

#### **6.B.2.**

a.

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1487**

REIMBURSEMENT GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIAN TRAIL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FUNDING A MAXIMUM OF \$250,000 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS ON THE COUNTY-S RETENTION AREA PARCEL. APPROVED 8-27-2002

b.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF THE COUNTY'S NORTHLAKE BOULEVARD RETENTION AREA LOCATED AT 88TH PLACE NORTH AND COCONUT BOULEVARD TO THE INDIAN TRAIL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR PARK AND DRAINAGE PURPOSES. APPROVED 8-27-2002

c.

**BUDGET TRANSFER 2002-1754**

BUDGET TRANSFER OF \$193,948 IN THE GENERAL FUND FROM RESERVES TO 88TH PLACE NORTH AND COCONUT BOULEVARD RETENTION AREA IMPROVEMENTS. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**6.C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

6.C.1. See page 9.

**REGULAR AGENDA B CONTINUED**

6.C.2.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2-8, 2002, AS MIAMI DOLPHINS KICK-OFF WEEK. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the proclamation. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Masilotti, and carried 7-0.**

**6.D. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

6.D.1.

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1488**

**(AMENDS R-2002-0229)**

AMENDMENT 1 TO CONTRACT WITH THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING FOR PALM BEACH/TREASURE COAST, INC. (AAA), INCREASING FUNDS BY \$454,902 TO \$2,369,238 FOR JANUARY 1, 2002, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2002, FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUNDING. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the amendment. Motion by Commissioner Masilotti, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 7-0.**

6.D.2.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT 2002-1737**

BUDGET AMENDMENT OF \$31,419 TO INCREASE THE DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES (DOSS) ALTERNATE OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUND AS THE RESULT OF A PRIVATE DONATION FROM THE ESTATE OF WILLIS M. TOWNSEND TO THE DOSS MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the budget amendment. Motion by Commissioner Masilotti, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 7-0.**

**6.E. PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT**

**6.E.1.**

**a. DOCUMENT R-2002-1489**

DECLARATION OF SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT, EASEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT, PARTIAL ASSIGNMENT, BIFURCATION, AND AMENDMENT OF LEASE WITH SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SALE OF THE MCMURRAIN FARM PROPERTY IN THE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE. (SEE R-2000-0806) APPROVED 8-27-2002

**b. RESOLUTION R-2002-1490**

RESOLUTION AND COUNTY DEED AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF 570.77 ACRES OF PROPERTY IN THE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT. (SEE R-2000-0806) ADOPTED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the items and to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Masilotti, and carried 7-0.**

**REGULAR AGENDA B CONTINUED**

**6.F. AIRPORTS**

**6.F.1.**

**a. DOCUMENT R-2002-1491  
(AMENDS R-98-1882-D)**

AIRPORT CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF AN AIRPORT RENTAL CAR LEASE AND CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL RENTAL CAR SYSTEM, INC., TO SOUTH FLORIDA TRANSPORT, INC., DBA THRIFTY CAR RENTAL. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**b. DOCUMENT R-2002-1492  
(AMENDS R-93-1267-D)**

AIRPORT CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF AN AIRPORT GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL CAR RENTAL SYSTEM, INC., TO SOUTH FLORIDA TRANSPORT, INC., DBA THRIFTY CAR RENTAL. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**c. DOCUMENT R-2002-1493  
(AMENDS R-98-1878-D)**

AIRPORT CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF AN AIRPORT RENTAL CAR LEASE AND CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH ALAMO RENT-A-CAR LLC TO ANC RENTAL CORPORATION. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**d. DOCUMENT R-2002-1494  
(AMENDS R-93-1587-D)**

AIRPORT CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT SITE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL CAR RENTAL SYSTEMS, INC., FKA NCR ACQUISITION CORPORATION, TO ANC RENTAL CORPORATION. APPROVED 8-27-2002

e.

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1495  
(AMENDS R-93-1586-D)**

AIRPORT CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF AN AIRPORT GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL CAR RENTAL SYSTEMS, INC., FKA NCR ACQUISITION CORPORATION, TO ANC RENTAL CORPORATION. APPROVED 8-27-2002

f.

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1496  
(AMENDS R-98-1882-D)**

AMENDMENT 1 TO AN AIRPORT RENTAL CAR LEASE AND CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH FLORIDA TRANSPORT, INC., DBA THRIFTY CAR RENTAL. APPROVED 8-27-2002

## **REGULAR AGENDA B CONTINUED**

### **6.F.1. B CONTINUED**

g.

**DOCUMENT R-2002-1497  
(AMENDS R-93-1267)**

AMENDMENT 1 TO AN AIRPORT GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH FLORIDA TRANSPORT, INC., DBA THRIFTY CAR RENTAL. APPROVED 8-27-2002

**MOTION to approve the consents to agreements. Motion by Commissioner Masilotti, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 7-0.**

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

### **3. 9:30 A.M. - LIVING WAGE ORDINANCE. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 8-27-2002**

The board earlier had asked staff to investigate developing an ordinance to provide a wage level higher than the federal minimum for certain county employees.

Staff explained that a living wage is a mandated wage rate higher than minimum wage. Gainesville, Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County are among jurisdictions that have adopted living wage programs. Staff noted that the Miami-Dade mandate applied to not only its county employees, but also to its service contractors.

If adopted, annual cost estimates for county employees, using the 110 percent of federal poverty guideline for a family of four, would be \$170,000.



Staff said a survey of departments showed that the ordinance could cost an estimated additional \$2 million to \$3 million annually on service contracts, however. In other jurisdictions, the living wage rates have been from 110 to 130 percent or more of the poverty level guideline.

In the light of the implementation of the small business enterprise and local preference ordinances, staff also raised the question of bidders-willingness to bid county contracts if the new requirements are viewed by them as too onerous.

Staff advised the board to consider exempting non-profit agencies and student and temporary positions.

Commissioner Roberts stressed she would like to see an ordinance that also covered workers on county property, such as at the Palm Beach International Airport. Employees such as skycaps, who depend on tips to make a viable living, were negatively impacted by travel curtailments after last year's 9/11 incidents, she noted.

Speaking in favor of an ordinance were Robert Alt of Ironworkers Local 402; Representative Susan Bucher, Pat Emmert, Tony Fransetta of the Florida Alliance of Retired Americans; John Ise of the Community Coalition for a Living Wage; Paul Kaplan, of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1577; Jeff Koons, Joe Martin, Tom Matthews of the Construction and General Laborers Local 767; Margaret Mead, Sean Mitchell of the Ironworkers and Apprentices of Palm Beach County; Mike Ozegovich of the Florida Carpenters Regional Council; Joe Palanski, Rafael Rondon, Mark Steff, Sol Silverman, Brett Trainor, and James Weldon of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 728.

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS B CONTINUED**

### **ITEM 3 B CONTINUED**

Speaking against it were Mike Jones of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, who said the ordinance would have a negative impact on those who need it most – new entrants into the marketplace and small business owners; Larry Pelton of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, who said raising the minimum wage without an increase in productivity could encourage unemployment and would be a financial burden on small business; and Brenda Talbert of Gold Coast Builders Association, who said the ordinance would have a deleterious effect on that industry.

**MOTION to bring back as soon as possible a living wage ordinance, similar to the Miami-Dade ordinance, that covers county employees and personnel working under county contracts as well as areas like airports where people are employed on county property, and examine costs involving 110, 120 and 130 percent above the poverty level. Motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Masilotti, and carried 4-3. Commissioners McCarty, Marcus, and Newell opposed.**

Commissioner Greene had asked how many county employees were making less than a living wage. Staff determined that, under the 110 percent-above-poverty federal guideline, which translated to \$9.57 per hour, just over 100 employees were below that level.

**MOTION to draft a policy to provide salaries 110 percent above poverty level for county employees not at that level and bring it back as a discussion item at the**

next regular board meeting. Motion by Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Aaronson, and carried 7-0.

## RECESS

At 12:31 p.m., the chair declared a recess.

## RECONVENE

At 2:11 p.m., the board reconvened with Commissioners Aaronson, Greene, Marcus, Masilotti, and Newell present.

## REGULAR AGENDA B CONTINUED

### 6.C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 6.C.1.

PRESENTATION BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.  
DISCUSSED 8-27-2002

Patrick Gleason, governing board member of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), presented the commission with a check for \$13,715,000. The check represented payment for 624 acres of property known as McMurrin Farms, which the county acquired on behalf of the SFWMD for Everglades restoration and to keep it from future development. Mr. Gleason thanked the county for its trust and for its commitment to Everglades restoration. He called the matter a positive example of governmental partners working together for a common good. Commissioner Newell noted that the money would be used to purchase more land in conjunction with environmental, water storage, or water quality issues.

### WORKSHOP ITEMS- CONTINUED

#### 4. 2:00 P.M. - EXOTIC PLANT REMOVAL. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 8-27-2002

Richard E. Walesky, director of Environmental Resources Management (ERM), updated the board on Section 9.5 of the Unified Development Code, which requires removal of nine types of plants that are considered to be invasive, non-native exotic species. Four public meetings on the matter had recently concluded.

The board had postponed an ordinance concerning the exotic plants in April and directed staff to research citizen concerns, investigate incentives and encourage voluntary removal of the plants.

According to staff, the plants -- old-world climbing fern, air potato vine, melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, carrotwood, earleaf acacia, schefflera, Australian pine and kudzu -- were reported to be displacing native vegetation, destroying wildlife habitat, and creating undesirable vegetative monocultures. They also were condemned as having a variety of noxious qualities, including adverse effects on human health, hazards to public safety, and undesirable aesthetics.

Mr. Walesky said ERM recommended the establishment of an ordinance which targets all of the prohibited plants within a 500-foot buffer area around natural areas and removal of all but Australian pine and melaleuca outside the buffer areas.

He estimated the cost of program at \$2 million annually.

A proposed incentive program was expected to result in a maximum cost of \$500 cost to property owners within the buffers to remove all of the plants, he explained.

As envisioned, landscape plans approved by the county before 1986 that included the plant species involved were expected to be grandfathered in, Mr. Walesky told the board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Speaking in favor of the ordinance were: Steven Bell, Rosa Durando, Heidi Rhoades, representing Florida Loves, and Stella Rossi.

Speaking against the ordinance (or seeking changes in it) were: Louis Caplan, Pamela Crawford of the Council for Environmental Preservation, Jennifer English of the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches; David Murbach of the Horticultural Society of South Florida, Barbara Lee Schurter, Bob Sears, and Kathleen Spain of Lion Country Safari.

**STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:**

- ! Bring back an ordinance;
- ! Further pursue incentives for affected property owners;
- ! Seek a program of economic assistance for those who could not afford removal of the targeted plants; and
- ! Continue to work with cities within the county to promote cooperation on the plant removal program.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS - CONTINUED**

**4. - CONTINUED**

Commissioners saluted staff for their work on the matter and Commissioner Newell suggested applying for a National Association of Counties or a Florida Association of Counties award for the program.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.**

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Clerk

Chair