



621 NW 53rd Street, Suite 240, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 - Phone: 561-995-1474 - FAX: 561-995-1499
Email: info@privatelands.org Web: <http://privatelands.org>

COMMITTEES OF THE RURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Six committees have been established to carry out the action items, follow up possibilities and next steps identified by council members at their meetings in 2002 and 2003.

1. MISSION/GUIDING PRINCIPLES/RURAL LAND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM CONCEPT REFINEMENT COMMITTEE

Responsibilities:

- What is the mission of the RLSC?
- What are its guiding principles?
- What is the appropriate structure for the RLSC?
- Collier is a good start and we need to add other pieces to it.
- We need to move toward a model that has statewide implications.
- We need to develop leadership at the state level with help from this group and then tie in all stakeholders.
- We should not restrict ourselves to only working with state agencies; there are other possibilities -- e.g. Florida Chamber, Farm Bureau, etc.

Co-chairs: Colleen Castille, Chuck Littlejohn

Committee members: Mike Busha, Rick Drummond, Al Reynolds, Peter Spyke, Jonathan Steverson

Resources outside council: none to date

2. GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

Responsibilities:

- Determine what actions/elements/components/approaches led up to and made the Collier County Rural Lands Stewardship plan successful.
- Create outline of steps for other counties to follow that will help them achieve their own unique results and develop their own rural planning tools.
- Develop sample guidelines for counties.
- Set up interlocal agreements.

Chair: Ernie Cox

Committee members: Mark Glisson, Denver Stutler

Resources outside council: Walker Banning (DCA), Cari Roth (former Deputy Secretary, DCA)

3. PILOT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Responsibilities:

- Develop pilot program(s) – in cooperation with DCA, DOACS, DEP, DOS,FWCC and the water management districts – to use existing sources of funding to pay for the services necessary to implement this concept in small rural counties.
- There is a good argument in favor of using existing funding sources for this purpose since the funds spent in Collier County to establish the RLSA (which will permanently protect 90,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and result in the retention of another 85,000 acres of open space uses) represent an investment of \$800,000 that, in turn, have an environmental protection value (compared with traditional land protection tools) of \$280 million. Thus, this provides a way of leveraging each public dollar by 350:1!

Provisional Chair: Pam Mac’Kie

Committee members: Allison DeFoor, Chris Doolin, Alan Shelby

Resources outside council: Chuck Hungerford (FL Legislature)

4. EDUCATION AND PROMOTION MATERIALS COMMITTEE/ FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Responsibilities:

- The current PowerPoint presentations available on the Web are good but we need help in explaining the details on what is happening in Collier County. Collier got private agriculture landowners involved from the beginning and moved to a value-added approach rather than just a regulatory approach.
- Several county representatives agreed with Assistant County Manager Gregg Welstead from Lake County and Planning Director Dennis Murphy from St. Lucie County when they stated during the November 11, 2002 meeting that "This is by far the best concept we've ever seen to address rural growth issues." However, they also agreed with planners Mariah Hutchinson from Highlands County and Clyde Dulin from Martin County who both said, "I can see this is an innovative, imaginative and exciting concept. But I do not have any idea how I can even begin to explain this to my commissioners."
- It is clear that a succinct presentation is needed to describe this concept to county commissioners and planners in a very simple, understandable way.
- A PowerPoint presentation would be a better choice for this purpose than a video.
- Determine how educational materials/information on the Rural Lands Stewardship Program should be distributed.
- Develop strategies for attracting ongoing funding for the RLSC and its work.

Co-chairs: Sue Mullins, Craig Evans

Committee members: Dave Fisk, Don Ross

Resources outside council: Anita Jenkins (WilsonMiller)

5. PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOP AND SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Responsibilities:

- Plan December 5, 2003 Rural Lands Symposium for Treasure Coast region (Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties).
- Facilitate personal presentations by one or more council members, in concert with Walker Banning from DCA, who are able to meet with county planners and take part in county commission workshops, and countywide symposiums. These presentation will be important in cultivating interest in the concept, and explaining how individual counties can adapt the Rural Lands Stewardship concept to address local needs and issues.
- Take RLSA to communities and maximize tie-ins for people who actually live in these communities.

Chair: Mike Busha

Committee members: Craig Evans, Val Hubbard, Charles Pattison, Jon Steverson

Resources outside council: Walker Banning (DCA), Sheri Covin (FAPA), Tim Jackson (1000 Friends)

6. AGRICULTURE & RURAL LANDOWNER COMMITTEE

Responsibilities:

- We need help in explaining the details of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and how to deal with it; how do we help urbanites understand what is really at stake?
- Urban agriculture will only become possible if “urbanites” become genuine stakeholders.
- We need a “walking around” list of consequences if agriculture is displaced in Florida.
- We need to articulate the positive roles that agriculture can play in the long-term urban landscape, thereby showing the non-agricultural public that they have a stake in the outcome.
- We need to sell the Rural Lands Stewardship concept to the landowners first, then apply the principles to the government.

Chair: Peter Spyke

Committee members: Chuck Aller, Sam Ard, Eric Draper, Tom Jones

Resources outside council: Ed Kuester (DOACS)