

**MINUTES REPORT**  
**EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC)**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

**Committee Members Present:**

Edward Elms  
Laura Greeno, Chair

Kyle Philpot  
Jacob Taminosian

**Excused/Absent:**

Betsie Hiatt, Vice-Chair

**Lee County Government Staff Present:**

Nic DeFilippo, Planning

Janet Miller, DCD Admin

**Outside Consultants**

Paul Owen (Environmental Consulting, LLC)

Linda Miller (Avalon Engineering)

**Call to Order:**

Ms. Greeno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room 1B, of the Community Development/Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe Street, Ft. Myers, Florida. Introductions were made.

**Agenda Item 2 – Paul Owen with Owen Environmental Consulting, LLC to Present Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-009 Burnt Store Mixed Use Planned Development DCI2022-00039.**

Mr. Paul Owen with Owen Environmental Consulting, LLC gave an overview of Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-009. Mr. DeFilippo pulled up a location map (PowerPoint slide).

Mr. Taminosian asked if there would be any mechanical removal in the indigenous preserve. He also asked for confirmation that there were mainly low exotics in the area.

Mr. Owen confirmed they were low exotics and that he did not foresee there being any mechanical removal taking place as the vegetation could simply be chopped and removed.

Mr. Taminosian asked for confirmation that there has been no nesting history since 2016-2017.

Mr. Owen confirmed that he had no new information beyond that.

Mr. Taminosian asked for confirmation that they conducted a site visit in November.

Mr. Owen stated they did conduct a site visit. At that time, the nest was still there. Even though it appears that they have not reestablished the nest since Hurricane Ian, the nest is still there and seemed to be somewhat intact.

Mr. Philpot stated that whether the nest is occupied or not, the 660-foot monitoring rule still applies.

Mr. Owen stated that was correct. Per the guidelines, major exterior work will be monitored during the nesting season.

Ms. Linda Miller stated that in the 44 feet that is outside of the native buffer area, there will be a berm and detention area, so the building is set back further than that.

**Mr. Philpot made a motion to approve the Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-009 Burnt Store Mixed Use Planned Development DCI2022-00039, seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The motion was called and passed 4-0.**

### **Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2023**

Mr. Taminosian referred to Page 1 of 6 where it states, “*Mr. Taminosian referred to Page 3 of 7 where it states, “Mr. Philpot stated there was not.”*” He noted that his name should be replaced with Mr. Philpot.

It should read, “*Mr. Philpot referred to Page 3 of 7 where it states, “Mr. Philpot stated there was not.”*”

**Mr. Taminosian made a motion to approve the November 14, 2023 ETAC minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Elms. The motion was called and passed 4-0.**

### **Agenda Item 4 – Member Reports**

Edward Elms

**Pine Island Flatwoods Trail (LE-982)** – An adult eagle is on the eggs. If everything goes well, the eggs should hatch before the next ETAC meeting. He has not seen both adults; only the one on the eggs.

**Galt Preserve (LE-102)** – An adult eagle is on the eggs. He anticipated the eggs might hatch after Christmas or before the next ETAC meeting. He has not seen both adults; only the one on the eggs.

Mr. Elms asked if this is what Ms. Greeno observed when she has visited the sites.

Ms. Greeno confirmed that both nests are incubating on the Pine Island Flatwoods Trail.

Mr. Elms stated he was not aware of the second nest.

Ms. Greeno stated it was located near the Mosquito Control helicopter pad.

Mr. Elms asked where the best place was to view the nest.

Ms. Greeno stated most people seem to be viewing it from Stringfellow Road.

Mr. Elms stated that the reason he was unaware of this nest is because last year it was decided that nothing was taking place there.

Ms. Greeno stated that was correct, but this year they are officially in that nest.

Mr. Elms asked if it was set back 100 feet.

Ms. Greeno stated it was and noted it is just off the helicopter landing pad.

Mr. DeFilippo pulled up a PowerPoint slide to show the Board the location.

**5<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm (LE-053)** – This is the pair that used to be located on Vacation Lane. This nest is on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm near the Trailer Park. It has been approximately two weeks that they are on the eggs. The timing seems to be the same as the others where the eggs might hatch after Christmas or early January. Like the others, he only sees the adult eagle that is on the eggs.

**Manatee Bay (LE-018A)** – He spotted an eagle last month at the top of the cell tower across Stringfellow Road, but there is no nest tree or eagles in this nest area.

Kyle Philpot

**Bayshore Commons (LE-006)** – The nest appears to be in good shape. No construction is taking place within 330 feet. He did not spot any eagles, but eagles have been in this area in the past. It may be that he is unable to see them if they are incubating because it is a deep nest.

**Donald Rd/Pritchett (LE-026B)** – The eagles are incubating.

**Moody River (LE-043)** – He did not spot any eagles at this site.

**Cell Tower Littleton Road (LE-124)** – He did not spot any eagles at this site. Also, there was no nest the month before.

**Alico Road (LE-093)** – The eagles are incubating.

**Oriole Road (LE-128)** – The eagles are incubating.

**Creekside Preserve (LE-080)** – This is only a territory, but there is no nest.

Jacob Taminosian

**St. Charles Harbor (LE-002)** – Mr. Taminosian stated that as he arrived an eagle flew away from the nest. He was unable to see what they were doing or if they had been incubating. The nest looks good.

**Robalo (LE-069) and Jonathan Harbour (LE-070)** – He had not visited these sites, but he previously sent photos of these two territories to Becky Sweigert and Nic DeFilippo. The trees have been cut down in proximity to them after Hurricane Ian.

**Lakes Park Cell Tower (LE-?)** – He did not visit this site but noted there had been no activity at this site last month.

**Pub & Pickle (LE-071A)** – He only spotted one adult, not the second adult. He believed they were likely incubating.

**Lexington Middle School (LE-105)** – There has been no activity at this site. He noted they are normally an early pair, so it may be that he is visiting the site at the wrong time of day. The nest appears to be in good condition. He also noted it is a deep nest, so it is possible that he is unable to see the eagles in the nest while they are incubating.

**Sora Drive (LE-117)** – Even though this nest is in poor condition, he spotted an eagle around dusk as he was leaving the site. It appears that an adult is incubating. It remains to be seen.

Laura Greeno

**Wild Turkey Strand (LE-938)** – She believes they are incubating.

**Pine Island Flatwoods Trail Bayside (LE-982)** – This nest is located on the bayside across the fence on the other conservancy property. The nest was knocked down from Hurricane Ian. There have been no eagles in that area.

**Prairie Pines** – This nest has not been rebuilt and there are no eagles at this site.

**Orange River Nest (LE-93B)** - There are eagles flying in the area, but a nest has not been spotted. She is uncertain whether there is a nest or not.

**Lehigh Acres WWTP (LE-056)** – She did not visit the site this week, but there has been an eagle there.

**Rosie's Heritage Farm** – This property has been sold. As a result, she has been unable to get onto the property to see if there is any activity.

**Laredo (LE-114)** – She did not visit this site this week, but last year no activity was sited. It did not appear that eagles have been working on the nest. She planned to visit the site over the weekend.

Mr. DeFilippo referred to the Orange River nest and stated that he had been provided with the contact information for the new owner that owns the property that abuts this nest through Audubon. He visited the site in October but has not had a chance to revisit the site. The new owner contacted him and stated that eagles are there, and it appears they are incubating. Mr. DeFilippo stated he would contact the new owner to see if they would allow Ms. Greeno to enter the property. He showed the Committee the location on a PowerPoint slide. He also showed them another nest that was reported by Audubon on the other side of the river. According to Audubon, it was active as of last year.

Ms. Greeno stated that she had informed Ms. Sweigert last year that there were some eagles by Pondella and US 41.

Mr. DeFilippo believed that pair was mating.

Mr. Taminosian referred to the pair that used to be at the Cell Tower Littleton Road and wondered if they may have built an alternate nest in this location.

Mr. Philpot asked if staff wanted him to make this his Moody River nest.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he would appreciate that. He noted there should be no issues when entering the property as he was able to drive in with no issues when he last visited the site. Mr. DeFilippo stated he would provide Mr. Philpot with the GPS point.

Mr. Philpot asked if it should be called the Moody River pair.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he would prefer to use whatever name the Audubon uses. He did not have the LE number or name, but stated he would provide the Committee with that at a future time.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Public Input**

No members of the public were present, so there was no public input.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Adjournment – Next Tentative Meeting Date: January 9, 2024**

Mr. DeFilippo stated no other Bald Eagle Management Plans have been submitted to-date. He asked if the Committee would agree to cancel the January meeting if no one submits a new Bald Eagle Management Plan.

The Committee was in agreement to cancel the January meeting if no plans are submitted. It was agreed that the Committee would still send staff their monitoring reports.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.