

**MINUTES REPORT**  
**EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC)**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**Committee Members Present:**

Edward Elms  
Laura Greeno, Chair

Betsie Hiatt, Vice-Chair  
Kyle Philpot

**Excused/Absent:**

Jacob Taminosian

**Lee County Government Staff Present:**

Nic DeFilippo, Planning  
Janet Miller, DCD Admin

Amanda Swindle, Assistant County Attorney

**Outside Consultants**

Cathy Olson (Pennoni)

**Call to Order:**

Ms. Greeno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 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 – Cathy Olson with Pennoni to Present Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-120 South Seas Island Resort MPD DCI2023-00051**

Ms. Greeno announced that Ms. Hiatt had a conflict of interest, submitted her Voting Conflict Form 8B to DCD staff, and would not be voting on this item. Ms. Hiatt concurred.

Mr. Cathy Olson with Pennoni gave an overview of Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-120.

Ms. Hiatt stated that since they were part of the preserve for the development, they would wait until after the nesting season to do any exotic removal within the small preserve area. She also noted that ETAC previously reviewed a management plan for this same pair of eagles. She referred the Board to the Eagle Nest Buffer Zone Map where there are blue tarps on various roofs depicted on the map. The management plan included the restoration of the houses and roofing. Ms. Hiatt noted that when Ms. Olson was on-site during the construction phase of the previous management plan, she observed that the eagles did not seem to be phased by the construction activity.

Mr. Elms stated that the documentation in the packet for today's meeting mentions repairs to cottages within 150 feet of the nest. He asked if those were indoor repairs.

Ms. Olson stated they were not indoor repairs and that the cottage repairs were not part of today's application. It was a prior approval. Ms. Olson stated she had only mentioned it in order to point out that neither the eaglets nor the adult pair seemed disturbed by the construction activity.

Ms. Hiatt clarified that the cottages were under a separate management plan that this Board previously approved. The property is owned by a different property owner.

Mr. Philpot stated that although the project's purpose seems to be to preserve maintenance, there is also mention of resurfacing a road.

Ms. Olson stated she only included that in case a road repair is needed.

Ms. Hiatt stated there may be instances where a repair is needed on the road, for instance, if there was a post hurricane situation.

Mr. DeFilippo stated it was included as part of this plan so that if a road repair was needed, they would not have to come back before this Committee.

**Mr. Philpot made a motion to approve the Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-120 South Seas Island Resort MPD DCI2023-00051, seconded by Mr. Elms. The motion was called and passed 4-0.**

### **Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2023**

Ms. Greeno referred to Page 1 under “Call to Order” and noted it should say Ms. Greeno, Chair, not Vice Chair.

**Mr. Elms made a motion to approve the December 12, 2023 ETAC minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The motion was called and passed 4-0.**

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

Mr. DeFilippo stated that he had received a phone call from the resident who abuts the nest, which can be viewed off Orange River Road in Buckingham. He noted that two chicks have fledged from that nest. He also stated there were two fledged chicks from the St. Charles Harbour nest. Mr. DeFilippo stated he received an e-mail regarding the Lakes Park pair. Although they have been seen by several people, no one can locate the nest. The Bird Patrol is involved. They are currently being seen in the Australian Pines at the entrance to Lakes Park on the left by the miniature golf area.

Ms. Hiatt stated her firm is working on a Lee County Project involving some repairs at Lakes Park. She and others from her firm were working on a species survey and engineers were conducting structural inspections. The eagles are spotted regularly, but no one can tell where they are going.

Mr. DeFilippo stated that was exactly what was reported to him as well.

### **Betsie Hiatt**

**Quail Trail** - Ms. Hiatt stated she only had two active nests this year. One of them is Quail Trail. There are two fledged eagles.

**Chelsey Drive in Bokeelia** - There are two fledged eagles at this nest. However, one of them is unable to fly. There appears to be something wrong with its left wing. The eagle is observed as being on the ground, strong, and able to walk and hop, but not fly. In contacting CROW, they were told that it is normal for a fledgling to be on the ground, that the parents will feed it, and that they are too busy to investigate it. As a result, they contacted Peace River because they have two individuals that do eagle rescues. They came to the site but did not have the equipment needed and were unable to catch the eagle. They told Ms. Hiatt they would try again in a few days or a week until the eagle might be hungry and has slower responses. The Peace River representatives also stated they had a professional rescuer that they would get involved. In the meantime, Ms. Hiatt noted that she had visited the site. One of the fledglings was in the nest with the parents and they were eating. She was able to hear the second fledgling calling out. One of the adult eagles was flying that way.

**New Cape Coral Nest** - Ms. Hiatt stated there was a new nest in Cape Coral that was discovered by Passarella last year. There was an adult that appeared to be brooding even though it seemed to be late in the season for that. She noted it was an active nest.

Laura Greeno

**Wild Turkey Strand (LE-938)** - This is a successful nest that has adults and chicks in it.

**Loredo (LE-114)** – Last year no activity was observed. Ms. Greeno asked staff if there had been any further monitoring of this nest.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he had not been aware of any monitoring since the conclusion of last nesting season.

**Orange River Nest (LE-93B)** – Two chicks successfully fledged (reported earlier by Mr. DeFilippo).

**Pine Island Flatwoods Trail Bayside (LE-982)** – In speaking with Tyler Marzella with Lee County Parks and Recreation, he reported seeing a nest that appeared to be active. He saw adult eagles in it. She asked him to monitor it again to see if there were any chicks.

**Rosie's Heritage Farm** – Ms. Greeno stated she had not had a chance to monitor this site, but adult eagles have been spotted in the area.

Ms. Hiatt asked if there was a status of the nest near the old shrimp ponds west of the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve.

Ms. Greeno stated she believed there were a pair of eagles in it.

Kyle Philpot

**Bayshore Commons (LE-006)** – No eagles have been spotted.

**Donald Rd/Pritchett (LE-026B)** – This nest has one fledgling.

**Moody River (LE-026B)** – No eagles have been spotted.

**Cell Tower Little Road (LE-124)** – The nest is gone.

**Alico Road (LE-093)** – The adult eagles are bringing food in, but he was unable to spot the fledglings. They may have been in the nest and were not visible.

**Oriole Road (LE-128)** – Adult eagles have been spotted in the nest, but he has been unable to see any fledglings.

**Creekside Preserve (LE-080)** – There is no nest at this site.

**LE-133 (RV Park in North Fort Myers)** – There is a nest at this site, but no eagles have been spotted.

Edward Elms

**Pine Island Flatwoods Trail (LE-982)** – There are two adult eagles and two fledglings at this site. They appear to be doing well.

**Galt Preserve (LE-102)** – There were two fledglings at this site. When he monitored it today, one fledgling was in the nest tree and the other was in a neighboring tree. Mr. Elms stated that he estimated they were approximately thirteen weeks old.

**Helipad Nest** – He assumed this pair was the St. Jude pair. He spotted one fledgling and an adult in the nest this morning. The adult dropped some food in the nest. He previously thought there might have been two fledglings, but there only appears to be one.

**5<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm (LE-053)** – Mr. Elms stated this nest was by the trailer park and is the “Vacation Lane” pair. He spotted one in the nest that was being fed in Late January. However, there has been no activity for the entire months of February and March, and nothing was there this morning when he monitored the site.

**Manatee Bay (LE-018A)** – There is no nest and no trees that would be suitable for nesting. Although he has seen an eagle, he believed it was the one from Galt Preserve.

#### **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: May 14, 2024**

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.