

**MINUTES REPORT  
EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC)  
Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:**

Edward Elms  
Laura Greeno, Chair  
Betsie Hiatt

Kyle Philpot, Vice Chair  
Jacob Taminosian

**Lee County Government Staff Present:**

Nic DeFilippo, Planning  
Erika Garcia, DCD Admin

Janet Miller, DCD Admin

**Call to Order:**

Ms. Greeno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 – Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2024**

**Ms. Hiatt made a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Philpot. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

**Agenda Item 3 – Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

**Chair**

**Mr. Elms made a motion to nominate Laura Greeno as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

**Vice Chair**

Ms. Hiatt stated she was willing to continue serving as Vice Chair, but she would also be willing to pass the position on to another committee member if anyone was willing to volunteer.

Mr. Philpot volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.

**Ms. Hiatt made a motion to nominate Mr. Philpot as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

**Agenda Item 4 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-020A, St. Jude Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated that all of the lost determinations being discussed today were a result of Hurricane Ian. He asked that the Committee members let him know if they have different data that does not match his information. The nest locations were reviewed with the Committee using aerials provided by staff.

Regarding LE-020A (St. Jude Nest), Mr. DeFilippo stated that his understanding is that the tree went down as a result of Hurricane Ian. He noted it was one of Mr. Elms' territories.

Mr. Elms verified that there is no nest or tree at this location. He referred to the Helipad nest and stated he assumes the pair at that nest are the ones from the St. Jude Nest. He asked if the Helipad nest would be given a different number.

Mr. DeFilippo stated that was correct. The Heliport nest has a different number. He noted there has been an issue with the assigned nest numbers because Audubon assigns new numbers for the nests often, but they do not align with the County's historical numbering system. Staff tries to use their own historical numbers because when there is a lost or abandoned declaration, it is tied to that nest ID. However, many times Audubon has been changing the nest IDs back and forth based on which one is active and which one is now the alternative nest. It is staff's preference to stick with what has been done historically. This is why the Committee members might see different numbers based on what Audubon has versus the County. The Helipad nest has been assigned nest ID LE-020B. Mr. DeFilippo stated he wanted to declare LE-020A as lost and noted it meets the definition in the Land Development Code.

**Mr. Taminosian made a motion to determine the LE-020A (St. Jude) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-053A, Palm Triangle (Vacation Ln) Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated the trees at this location came down as a result of Hurricane Ian. It is the same situation as the previous item. The tree came down and there is no activity.

Mr. Elms also noted there is construction going on in that location involving single family homes and a couple of condos. He is assuming that the pair at this location moved over to 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm (Trailer Park) which is only a couple of blocks away.

**Mr. Elms made a motion to determine the LE-053A (Palm Triangle aka Vacation Lane) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-081, Bank of America Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated that this nest was in an Australian pine. Prior to Hurricane Ian, the nest was inactive. The nest was still in the tree but in bad shape. After Hurricane Ian, several Australian Pine trees came down and the nest was gone. Mr. DeFilippo walked the property due to a current zoning request; however, he did not observe any eagle activity.

Ms. Hiatt verified that she has also been monitoring the site but has not observed any eagle activity either. Since the pair has been there for a long time, it might be possible that they are no longer reproducing. This could be why a new nest has not been discovered.

**Ms. Hiatt made a motion to determine the LE-081 (Bank of America) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

### **Agenda Item 7 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-118, Creekside Preserve Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated this was a new nest that was discovered during the 2020/2021 nesting season. The property owner had their own environmental consulting company monitoring the nest. He noted that the monitoring reports attached to this item are from Paul Owen. Mr. DeFilippo stated that the nest came down due to Hurricane Ian and was not rebuilt. Due to a zoning case and development on the property, Mr. DeFilippo visited the site but did not find a new nest or eagle activity taking place. He noted that Mr. Owen did not observe a new nest or activity either. Therefore, Mr. DeFilippo wanted to declare this nest as lost and noted it meets the definition in the Land Development Code.

Mr. Taminosian asked for confirmation that the applicant came in with a Bald Eagle Management Plan.

Mr. DeFilippo confirmed that they did come in with a Bald Eagle Management Plan and it was approved.

**Kyle made a motion to determine the LE-118 (Creekside Preserve) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

### **Agenda Item 8 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-979, Helen Road Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated ETAC had difficulty finding this nest or seeing any activity since 2020/2021. He suspected the nest came down during Hurricane Ian. There has been no nesting activity at this location. He asked Ms. Hiatt if this information matched hers.

Ms. Hiatt stated this was correct. Her information matches. She believed the eagles relocated their nest before Ian. She noted that when the eagles first started nesting, there was a clear view around them. However, the Australian Pines in the area grew thick. She had difficulty monitoring the site after that because the vegetation had substantially grown. After that season, they were not observed again. Ms. Hiatt stated she did thorough monitoring to see if she could spot an adult eagle flying in or out of the area but never saw any in the area.

**Ms. Hiatt made a motion to determine the LE-979 (Helen Road) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Philpot. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

Ms. Hiatt announced there was a new nest south of this location that was discovered this year.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-119, Burnt Store Road Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated this nest was found in the 2019/2020 nesting season by the City of Cape Coral, but it is on the boundary line between them and Lee County, so it was added to the permitting database. During the next two years, it was inactive and great horned owls took over the nest. The nest came down after Hurricane Ian and there has not been any activity since. Although it is not a nest that is monitored by ETAC, he has been working closely with Justin from the City of Cape Coral. Mr. DeFilippo stated he would like to declare this one as lost so it could be removed from the permitting system. He noted it meets the definition in the Land Development Code.

Ms. Hiatt stated that the City of Cape Coral keeps good records on their eagles.

**Ms. Hiatt made a motion to determine the LE-119 (Burnt Store Road) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.**

### **Agenda Item 10 - Member Reports**

#### **Betsie Hiatt**

##### **Gloria & Cubles Nest**

Ms. Hiatt noted that this nest was already determined as lost during a previous ETAC meeting. However, she periodically monitors her old territories to see if anything has changed and if there is any activity. She noted there was a small nest across the street from where this nest was as of early January, but she never spotted any eagles, and the small nest was never built up to a viable nest.

##### **Barrancas Drive**

Ms. Hiatt stated that she checked on this territory throughout nesting season because she initially saw a sub-adult perched on the nest tree and the nest tree is still standing. However, one of its major branches came down. Because of this, it is not a great nesting tree but there are some nice trees on the property that could potentially be used. Ms. Hiatt stated she only saw the one sub-adult on one occasion and has never seen any adults.

##### **Quail Trail**

Ms. Hiatt stated the nest was good at this location and there was incubating behavior observed in early January with an additional second adult perched nearby. She observed what she believed to be brooding behavior in early March. However, she never saw chicks. She only spotted one adult. By early April, nothing was observed.

##### **Chelsey Drive**

Ms. Hiatt stated this was a new nest that was discovered last year. One of the chicks fell out of the nest and the parents continued to take care of it. CROW rescued the chick and eventually released it on Pine Island but never informed anyone. She observed two chicks at the end of the season. Soon after that, the adults and chicks were gone. Ms. Hiatt stated she is assuming that since there were two chicks next to each other, they were most likely related. During this year, the nest appears to be a beautiful, big nest. The adults are consistently observed and are incubating and brooding. In early March, she observed a large chick and expected it to fledge, fly, or take short flights. She stated the chick was flapping its wings and jumping up and down and branching. When she monitored the site several weeks later, there were no adults, and the chick was gone. Ms. Hiatt stated she knew the adjacent property owners and they said the adults were leaving every day and coming back in the evening. At the end of March, the adjacent property owners never saw the chick take a full flight. It disappeared so it is unknown as to whether something happened to it. They never heard the chick calling as they did with the first chick that fell out of the nest. It was not fledged the last time it was observed.

### **Fritz Park**

Ms. Hiatt stated there is a new nest they are calling “*Fritz Park*” located south of Helen Road. It was discovered in February of 2025. One adult was observed flying into the nest and there was one young chick. She did not believe the chick would have been able to fledge at this point because it was too young. After that, Ms. Hiatt checked it a couple of times in early March to see if the adults were there, but nothing was observed.

### **Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve**

Ms. Hiatt stated that on the edge of this park (not on the park) she was consistently seeing two adults perched on a Pine Tree. One of them flew into her neighbor’s yard on several occasions and then perched in a tree in her own backyard. However, she has not seen them since. Her neighbor stated they occasionally see the adults perched in the woods on the other side of Ms. Hiatt’s subdivision by Philipps Park. She and her neighbors were never able to see a nest. Ms. Hiatt stated that Mr. DeFilippo had received reports of eagles located to the east of this area. However, no nest has been located. If the trees remain, she felt hopeful that there would eventually be some eagle activity. She felt this might be considered as a lost nest by next year.

Ms. Hiatt stated she found a new nest on the south side of little Pine Island Mitigation Bank. She saw two adults fairly consistently. The nest is hard to see, but she did find it. It appears to be a different nest. She reviewed the location with the Committee and staff on the aerial provided by staff.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he found a new nest on Samadani Lane in Bokeelia. He showed the location to the Committee on an aerial. He noted there was one chick. He was unable to visit the site again in time to see if the chick fledged. This nest was discovered in March. It is a private road. He drove down the private road and was able to see it from the road. He received reports of it from the public.

### **Laura Greeno**

#### **Wild Turkey Strand, Yellow Fever, A&W (Tortuga), Lehigh Acres WWTP**

The chicks for these nests have fledged.

Regarding the Lehigh nest, Ms. Greeno stated she did not observe the birds at the nest until a month ago. At that time, there was an adult and large chick together. They fly across to the disc golf course often, so there might be a possibility that they will move their nest there.

### **Laredo**

There has been no activity at this nest so it may be on the list next year to be listed as lost or abandoned.

### **Kyle Philpot**

#### **Donald Road/Pritchett**

This nest has failed. It has been publicized and listed on Facebook.

### **Moody River**

Mr. Philpot stated he could not see the nest from where he is required to park, and he cannot get access to the site. He asked for confirmation that the applicants came in for a Bald Eagle Management Plan earlier this year. If so, County staff might have some data from them.

Mr. DeFilippo confirmed that they did come in for a Bald Eagle Management Plan. In addition, the County purchased the property where the nest is located. Mr. DeFilippo stated he would get Mr. Philpot access to the property next year.

### **Cell Tower Littleton Road**

This nest is completely gone and there is no sign of adults.

### **Alico Road**

He believed two chicks fledged.

### **Oriole Road**

Two chicks fledged. Mr. Philpot stated he monitored the site this morning. The adults were observed, but the chicks were gone.

### **Creekside**

Mr. Philpot stated this nest should be determined as lost.

### **Twin Pine Village**

Mr. Philpot reported that the nest at this site looks good, but there has been no fledging or nesting activity. He noted there was activity at the beginning of the season, but nothing since. He was not surprised because he noted there were people approximately 30 feet from the nest tree.

### **Jacob Taminosian**

#### **St. Charles Harbor**

Mr. Taminosian stated that at one point there were up to three chicks according to photos from the neighbor, but he only documented two chicks. The next time he monitored the site, there were no adults or chicks in the nest. The last time he saw them they were approximately 9 weeks old. He is not certain whether they fledged or not. Mr. Taminosian stated he assumes the nest was successful because the chicks were far along, and the parents were consistently feeding them. However, it is possible that something may have happened.

Mr. DeFilippo asked how the trees looked in that area.

Mr. Taminosian stated they were in rough condition. The eagles moved to a better tree, but it is near a home that is in the process of being sold, so he was not certain if that would have any impact on their eagles or their nest.

### **Yorkshire Lane**

This was originally the Robalo nest that was relocated to this location. He believed two chicks fledged. They were perched high in the nest. He previously documented them hovering. Therefore, he assumes the nest was successful. To him, they looked to be flight capable.

### **Jonathon Harbor**

This nest tree was tilted as a result of Hurricane Ian on Connie Mack Island, and it was eventually removed. He noted there is a large pine tree there. Earlier in the season, there was some activity where an eagle flew to it with a fish and then flew off.

He referred to some monitoring notes regarding this nest from the SCCF. He asked if there had been a typo.

Mr. DeFilippo stated there was miscommunication between Audubon and the City of Sanibel. Jonathon Harbor is not active. There was another nest that those notes were supposed to be for. According to Audubon, there is a different nest out there. Mr. DeFilippo showed the location on an aerial. He noted that Jonathon Harbor might be eligible to be declared a lost nest.

### **Lakes Park Cell Tower**

Mr. Taminosian stated he monitors this site every year and checks the surrounding pines as well, but there has been no activity.

### **Pickle N Pub**

Mr. Taminosian stated that at one point he saw three chicks. In March, he believed they were approximately 12 weeks old. In April when he monitored the site, he saw the chicks flying around the canopy. He spotted two of them, but he assumes there is a third because he documented a third in March. This nest has been successful.

### **Lexington Middle School**

Mr. Taminosian stated that he saw one chick and an adult. When he looked east, there were two more chicks. He had originally documented one chick, but now there are three chicks confirmed fledged, and the nest was successful.

### **Sora Drive/Ovenbird Drive**

Mr. Taminosian documented one chick fledging. It was perched in a pine tree adjacent to the nest tree. He believed the chick fledged. He asked if Johnson Engineering was also monitoring that nest because he believed some construction was taking place.

Mr. DeFilippo stated there had been a lot of monitoring for that site that was done by Johnson Engineering, an out-of-town company, and Paul Owen.

Mr. Taminosian asked if they had to come in for a Bald Eagle Management Plan.

Mr. DeFilippo stated they were not required to do that because they were single family homes that had different owners. Mr. DeFilippo noted he had been working with each one individually to get them through the permit process.

Mr. Taminosian stated that the Sora Drive/Ovenbird Drive nest was successful for the nesting season.

### **Tortuga**

Mr. Taminosian stated that in December he documented a potential chick. By February there were two older chicks. In March the two chicks were hovering above the nest and were active but never flew. When he monitored the site in April, there were no chicks in the nest. He assumes this nest was successful due to the activity he observed.

### **Edward Elms**

#### **Pine Island Flatwoods Trail**

Mr. Elms stated that he had consistently observed one chick at this location, and it has fledged. He noted that in that same area down the fire road or the end of the trail, some members of the public spotted another nest. Mr. Elms stated he had not seen the nest himself. It may have belonged to Great Horned Owls. If there was a nest there, he felt Ms. Greeno and staff would have been aware of it.

#### **Helipad Nest**

Mr. Elms stated two chicks fledged from there at the beginning of April. There is not much left of the tree. The main trunk of the tree is there, and the nest is at the very top. There are no branches. Because of this, Mr. Elms stated he was unsure how long the tree would last, especially since it was dead last nesting season and put in a worse condition after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm**

Mr. Elms reported that two chicks fledged from this nest around the first week of April. He noted there were very few Australian Pines on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The nesting tree is the only suitable tree that the pair from Vacation Lane could have relocated to, unless they left the area. This tree was alive before Hurricanes Helene and Milton, but it is now dead. He noted it still had good branching, but he did not know how long it would last or how long it would take before the residents living under it decide they do not want the risk of having the tree land on their home and have it removed.

#### **Galt Preserve**

Mr. Elms stated he checked this area, which has been built up to the public where the nest was located for many years. There was no activity and no suitable trees.

#### **Manatee Bay**

This nest was previously declared lost.



### **St. James Preserve (near the post office)**

Mr. Elms stated that this nest backs up into a neighborhood but there has not been any activity there for a long time. It has been declared abandoned. However, there are plenty of good trees there for the use of eagles, but there is still no activity.

### **Nic DeFilippo**

#### **Bayshore Commons**

Mr. DeFilippo stated there has been some activity at this site. Eagles came back to this site and worked on the nest, but there was no further activity. He observed the eagles flying west several times so there might be a nest somewhere in that area. The nest is still in the tree, but it is starting to fall apart.

#### **Buckingham**

Mr. DeFilippo stated he spoke to the resident whose property backs up to it. They saw two chicks in the nest. Unfortunately, one of the chicks fell out of the nest. CROW came and got the chick but had to put it down. The other one fledged.

#### **Pine Island Nest**

Mr. DeFilippo stated there was a new nest that may not have been reported in Pine Island. He stated he would share the information with Ms. Hiatt. The nest is located next to someone's house.

Ms. Greeno stated she would add the Galt and Jonathon Harbor nests as lost.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Public Input**

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

### **Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment – Next Tentative Meeting Date: June 10, 2025**

Ms. Hiatt asked if the June meeting could be cancelled unless there was a Bald Eagle Management Plan similar to the Board of County Commissioners being off for the summer.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he had no issue with this Committee taking a break in June unless there is a Bald Eagle Management Plan. He would keep the Committee posted.

The Committee had no further items to discuss, so the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.