

A. BACKGROUND OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The following outlines the process as it has been done in previous acquisition cycles prior to the 2020 Referendum. Staff and CCLAAC are not proposing any revisions to this process; the existing process will continue to be followed for acquisition cycles moving forward.

Properties are selected in three ways to be ranked during a Cycle:

1. Properties within the Target Protection Areas that have been identified during that Cycle and meet the Conservation Collier criteria
2. By citizen nomination of a property
3. By property owner application.

For options #1 target properties and #2 nominated properties, only property owners who respond positively to staff inquiry will have their lands further evaluated for possible purchase.

For option #2, any citizen can also nominate a property for acquisition, and the owner will be contacted. The Program will only work with willing seller property owners for acquisition.

There have been nine (9) Cycles since the inception of the Conservation Collier Program.

*Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) members cannot nominate properties.

B. SUMMARY STEPS OF ACQUISITION CYCLE PROCESS

1. Target Acquisition Areas
 - a. Outreach subcommittee recommends target areas to CCLAAC
 - b. CCLAAC proposes target areas to Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
 - c. Target areas are reviewed by the BCC which adopt a resolution with their determination on land areas to target.
 - d. Letters are sent to property owners in the target areas to solicit willing sellers.
2. Concurrently, landowners can contact Conservation Collier directly if they are interested in having their property considered for acquisition by the Program.
3. Applications are received from willing sellers
4. Staff completes a "desktop review" as applications are received and presents properties that meet at least 2 of the initial screening criteria to the CCLAAC at their next meeting
5. Properties recommended by CCLAAC go to the next level of review for an Initial Criteria Screening Report (ICSR).
6. Staff prepares an ICSR evaluating each property for review by CCLAAC.
7. Properties are ranked by the Advisory Committee for review and the final decision to acquire is made by the BCC.

This process would continue with cycles typically occurring on an annual basis.

C. ACQUISITION CYCLE 10 - PROPOSED TIMELINE

- January 11, 2021 CCLAAC: reviewed proposed timeline for the next Acquisition Cycle
- February 23, 2021 BCC: BCC reviewed the Collier County Budget Policy for all Departments which included implementation of the .25 mil
- March 1, 2021: Start accepting applications from landowners if BCC has no objection to Conservation Collier budget policy

CONSERVATION COLLIER CYCLE 10 TIMELINE & POROCCESS

Reviewed by CCLAAC January 11, 2021 updated March 1, 2021

- Update: Interested property owners were notified on February 25, 2021 that applications are being accepted
- March 8 CCLAAC – Review Acquisition cycle process
- March 24, 2021: Outreach subcommittee: creates Target Protection Areas (TPA)
- April 12 CCLAAC: Review of TPA & Biennial Report
- May 11 or 25 BCC: TPA Resolution and Annual Report to BCC for review and approval
- May 2021: Letters sent to property owners in TPAs
- July 31, 2021: Deadline for application from property owners
- March – October 2021: Staff evaluates properties where an application has been received
- As early as May and through November 2021: Staff will bring properties to the CCLAAC for their review as applications are received
- December 13, 2021: CCLAAC ranks properties to create the Cycle Active Acquisition List
- January 2022: BCC reviews the ranking of the Cycle Active Acquisition List
 - During this meeting, the Board will advise staff to move forward on acquiring properties on the A-list

D. TIMELINE FOR BUDGET PROCESS

Taken care of by OMB with Conservation Collier staff's input

Budget-Tax Process:

From a tax levy standpoint, the program will be restarted using the existing Conservation Collier taxing district. From a tax levy standpoint there is no requirement to go to the Board outside of built in budget process opportunities outlined below. There are a number of budget process steps during which the Board reviews various aspects of budget development.

- **February - March:** Process starts with budget policy
 - Policy will ask BCC to authorize the development of Conservation Collier budget-based on referendum language approved in ballot question including the .25 mills
- **March - June:** Budget preparation and review will follow
- **June:** BCC reviews the proposed budget and provides input
- **July:** BCC approves maximum millages to be levied
- **September:** two budget hearings during which the Board finalizes the tax levy
- **2nd September budget hearing:** Budget & tax levies finalized

Update:

Excerpt from *Fiscal Year 2022 Recommended Budget Policies* heard by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners on February 23, 2021:

Conservation Collier - Pursuant to Board direction, staff placed a non-binding referendum on the November 3, 2020, general election ballot regarding the Conservation Collier program. Specifically, the voters were asked to approve or disapprove re-establishing a not to exceed

CONSERVATION COLLIER CYCLE 10 TIMELINE & POROCCESS

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.2500 mil ad valorem levy for ten (10) years to fund Conservation Collier's acquisition and management of environmentally sensitive lands. On November 3, 2020, the Collier County electors approved the Conservation Collier Re-establishment referendum with a 76.5% majority. This voter approval does not include the issuance of debt to acquire environmentally sensitive land.

Accordingly, the FY 2022 budget is proposed to be developed to include a Conservation Collier Program tax levy of .25 mil that will generate up to \$25,287,900. For State Truth In Millage (TRIM) purposes, the established Conservation Collier Taxing District will be activated. The FY 2022 budget will appropriate Conservation Collier tax proceeds to repay approximately \$3,700,000 to the Conservation Collier Management Trust Fund for monies advanced to acquire strategic properties prior to the referendum. Further, consistent with Ordinance 2002-63 as amended, twenty-five percent (25%) of annual gross tax receipts will be deposited into the Conservation Collier Management Trust Fund to provide for long term management of lands acquired through or managed by the Conservation Collier Program. The balance of tax receipts will be deposited into the Conservation Collier Acquisition Trust Fund for use in acquiring environmentally sensitive lands. The Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee recommends that the Board authorize an Acquisition Cycle to start in March 2021 for properties to be ranked by the Board in January 2022 to be acquired in FY2022.

E. OTHER CONCURRENT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Conservation Collier Ordinance
 - a. Revisions are not required at this time.
2. Improved public access and amenities at existing preserves
 - a. CCLAAC voted on 1-11-2021 to move forward evaluating amenity improvements as part of long-term budget planning.
 - b. Amenities list will be discussed at March LEMS and April CCLAAC.