



March 25, 2018

Lee County Board of Commissioners
VIA email

Dear Commissioners,

On February 8, 2018 several members of the eYes on Conservation 2020 Coalition attended the monthly meeting of CLASAC. We spoke to the committee and questioned the status of properties that had been approved for purchase by the committee but never acted upon. At the end of the meeting we were told that all questions/comments to CLASAC had to be put in writing to be placed on the record.

On February 12, 2018 I wrote a letter to you, with copies to County Administration and CLASAC for inclusion in the record. In this letter we again questioned the status of the properties that had been approved by the CLASAC Committee for purchase and never acted upon. Some of these properties were approved for purchase a year ago.

To date we have not received any response to our questions by anyone in Lee County Government. Several months ago you asked Staff to revise the policy for the purchase of Conservation 2020 lands to include water quality and the importance of TMDL's. We do not believe you have received this revision yet. We even question the need for this new policy as the existing policy has worked well for the past 22 years.

Several CLASAC meetings and subcommittee meetings have been canceled by staff in the last few months.

County maps depicting all conservation lands have not been updated to include nominations and their status.

At our meeting this past Friday Coalition members expressed concern that we believe we are witnessing a disturbing trend to stall the Conservation 2020 program's progress and future conservation land purchases. At the same time development is soaring, zoning changes are being made in areas of concern and infrastructure is lagging.

Commissioners, we respectfully request a response to our question. Why are parcels that have been nominated by the public, met all the criteria for purchase, approved by CLASAC and forwarded to you for purchase not been acted upon?

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Conservation Forever,

Barbara Manzo

Barbara Manzo
Chair
eYes on Conservation 2020 Coalition

Cc: Roger DesJarlais County Manager
Glen Salyer, Assistant County Manager

Rene Armstrong for inclusion in CLASAC committee packets

