

Minutes  
Gasparilla Island Special Improvement Unit  
Boca Grande Community Center  
April 23, 2009

Attendees: Ron Gutman  
Dick Ryan  
John Shaw  
Libby Walker – Lee County

Parker Hall – USDA  
Norm Schoch - USDA

Prior to opening the meeting, Ron Gutman made an appeal for another volunteer to fill out the Panel's quota of five members

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair, Ron Gutman, at 1:40PM.

It was announced that John Shaw has been appointed as the fourth member of the Panel.

The Meeting Agenda was distributed to those present.

Minutes of the January 9, 2009 Meeting were unanimously approved. Motion was made by D. Ryan and seconded by J. Shaw.

Parker Hall and Ron Schoch, USDA representatives, were introduced and proceeded to give an update of their activities which began on March 25, 2009.

- They have targeted large females, most of which are now carrying eggs.
- Methods have been trapping, and shooting with 22Cal "Rat Pellets".
- They have captured 124 lizards and believe to have killed, but lost in rip rap, another 92.
- All captured animals (including 12 live ones) have been sent to the USDA lab in Gainesville for research.
- Populous areas are being avoided until most seasonal residents have departed

An audience member inquired as to how USDA was billing for their services. Ron Gutman responded that it was by flat fee. The contract is, except for the dollar amount, identical to that used by Charlotte County over the past two years. It was pointed out that, utilizing Trapper George Cera, our annual cost had been around \$120,000. Gutman further stated that cost was not the driving force for the switch to the USDA. The main factor was the research capability provided by the Gainesville lab.

Libby Walker handed out and explained a form showing revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 as well as a Budget for 2009/2010. Her presentation was followed by a handout and discussion of the USDA contract proposals for 2009/2010. There were three Options, one for six months, one for ten months and one for twelve months.

After discussion, a motion was made for adoption of the ten month Option at a cost of \$103,800, covering expenses and 1730 man hours of work. Off times will likely occur in the months of December, January and February when activity is low and eggs are not yet present. The USDA will have the flexibility to determine exactly when to be inactive. The motion was seconded and

unanimously approved.

Libby Walker then stated that approval of the new contract and the balance of the proposed proposed Budget would result in a cost per residence of approximately \$78 per million dollars of Assessed Value. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the 2009/2010 Budget of \$119,712.

There was no new business and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30.