

**APPROVED**

Minutes  
Gasparilla Island Special Improvement Unit  
Boca Grande Community Center  
January 8, 2009

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

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Ron Gutman at 1:30PM.

The Meeting Agenda was distributed to those present.

Minutes of the November 21, 2008 Meeting were unanimously approved. Motion was made by J. Bourgoïn and seconded by R. Gutman.

Ron Gutman described the results of a recent meeting in which he and Libby Walker met with USDA rep Parker Hall and Hall's supervisor. The meeting was held at Charlotte County offices and was also attended by Tara Musselman of Charlotte County.

At that meeting Parker Hall reviewed what had been accomplished in the Charlotte County portion of Gasparilla Island and stated that servicing the Lee County portion would be more costly due to its being about seven times the acreage. When Gutman and Walker disclosed that Lee County has only about \$70,000 to fund 2009 activity, Hall offered that USDA could perform all services similar to those provided to Charlotte County, but over a compressed time frame, namely from sometime March until the exhaustion of funds, probably to September or October.

George Cera, former trapper in the Lee County portion of the island, asked if Charlotte County had received any funding from outside sources, since it has been indicated that use of the USDA could lead to that possibility. Gutman answered that, to the best of his knowledge, no such funding had been granted.

Dick Ryan made the motion to approve a one year contract with the USDA similar to that signed by Charlotte County. The motion was seconded by John Bourgoïn and unanimously approved. Libby Walker stated that she would discuss the matter with Commissioner Janes and then present it to the Board of County Commissioners for approval at the soonest weekly Tuesday meeting.

Walker requested that the Committee appoint a "Point Person" to work with the USDA. Dick Ryan accepted that role.

The question was raised as to whether and when more funds could be made available. That will be a topic for the May meeting at which future funding, which will be available in November, will be proposed.

John Shaw was tentatively named as the newest member of the Advisory Committee. His paperwork ~~has been~~ will be submitted for approval.

The Committee formally thanked George Cera for his excellent work over the past two years.

