Representing:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND

The above agencies came to be heard before THE FLORIDA CABINET, the Honorable Governor Scott presiding, in the Cabinet Meeting Room, LL-03, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida, on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, commencing at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Reported by:

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Registered Professional Reporter
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Representing the Florida Cabinet:

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Governor

PAM BONDI
Attorney General

JEFF ATWATER
Chief Financial Officer

ADAM PUTNAM
Commissioner of Agriculture

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Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
(Presented by JIM KARELS)

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND
(Presented by HERSCHEL VINYARD)

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GOVERNOR SCOTT: Today we have an appointment before us requiring Cabinet approval. I would like to ask the Cabinet to approve my appointment of Herschel Vinyard as the secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Vinyard practiced environmental law for more than a decade before serving as the director of business operation for BAE Systems Southeast Shipyards.

Where is Herschel? All right. There you are. I wanted to make sure.

His unique background in environmental compliance and innovation will ensure that government and business find new ways to partner in growing Florida's economy while protecting our environment.

Is there a motion to approve Mr. Vinyard as the secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection?

COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So move.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: I second proudly.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Moved and seconded. Without
objection, the motion passes.

Thank you, Secretary Vinyard, for being here. Would you like to say a few words?

MR. VINYARD: Governor and Cabinet, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve this great state of Florida. I look forward to working with each one of you to make Florida a better place to live. Thank you, sir.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much. So congratulations. You've got a lot of work to do.

So the next Cabinet meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2011.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: So our first agenda is from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and will be presented by Jim Karels. So now we're going to go to . . .

MR. KARELS: Governor and Cabinet, good morning again. I'm usually not up here this often.

The Department's agenda item is the donation of the Circle Pine Farm to the Rural and Family Lands protection easement program. The request is the consideration of (1) an acceptance of the donation of an 82-acre perpetual conservation easement on lands lying within the Circle Pine Farm project of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry's Rural and Family Lands program, and this is from Ms. Jean Wonser. And the second is designation of DACS/Division of Forestry as the monitoring agency.

This donation has been evaluated by the Department of Ag, Division of Forestry, under its Rural and Family Lands program. It's the fifth perpetual easement under this conservation program proposed for acquisition totaling now more than 3,647 acres preserved under the program.

Currently Circle Pine Farm is ranked as a Tier III project in the approved projects of the
Rural and Family Lands. Circle Pine Farm is focused on restoration of previously disturbed sandhills, flatwoods, and natural communities, while maintaining a viable silvicultural operation mixed with pasture and horse ranching.

Ms. Wonser is very interested in seeing that her property not be subdivided for development in the future. This easement is provided -- provides for an additional -- one additional single-family residence.

A title insurance commitment, a survey, and an environment site assessment of the property will be provided by DOF prior to closing.

Staff on this one recommends approval of this conservation easement donation for Rural and Family Lands.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Karels.

Is there a motion to approve Item 1?

COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So move.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Approved without objection. Thank you very much.

MR. KARELS: Governor, the Nature Conservancy would like to speak just briefly on the Rural and
Family Lands program, I think Janet Bowman, and
just talk about the values of it from their agency.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.

MR. BOWMAN: Governor Scott and members of the
Cabinet, I'm Janet Bowman. I'm director of
legislative policy and strategy with the Nature
Conservancy.

And what a wonderful project to start out the
land acquisition work and preservation work of this
Cabinet. The Rural and Family Lands Act is part of
Florida Forever, receives money from the Florida
Forever program. This particular project was
donated, which is great.

But I just wanted to talk about how important
the program is for conserving ag land, conserving
conservation land, and talk about the increasingly
important role of conservation easements, which
this provides. Conservation easements are a great
land protection tool because the owner continues to
maintain the property so the State does not incur
continuing maintenance costs.

In 2008, the Florida Forever program was
expanded to include the Rural and Family Lands Act
and to include funding for that program. And we
hope that the Legislature will again provide
funding for the whole program, but particularly for this portion of the program as well. And we look forward to working with you all on land preservation in the years to come. Thank you.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: So the next agenda is the
Board of Trustees presented by Secretary Herschel
Vinyard.

MR. VINYARD: Governor and members of the
Cabinet, the items on today's Board of Trustees
agenda are sovereignty submerged land leases. And
by way of background, I would like to paraphrase a
part of the Florida Constitution:

The title to lands under navigable waters is
held by the State in trust for all people. Private
use of portions of such lands may be authorized by
law, but only when not contrary to the public
interest. And the Board of Trustees administers
these lands, and the leases presented to you today
require Trustees approval. So "not contrary to
public interest" is the test that you all will be
evaluating in the future.

Governor, the Department recommends that
Agenda Item Number 1 be withdrawn for the agenda.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes, Governor. I
move to withdraw Item 1.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. So it's approved
without objection.

MR. VINYARD: Agenda Item 2, which is Snook Bight Marina, is consideration of a five-year sovereignty submerged land lease which you'll see on your screen. And the proposed project would consist of 74 slips for a commercial docking facility in Matanzas Pass in Lee County. The consideration paid to the State in year 1 is almost $31,000, and DEP recommends approval.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion?

CFO ATWATER: So move.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: And a second?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: So approved without objection. Item Number 2 is approved without objection. Thank you, sir.

MR. VINYARD: Item Number 3, the Department recommends to the Cabinet that this agenda item be withdrawn.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Governor, I move to withdraw Item Number 3.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Approved without objection.
So thank you, Secretary Vinyard. This concludes our meeting, and we are adjourned. Thank you very much.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:34 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA:

COUNTY OF LEON:

I, MARY ALLEN NEEL, Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein designated; that my shorthand notes were thereafter translated under my supervision; and the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 12 are a true and correct record of the aforesaid proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested in the foregoing action.

DATED THIS 7th day of February, 2011.

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