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Lee County Greater Pine Island Community Plan Update garners award

Fort Myers, FL, June 8, 2016 — A collaborative Lee County effort to balance private property rights, public safety and the environment has been recognized by the Florida Planning and Zoning Association.

The Lee County Greater Pine Island Community Plan Update was recognized as an Outstanding Study/Plan in the 2016 Florida Planning and Zoning Association Awards.

“At the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, and with the support of the County Manager and County Attorney, county staff was successful at developing an update to the Community Plan for Pine Island that is not only legally defensible, but also preserves the truly unique coastal rural character of the Pine Island community,” said Mikki Rozdolski, Lee County Community Development Department Planning Section manager. “Lee County is honored to have received this recognition by FPZA.”

The Lee County Greater Pine Island Community Plan Update, adopted in March 2016 by the Board of County Commissioners, was the result of several previous efforts by the county to address concerns among the residents and landowners regarding growth management, hurricane evacuation, and the maintenance of the island’s natural resources, as well as their beloved “Old Florida” character.

A key element of the Plan was the creation of a multiplier for Transferable Development Rights generated from Pine Island. This greatly incentivizes the transfer of development rights off the island to more appropriate urban areas in Lee County.

In addition to a stakeholder group of community leaders, business owners and residents who actively assisted in drafting the plan, Lee County Commissioner John Manning, who represents District 1 (Pine Island), led a community workshop. Staff also conducted interviews and hearings to gather input and maintain an open forum for information.

The development of the plan was led by Manning, Rozdolski and Community Development Director Dave Loveland as well as County Attorney Richard Wesch and Michael Jacob, managing assistant county attorney.

The consulting team included Alexis Crespo, Waldrop Engineering, P.A.; Jeff Hinds, Smolker, Bartlett, Loeb, Hinds & Sheppard, P.A.; Greg Stuart, Stuart and Associates; Karl Passetti, P.E., Kittelson & Associates, Inc; and Dan Trescott, Trescott Planning Solutions, LLC.