



Search > >>

News

Local & State

- [Cape Coral](#)
- [Bonita Springs](#)
- [Lehigh](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Growth/Development](#)

Sports

- [Prep Sports](#)

Lifestyles

Business

Opinion

Columnists

Archives

Nation & World

Health & Fitness

Obituaries

Celebrations

Weather

- [Hurricane](#)

Technology

Communities

Entertainment & Tourism

Jobs

Cars

Real Estate

Classified

Shopping

Customer Service

Find compromise on land-use plan

Published by [news-press.com](#) on November 26, 2004

The dispute over landowner rights on Pine Island will show whether we know how to preserve the character of the dwindling number of places with rural character in Lee County.

County commissioners this week ordered staff to research ways to accommodate landowners who say they are damaged by one part of the citizen-driven Pine Island Community Plan.

Large landowners, mostly growers, say their land is devalued by a requirement that housing be clustered on 30 percent of their land if it's developed, and that the remainder of the property be maintained in something like natural condition.

Landowners are promising to file for damages under the Bert Harris Act, passed in 1995 to protect landowners from government actions, such as zoning changes, that reduce the value of their property. One study said the county could be liable for up to \$60 million in claims under the Pine Island Plan.

There's plenty of politics and legal gamesmanship going on here.

But there are legitimate concerns on both sides. It's good that the county staff is considering a wide range of options, including purchase or transfer of a landowner's development rights. There are ways to ease the financial burden of the plan without throwing away the character of the island.

[Back to Opinion](#)

For similar stories [search our paid archives](#) dating back to 1999.

TOP HEADLINES FROM OPINION

- [Owners win critical right to stay put](#)
- [Find compromise on land-use plan](#)
- [Mailbag: Letters to the editor](#)
- [Everyone wants place at the table](#)
- [Arrogance of power infects Republicans in Congress](#)

ALSO ON NEWS-PRESS.COM

- [Lynn Hall lot may be closed early](#)
- [Record field competes in Turkey Trot](#)
- [Great toys for big boys](#)
- [Airport sets new record for October](#)

DELIVERING YOUR WORLD

- [The News-Press – Subscribe](#)
- [Daily email newsletter – Signup](#)
- [Printer friendly version](#)
- [Email this article](#)

To e-mail this article just enter the following information:

Recipient's e-mail:

Sender's name:

Sender's email: