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OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT

*Everglades  
Park*

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St. Augustine, Florida,

July 3, 1934

SUBJECT: Everglades National Park -

Mr. Ivar Axelson,  
330 West 108th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Axelson:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 22nd in reply to my letter of June 12th relative to the proposed creation of the Everglades National Park.

As indicated in that letter, there was a meeting of several of the large landowners held in my office in Miami on Wednesday afternoon, June 27th, at which meeting some 450,000 acres were represented, being about half of the acreage in the proposed Park area other than that owned by the State.

The question of the creation of the Park was fully discussed and a small organization was formed, which will be known as the Dade-Monroe Landowners Association, for the protection as far as possible of the landowners' interests.

The officers of the Association are as follows: J. W. Hoffman, President, George F. Cook, of the Chevelier Corporation, Secretary and Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of five members was appointed composed of the President and the Secretary together with G. E. Fairfield, representing the Waddell property; W. W. Colson, Jr., representing Paradise Prairie Land Company and D. A. McDougal, President of the Chevelier Corporation.

At this meeting it was agreed that the minimum price to be asked by the landowners for their lands would be \$5.00 per acre and that, if any of the land within the Park area had some special value attached thereto, the asking price for this land would, of course, be based on the value of that particular tract.

It was also thought advisable that the Association

should, at once, make recommendations (not direct) to the Governor as to the personnel of the Everglades National Park Commission which, it is expected, he will appoint sometime in the near future. It was thought by the members present that, as the Commission will be charged with the procuring of the land for the Park, we might recommend to the Governor, through other parties, certain persons in the State to serve on this Commission who would be fair both to the landowners and the State.

It was also brought out that the work of final determination of the boundary lines of the Park would be undertaken during the coming winter months by a Staff of the National Park Service.

The Landowners' Association will immediately get in touch, as far as possible, with all of the landowners and efforts made to have these landowners join the Association for their self-protection and I believe it will be the means of securing the landowners a fair price for their lands.

I will keep you advised from time to time as the matter progresses but I doubt if there will be anything of a very definite nature other than the appointment of the Park Commission until after the boundary of the Park is finally established.

Very truly yours,

*J. W. Hoffman*  
Vice President.

JWH:MC