

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
ATTENDANCE LIST**

July 15, 2002

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Breiningger
Mark Bush
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM MEMBERS

Anne Birch
Laura Clark
Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Ray Mojica
Zachary Prusak
Tami Robinson
D. Scott Taylor
Kit Van Wagner

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Angela Klug

GUESTS

Virginia Barker, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office
Christine Ehringhas, visitor, Tele University
Mark Ehle, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office
Hugh Evans, Forte Macaulay Development Corporation
Suzanne Kennedy, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office
Amy Mosher, resident, Rockledge
Donna Oddy, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office
Mary Sphar, citizen
Alan Woolwich, Brevard County, Planning and Zoning Office

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Approved September 9, 2002

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and asked that everyone introduce themselves. Anne confirmed an excused absence for Randy Parkinson.

MINUTES:

The April 15, April 22, and May 20, 2002 minutes were mailed to the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) for review prior to the meeting and are pending approval. Ross asked for comments to the minutes.

MOTION ONE

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the April 15, 2002 minutes as written.
Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TWO

Paul moved to approve the April 22, 2002 minutes as written.
Kim seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION THREE

Paul moved to approve the May 20, 2002 minutes as written.
Kim seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ross opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed by the SMC. Paul offered his congratulations on the reimbursement funds received from the State. There were no questions on the Administrative Review.

Ross suggested a change in the presentation of the agenda items to allow for early discussion of key items. Members of the Committee agreed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Land Acquisition Prioritization

Anne relayed to the group that at previous meetings the SMC indicated that in order to assess prioritization of future land acquisition they would like information regarding undeveloped natural areas and information on how total build-out, as currently planned, would affect natural areas. EEL staff worked with the Natural Resources Management Office (NRMO), Planning and Zoning, and Graphics Departments staff to determine the type of information available through the County that would help the SMC with their assessment.

Mark Ehle, from NRMO, provided a modified version of a presentation regarding the Natural Communities Mapping Project that he presented last week at the ESRI Conference. Mark informed the group that NRMO has completed the digitization work and are now working on the modeling for this project.

Kim asked if information was available regarding the total number of conservation acres countywide. Mark stated he has not yet been able to calculate that figure, but a listing of total acres for each natural community was available. EEL staff will obtain a copy of the report.

Suzanne Kennedy and Virginia Barker from the NRMO provided information on the draft Sensitive Environmental Areas ordinance being prepared at the request of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). This ordinance would regulate development of land in sensitive scrub areas and will be presented to the Board for Legislative Intent in August.

Ross asked what percentage of the county's conservation areas were proposed or acquired EEL lands. EEL staff will work with Mark Ehle to provide this information.

The Brevard County Planning and Zoning Office is not yet able to provide maps showing what the county would look like after total build-out, and assuming no additional lands were put into conservation. Information showing all current conservation lands in the County and the remaining land by zoning classification will be available in the near future.

Allan Woolwich from the Planning and Zoning Office spoke to the SMC regarding resources their office could provide. He stressed the importance of input from groups like the SMC during the planning process. Allan provided information on the Open Space Ordinance.

Dave expressed an interest in a joint effort for the development of projects that would allow projections of growth and loss of conservation areas. He expressed the need to educate the public and the county's decision-makers regarding the long-term effects of total build-out without further conservation.

Paul stated that the focus of current efforts should be on prioritization of lands to be acquired with the remaining EEL funding, and that long term planning was critical to the decision making process regarding additional funding opportunities.

Ross stated the County needed to set up the framework for long-term decision-making. The SMC's involvement in establishing that framework would provide for good collaboration between the county departments.

Anne relayed that the BoCC has been considering a sales tax referendum. She has been asked to provide a list of projects the SMC would like to submit for consideration in the event the EEL Program is included in the referendum.

Dave provided information on landscapes that were not considered for acquisition at this time, but were of strong conservation value. He stressed the importance of securing large areas for conservation and suggested collaboration with other counties. Dave's comments included information on properties that are outside any proposed acquisition projects, the work done with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the consideration of indigo snakes as a non-scrub species requiring large areas.

Dave's suggestions include:

- Northwest Brevard County - north of Buck Lake to county line
- Goat Creek – tributary into Indian River
- Valkaria Airport area scrub
- Port St. John – north of Mudd Lake, near Grissom and Camp Roads
- West of St. Johns River- uplands adjacent to protected wetlands
- Scrub areas near Hollywood, Dairy Road, and north of Palm Bay Road
- Lands west of St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve
- Scrub areas west of St. Johns River near Micco

Anne stated that this information would be helpful to have for the next Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) meeting in December. EEL staff will work with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to develop project summaries for the ARC. The summaries will provide the ARC with information on the progress of each EEL Program sponsored Florida Forever Project as a means to inform the ARC of the importance of Brevard's natural areas in relation to the State's conservation efforts.

Anne requested input from the SMC regarding what type of information they would like to review in order to make their assessments of conservation lands. Dave expressed his feeling that it was difficult to gather all required information from a printed document and stated that viewing layers of information on a computer would provide an easier way to view the information. Mark will provide that information on a lap top computer for the next meeting. It is expected that that the NRMO web site will be updated to include their mapping information in the near future.

Ross suggested bringing key agencies together in a workshop to strategize on ways the agencies could work together and complement each other's land conservation and acquisition efforts. Anne indicated the workshop could possibly be held within the next three months and will begin working on the schedule. Further discussion on the workshop will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Paul reminded the group that the prioritization of future land acquisition to be purchased with existing funds needs to remain a priority in order to provide TNC with the direction they need to continue acquisition.

Ron Hight mentioned the importance of knowing where roadways were planned and asked if that information could be provided. EEL staff will provide the information in a future meeting.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

The EEL Program Land Management Status Report was reviewed at the meeting. A copy is included with these minutes.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM REPORT:

The information for May and June volunteer activities was reviewed. A copy is included with these minutes. Mike Knight presented photos of AmeriCorps volunteers and the work they are doing in EEL Sanctuaries. Ross commented he was very impressed with the cost savings that volunteer activities have provided to the EEL Program. Anne added her appreciation of Mike's efforts. Future grant plans include the request of a full time, year-round AmeriCorps team.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

The Education Specialist Report was reviewed. A copy is included with these minutes.

TNC REPORT:

Angela Klug reviewed the Acquisition Summary. Anne reported that she has recently written to USFWS to determine if they would approve the concept of a land exchange with the Florida Inland Navigational District.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Dymont Donation Site Visit Discussion

Paul, Kim, Anne, and Zach Prusak attended a site visit to Turkey Creek and the potential Dymont donation site. The 1.88-acre Dymont site is just outside the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project area in Malabar. Kim and Paul provided information on the site. The land is not expected to require management at the present time.

MOTION FOUR

Paul moved to accept the Dymont site donation as it is directly adjacent to proposed acquisitions, is composed of natural communities, and is in good condition.

Kim seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Reynolds Property Update

Anne provided information on two Thomas E. Reynolds properties totaling approximately 111 acres. A joint purchase on this property was previously discussed at the workshop with the Town of Malabar as they are looking for a place to establish a stormwater pond. The Town has expended engineering funds on the north parcel (59± acres), but has not been successful with acquisition. Original plans indicated the pond would require approximately 10 acres, but new information

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shows the pond may now require up to 40 acres. Ron expressed concern regarding the impact of a 40-acre pond on a 59-acre parcel. The Town had previously indicated that the north parcel was their first choice and the south parcel was their second choice for locating the stormwater pond. Anne asked the SMC to consider a first majority vote on the south parcel as it is not within the BCSE Project area. The owner has indicated that he wants to sell the entire property and not just a portion. A first majority would allow staff to obtain appraisals on the entire Reynolds ownership. EEL staff recently forwarded a letter to the Town reminding the Council of the time constraints established by the BoCC for action regarding alternatives to the WGML property for location of a stormwater pond. The letter requested feedback as soon as possible.

MOTION FIVE

Kim made a motion for a first majority vote to allow for the appraisal of the southern Thomas E. Reynolds parcel in addition to the northern parcel. The northern parcel does not require a first majority vote for an appraisal as the parcel is within the BCSE Project area.

Mark Bush seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Forte Macaulay Development Consultants, Inc. Mitigation Donation

Anne provided information on a potential property donation of approximately 31 acres north of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville. This property is in the permitting process as mitigation for the Plantation Pointe subdivision in Rockledge. The proposed mitigation parcel is within the BCSE Project and does not require BoCC approval for acceptance. Concern was expressed regarding potential management difficulties due to the irregular boundary line on the south side. Hugh Evans, from the Forte Macaulay Development Council, stated the boundary line could be redrawn in a straighter manner if required. Members of the SMC confirmed they recommended acceptance of the parcel, with or without redrawing the southern boundary line.

4. EEL Turkey Creek Sanctuary

The Micco Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan and information on the Turkey Creek Sandhill Restoration project were distributed to the SMC for their review. Members should direct questions or comments on these documents to Zach in the next 30 days.

5. EF Update and Opening Celebration

Tami provided information on the progress of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management and Education Center.

6. Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan

The Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan was distributed for review by the SMC. Members of the Committee should forward their comments to Tami in the next 30 days.

7. South Beach Restoration Public Service Announcement

Ray Mojica presented a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on the EEL Program's impoundment restoration project at the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center (BIEC) property west of A1A. The PSA will be shown on Government and Brevard Community College TV and will be played at the BIEC when construction of the Management and Education Center is complete.

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SMC REPORTS:

None

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2002. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the April 15, 2002 minutes.
- Motion to approve the April 22, 2002 minutes
- Motion to approve the May 20, 2002 minutes.
- Motion to approve the Dymont site as a donation to the EEL Program.
- Motion to approve a first majority vote on the southern Thomas E. Reynolds parcel.

ACTION ITEMS:

- EEL staff will obtain a copy of a report from Mark Ehle indicating how much land is present in each of the natural communities.
- EEL staff will work with Mark Ehle to determine what percentage of the county's conservation areas are acquired or proposed EEL land.
- EEL staff will compile a list of EEL Program projects to be considered by the BoCC, in the event a sales tax referendum is approved.
- Mark Ehle will provide computer information that will allow review of layers of information at the next meeting.
- EEL staff will begin work on conducting a multi-agency, conservation land acquisition workshop to be held in the near future. Further discussion of the workshop will take place in future meetings.
- EEL staff will gather information regarding the planning of new roadways.