

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
PROCEDURES COMMITTEE (PC)  
August 21, 2003  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***PROCEDURES COMMITTEE***

Priscilla Griffith  
Rocky Randels  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Anne Birch  
Laura Clark

***GUESTS***

None

*August 21, 2003  
Approved October 1, 2003*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

**August 21, 2003**

**Meeting Minutes**

***CALL TO ORDER:***

Rocky Randels called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

***PUBLIC COMMENT:***

Rocky advised the group of the opportunity for public comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

***MINUTES:***

The June 2, 2003 minutes are pending approval. The June 2, 2003 minutes were presented for review. Anne advised the group that these minutes were presented for review by the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) during the meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>, at which time they reviewed the information and had no suggested changes. It was determined that a quorum was not present at the meeting and that approval of the minutes could be obtained via e-mail from absent members.

***MOTION ONE:***

Priscilla Griffith moved to approve the June 2, 2003 minutes as presented.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

Rocky asked if there was any further discussion. No further discussion was requested.

Members present unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written pending approval by a quorum of absent members.

Anne Birch will e-mail the remainder of the Procedures Committee (PC) to determine if there is a quorum for approval of the minutes.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

***Sales Tax Referendum***

Rocky told the group that there has been a lot of positive publicity in the newspapers on the Surtax Referendum. The Space Coast League of Cities has voiced their support.

The members reviewed the Surtax Ordinance and a list of projects that will be included in the Referendum. Environmental improvements categorized as Green Space Acquisition in the amount of \$50 million dollars have been allocated for the EEL Program. These funds will support land acquisition and first-time capital improvements on lands as defined using the present EEL Program criteria. No change in EEL Program land acquisition criteria is expected.

Anne reviewed a map showing EEL Program acquired and proposed lands in relation to other conservation lands and critical linkages. The SMC has been working since last October with representatives from the surrounding 6 county regions to identify critical

*August 21, 2003*

*Page 1 of 3*

*Approved October 1, 2003*

linkages between protected areas, both within and outside Brevard County. The regional group identified 3 focal species: black bear, eastern indigo snake, and Florida Scrub-jay (all native to Florida, Brevard and the region). These species were selected as representative species that require varying sizes of home range habitats. The protection of habitat for the larger ranging focal species also protects other species that share the same habitat on a smaller scale.

As examples, Paul Schmalzer mentioned that one Florida Scrub-jay group requires approximately 25 acres, and protection for jay habitat also affords protection for other scrub related species. One male eastern indigo snake may have a home range of 300 - 400 acres and the range of a female may be 100 acres. He mentioned the SJRWMD (St. John's River Water Management District) properties provide a good north-south connector, but that these lands are primarily wetlands. The lands the EEL Program has identified are primarily uplands that connect to the SJRWMD lands.

Anne reviewed the EEL Program's surtax project sheet that was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and a breakdown of total funds requested by the EEL Program. Key points included:

- There are 22,228 acres of land that have not been acquired in existing in State approved projects.
- An additional 52,358 acres of land have been identified as proposed for acquisition.
- It is not probable that 100% of the properties the EEL Program has identified for acquisition will be acquired.
- Tax assessed value of the total 74,586 acres is approximately \$104,218,280.
- If the EEL Program can continue to partner with the State at 50% funding, proposed future acquisition costs are estimated at \$52,109,140.
- One of the reasons that the EEL Program has been so successful in receiving matching funds from the State is that the EEL Program is guided by scientific principles.
- First time management costs on the 74,586 acres of land are estimated at \$3,729,300.
- Total funding requested by the EEL Program for acquisition and first-time management is \$55,838,440.
- The Green Space allocation in the referendum is \$50,000,000.
- Referendum funding may only be used for first-time capital expenses and does not provide for recurring management and operating expenses. The existing EEL Program referendum provides for operations and management funds through 2011.

Anne advised the group that a Steering Committee has been established to help promote the Surtax Referendum. Kim suggested that members of the Procedures Committee participate with other interest groups to promote the referendum.

Additional information was requested regarding the allocation of referendum funding and guidelines for participation with the steering committee. The Committee asked if Anne could receive clarification from County Administration on several items.

During the break Anne was able to meet with Mr. Jenkins and receive clarification on the following issues:

- The total funds requested for all of the projects identified for the referendum is a little less than the funding the County is expected to receive under the surtax.
- The County anticipates being able to initially bond \$180 million. It has been suggested that the EEL Program determine how much funds are needed up front, as well as what amount is anticipated for acquisition on an annual basis.
- The Steering Committee is a privately formed citizen committee and, therefore, not bound by Sunshine Laws.
- County appointed Advisory Groups, such as the PC and SMC, may provide information, but may not lobby for the surtax referendum.

Anne distributed the map that had been prepared to allow the PC to inform constituents and asked for suggestions for improvement.

Dave Breininger suggested highlighting existing upland conservation areas and needs since much of the land in conservation in Brevard is wetlands. This will help to identify the need for places people can access by foot. He also suggested a map indicating existing roads to show people how roads can negatively affect conservation.

Rocky suggested a map that shows conservation lands specific to Brevard County and does not include areas outside the County.

Anne will also provide information on recreational opportunities at EEL Program sanctuaries. She suggested the PC encourage citizens to visit the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and other EEL Program sites to see some of what has already been accomplished.

Kim asked if it would be possible to receive the updated information by October. Anne said she would get the PC members updated maps by then.

Paul stressed the importance of providing the information to environmental groups and supporters quickly.

Anne advised the group that Bill Koehne and Rich Gramling have resigned from the Procedures Committee.

It was determined that there was not a need to schedule a next meeting date. Anne advised everyone they could contact her if anyone had a question or concern that needed to be addressed by the entire Committee. If so, she will schedule a meeting.

**ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 P.M.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

Motion to approve the June 2, 2003 minutes. Approval pending affirmative votes from a majority of PC members.