

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
September 22, 2003  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Ron Hight  
Ross Hinkle  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Anne Birch  
Laura Clark

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Angela Klug

***GUESTS***

None

*September 22, 2003  
Approved November 13, 2003*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
September 22, 2003  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**MINUTES:**

The August 18 and August 21, 2003 minutes were presented for review. Ross asked for comments to the August 18, 2003 minutes.

**MOTION ONE:**

Kim Zarillo moved to approve the August 18, 2003 minutes as presented.  
Ron Hight seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

Ross asked for comments to the August 21, 2003 Selection and Management Committee (SMC) and Procedures Committee (PC) meeting minutes. Paul Schmalzer asked that the date on Motion One be corrected to reflect that the June 2, 2003 minutes had been presented to the SMC for review. He also asked that the example information on page 2 be revised to indicate one Florida Scrub-jay "group" requires approximately 25 acres of habitat.

**MOTION TWO:**

Kim moved to approve the August 21, 2003 minutes as amended.  
Ron seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.  
The August 21, 2003 minutes will be forwarded to the Procedures Committee (PC) after revisions are processed.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

The Administrative Review was reviewed. Anne Birch informed the group that the State, Titusville Airport, Department of Transportation, Chuck Nelson, and herself had met on August 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the tree trimming issue. The State has accepted responsibility for contracting the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to conduct a study to determine the possible impact any cutting or trimming of trees would have on the Sanctuary's resources, in the event that the decision is made to allow the trimming. The Airport agreed to use FNAI to conduct the study.

Ross asked about the issue of the beacon being turned off and not being turned back on. Anne stated that had not been addressed during the meeting. She clarified that the Airport indicated that the full use of the runway is not needed at this time and may not be needed for 5-7 more years, if then. The Airport also indicated that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) considered the existing use of the runway safe at a 20:1 slope. At this slope there are

no penetrations from the Sanctuary. Ross stated his understanding that the State had voiced their opposition of any cutting or trimming unless it was needed for safety reasons. He expressed his opinion of the need for the involvement of an FAA consultant due to the importance of clarifying what was, or was not, a safety issue. Paul voiced his support for an independent assessment regarding any cutting or trimming that might be required for safety reasons. Kim voiced her agreement. Ross expressed his concern over the temporary nature of the current situation and stated he felt the issue should be evaluated now, and a decision made for in perpetuity, while the knowledgeable key players were present. Anne will encourage the State to follow up on this.

Dave Breininger asked what type of lock would be installed at the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary. Anne confirmed it would be a combination lock. Dave asked about access to the EEL property in the Valkaria region. Anne will discuss with Zach and provide additional information.

Anne mentioned that the Land Management Status, Volunteer Program, and Education Program quarterly reports had been distributed via e-mail. There were no comments regarding these reports.

#### ***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC):***

Angela Klug provided an overview of the Acquisition and Reimbursement Summary.

#### ***OLD BUSINESS:***

##### **Sales Tax Referendum Update**

Anne informed the SMC that she is preparing a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Sales Tax Referendum and offered it for review during the break. The referendum will come before the voters in November. Anne advised the SMC that the County appointed Advisory Groups, such as the PC and SMC, may provide information, but may not lobby for the referendum.

##### **East Central Florida Regional Conservation Workshop Update**

Dave discussed the Osceola Plain Large Scale Conservation Area evaluation project he is working on through the University of Central Florida (UCF). Angela explained that TNC was reviewing Large Scale Conservation Areas as a national directive. Dave confirmed most of the work for two of the Regional Conservation Planning Workshop target species (black bear and Scrub-jay), has been completed. Anne will contact Tom Hctor from UCF regarding the information he is to provide on the indigo snake. It is anticipated that the group will reconvene in the near future. Angela will provide the names of TNC contact people who may be able to provide additional information on the Osceola Plain Large Scale Conservation Area project.

#### ***NEW BUSINESS:***

##### **OLC, Inc. Property Review**

The SMC discussed possible acquisition of approximately 5,200 acres of property west of Babcock Street in south Brevard. The owner is a willing seller. Anne provided a summary page of the property as a draft of the site's Preliminary Resource Assessment and asked the

SMC if they needed any additional information. Paul asked for a breakdown of the number of acres shown for each of the natural communities and clarification of grove property classifications. Anne will obtain the natural resources mapping for this area.

The SMC also reviewed information pertaining to the Babcock LLC property, which was previously considered and declined for acquisition as there was no connection to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) property via a property with a willing seller. Now that OLC has come forward as a willing seller, a connection would exist if both the OLC and Babcock LLC properties were to be acquired. If the SMC supports acquisition, staff will propose a boundary amendment to the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (BCSE) project to assist with acquisition funding.

### **MOTION THREE**

Kim moved to approve a first majority vote on the OLC, Inc. property parcel numbers, as provided by staff, to allow for appraisals of the property based on the criteria of biodiversity and connectivity.

Dave seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **MOTION FOUR**

Paul moved to approve a first majority vote on the Babcock LLC property in order to have the property appraised. This property is being reconsidered for acquisition as a connection between the St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve and the SJRWMD properties.

Kim seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **MOTION FIVE**

Kim moved to approve EEL staff to submit a boundary amendment request to the BCSE project to include the areas west of Babcock; east of the SJRWMD properties; OLC, Inc. (north) boundary line and south; and north of the county line or C-54.

Ron seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **BCSE Boundary Amendments**

#### **Indian Mound Station #8 Br 9**

Anne reminded the SMC that they had previously agreed to consider acquisition of the Indian Mound Station #8 Br 9 property in Titusville if an acquisition partner could be arranged. Anne met with State staff in Tallahassee. They indicated that the State would be willing to partner on the property and encouraged staff to submit a boundary amendment to the BCSE project.

### **MOTION SIX**

Paul moved to approve EEL staff to submit a boundary amendment request to the BCSE project boundary to include the Indian Mound Station #8 Br 9 (Hersch property only).

Kim seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Angela mentioned that there is an out parcel, the Egan property, located in south Brevard east of Babcock Street and adjacent to the Buffer Preserve that has not been identified in the BCSE project. Inclusion in the project would complete a contiguous area of lands identified for conservation in this region.

#### **MOTION SEVEN**

Kim moved to include the Egan property east of Babcock in the boundary amendment to the BCSE.

Paul seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

#### **New areas identified via the regional planning effort**

It was determined that this topic would be addressed in the future.

#### **Management of the BCSE Project – FWC/DEP Proposal**

Anne reported the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approached her regarding their interest in assuming management responsibilities for the BCSE project. The FWC have proposed that they accept the management lease for the entire project as Lead Manager with Brevard County EEL Program as Cooperator. Their request is a result of a current patchwork of management responsibility split between the FWC and the EEL Program. The agreement would look to redistribute management responsibility for those areas that each agency now manages. A cooperative management strategy for the project would allow state management dollars to be used for first time capital improvements on those sites managed by the EEL Program. Reducing the EEL Program's expenses for first time capital improvements (fencing, site security, and first time management) would increase the available funds for acquisition. The FWC staff commended the EEL Program for its management activities and indicated they would not look to change the EEL Program's management strategies on those lands managed by the Program. If the SMC recommends moving forward with this suggestion, a draft agreement would be provided to the SMC for review, before being sent to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval.

#### **MOTION EIGHT**

Paul moved to recommend that EEL Program staff negotiate with the FWC to develop a proposal on management of the areas within the BCSE project. This proposal, when completed, will be brought back to the SMC for consideration.

Kim seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Acquisition Strategic Planning – Request from Commissioner Carlson**

Anne reported that she recently met with Commissioner Carlson who has requested information that details the land acquisition decision-making process. Anne will draft a response to be reviewed by the SMC before the information is presented to Commissioner Carlson.

## **Mission Statement – Enchanted Forest Management & Education Center**

The SMC reviewed a draft mission statement and offered some minor changes. The revised

statement reads: “The Mission of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management & Education Center is to promote conservation and biological diversity and to manage responsibly the EEL North Region Sanctuary natural areas, while providing community involvement opportunities through environmental education, passive recreation, and scientific research.”

## **WGML/National Heritage Management Site visit with SMC and staff**

A site visit for the purpose of meeting with staff to review the WGML/National Heritage sites before the land management plan is developed was scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2003 at 9:00 AM. Information from this meeting will be relayed to the public at the citizen’s meeting that will be held once acquisition of the National Heritage property is complete.

## **PICA restoration site visit with SMC and staff**

A site visit to review restoration work that is being done at the Pine Island Conservation Area was scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2003 at 10:30 AM.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Selection and Management Committee will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at 1:00 PM, tentatively scheduled at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management and Education Center.

## **ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

## **SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

1. Motion to approve the August 18, 2003 minutes as presented.
2. Motion to approve the August 21, 2003 minutes as amended.
3. Motion to approve a first majority vote on the OLC, Inc. property, parcel numbers as provided by staff, to allow for appraisals of the property based on the criteria of biodiversity and connectivity.
4. Motion to approve a first majority vote on the Babcock LLC property to allow for appraisal of the property.
5. Motion to approve EEL staff to submit a boundary amendment to the BCSE project for the area west of Babcock; east of St. John’s River Water Management District properties; OLC, Inc. (north) boundary line and south; and north of county line, or C-54.
6. Motion to amend the BCSE project boundary to include the Indian Mound Station #8 Br 9 (Hersch property only).
7. Motion to include the Egan property east of Babcock in the Boundary Amendment to the BCSE.
8. Motion to recommend that EEL Program staff negotiate with the FWC to develop a proposal on management of the areas within the BCSE project. This proposal, when completed, will be brought back to the SMC for consideration.

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*Approved November 13, 2003*