

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
October 29, 2004  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Ron Hight  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Laura Clark  
Mike Knight  
Scott Taylor

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Lori Thoms

***GUESTS***

Virginia Barker, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office  
Suzanne Kennedy, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office

*October 29, 2004  
Approved March 24, 2005*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
October 29, 2004  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. Mark Bush and Kim Zarillo provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Virginia Barker from the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office informed the group that there was a possibility that land acquisition grant funding might be available from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as a result of the four hurricanes that crossed Florida during August and September.

Virginia informed the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) that in the event there would be any interest in submitting an application to the grant program, all information needed to be submitted to a county review group by November 9<sup>th</sup>.

The SMC was interested in applying to this program, but clarified that additional information would be required before any commitment could be made. Additional information will be gathered and a special meeting will be scheduled.

**MINUTES:**

The July 30, 2004 and August 27, 2004 minutes were presented for review and approval.

Ross asked for comments on the July 30, 2004 minutes.

**MOTION ONE:**

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the July 30, 2004 minutes as presented.  
Ron Hight seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TWO**

Paul moved to approve the August 27, 2004 minutes as presented.  
Ron seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

**Barrier Island Ecosystem Center (BIEC)**

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the EEL Program, VOA Associates, and Parks and Recreation Construction Staff held the second public meeting presentation on the progress of the BIEC project.

## **Referendum**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to move forward with pursuing additional bond dollars for the current EEL Referendum, with the contingency that they would not initiate the sale of the bonds until the outcome of the referendum vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## ***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:***

Lori Thoms provided an overview of the Acquisition and Reimbursement summary.

## **TNC Contract Renewal Update**

Clarification was provided that the TNC contract would not be presented to the BOCC for renewal until after the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election. Members of the SMC expressed concern regarding the potential impact to the EEL Program's acquisition efforts in the event that the contract was not renewed and the Program went for an extended period of time without an acquisition agent.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) Storm Water Project update**

Randy Parkinson had requested staff to prepare an update on the status of the storm water project at the Pine Island Conservation Area. Scott Taylor provided a brief overview of the project as it has progressed to date. Increased land management efforts at Pine Island over the last several years have drawn more attention to the site, resulting in staff responding to citizen concerns regarding the potential impact the storm water project could have on fishing and wildlife observation. The Pine Island property was originally purchased in conjunction with the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in part for the purpose of storm water management on North Merritt Island. Randy asked for a review of the original documents to determine how these concerns might be addressed and to determine if a plan could be worked out that meets the objectives of both the EEL Program and the Storm Water Utility Department. EEL staff will meet with the Ron Jones of the Regional Stormwater Utility Department to discuss these issues and report back to the SMC with potential options at a subsequent meeting.

## **EEL Sanctuary Category Ranking**

Information was distributed showing current category designations for each EEL sanctuary along with recommendations by staff for areas where the category ranking has not been determined.

The EEL Land Acquisition Manual (LAM) identifies the following criteria for establishing site categories:

- ❖ **Category 1 sites** – Centers for Regional Management.  
Sites are designated based on their accessibility and suitability for Management and Education Centers. These sites will have the highest level of use and will provide ADA

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accessibility.

- Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
- Cruickshank Nature Sanctuary
- Malabar Scrub Sanctuary
- Barrier Island Ecosystem Center
- Pine Island Conservation Area (potential future category 1 site)

❖ **Category 2 sites** – Intermediate Use.

These sites will have minimal capital development that may include nature trails, dedicated parking areas, and interpretive signage. ADA accessibility will be provided where required and feasible.

❖ **Category 3 sites** – Primary Conservation and Research.

Category 3 sites will have minimal improvements, due to vulnerability of resources and/or the need for intensive management or restoration. Public access opportunities are provided at levels that will not disturb ongoing resource management. Development could include limited trails, scenic overlooks and elevated boardwalks. Members felt that very few sanctuaries should be classified as Category 3 sites.

Clarification was provided that each sanctuary's management plan would contain category ranking information, which would be reviewed by the SMC during the management plan review. The SMC was asked to review the information and contact staff in the event that changes should be considered.

**Review of new acquisition map**

Information was provided on a preliminary overview map for the EEL Program. Comments received will be incorporated into the new map.

**Hurricane Report (damage and FEMA requests)**

Information was provided on damage to EEL sanctuaries as a result of the four hurricanes last summer. The Program will be applying for FEMA grants that meet the required criteria.

***NEXT MEETING:***

The next meeting will be held during December. Staff will poll members to determine date.

***ADJOURNED:***

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

***SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:***

- Motion to approve the July 30, 2004 minutes
- Motion to approve the August 27, 2004 minutes