

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
December 9, 2004
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Mark Bush
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Mike Knight

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Keith Fountain
Anne McDonald
Lori Thoms
Anne Birch

GUESTS

Liz Alward, Brevard County, Parks and Recreation
Suzanne Kennedy, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office
Chuck Nelson, Director, Brevard County Parks and Recreation
Jim Waymer, Florida Today Newspaper

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

December 9, 2004

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle, Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one desired to provide comment.

MINUTES:

The October 29 and November 8, 2004 minutes are pending approval.

Ross indicated his appreciation of The Nature Conservancy for their work with Brevard County regarding the acquisition of lands for conservation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Proposal

Mike Knight, Interim EEL Program Manager and Suzanne Kennedy from the Natural Resource Management Office provided additional information regarding the criteria for receiving FEMA Hazard Mitigation funding. Restrictions on eligibility requirements for properties have impacted available grant funding.

Referendum

Chuck Nelson, Director of Parks and Recreation, informed the group that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will be asked to approve the county financial advisor to proceed with bonding activity. The Board will be asked to approve \$16 million dollars from the 1990 referendum for operations and maintenance. The Board will also be asked to approve the sale of \$45 million dollars in bonds from the 2004 referendum. As taxable values in the county go up, the county can proceed with additional bonding on the 2004 referendum. Bonding requests will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the December 14, 2004 meeting.

Thousand Islands

The City of Cocoa Beach has expressed an interest in meeting with representatives from the EEL Program regarding the possible purchase of the Thousand Islands.

Chuck clarified that all requests for land to be considered for purchase follow the process of initial review by the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) followed by recommendation from the SMC to the Board of County Commissioners.

Ross noted that the process had been established in this manner in order to provide for a consistent method for the consideration of properties for acquisition: the SMC reviews

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lands to be considered and makes recommendations to the Board based on scientific criteria; and the Board reviews the recommendations and makes their decision.

Additional information on the Thousand Islands area will be presented to the SMC for the review process as it becomes available.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

TNC Report

Lori Thoms provided an overview of the Acquisition Summary.

TNC Contract Update

Keith Fountain provided a synopsis of recent activities regarding the TNC contract and informed the group that The Nature Conservancy would continue to provide whatever assistance they could until a contractor for land acquisition services has been assigned.

Mark Bush asked about the next steps to be taken in prioritizing lands for acquisition as a result of the passing of the recent referendum.

Ross suggested another review and update of the acquisition map to determine which lands might have recently become unavailable, or newly available, since the last update prior to the recent referendum.

Chuck stated this was the type of discussion that should be included in the workshop with the Board on January 13th. The workshop should provide an opportunity for the SMC to receive input from the Board regarding future acquisitions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Losch Property – Malabar

Appraisals for the Losch property in Malabar are due on January 16th. Mike informed the group that a third party had recently purchased one of the two parcels adjacent to the Losch property. Concerns were expressed regarding operational concerns if only one parcel was acquired. Staff will research zoning and the original motion for clarification. Additional information will be provided for consideration by the SMC at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

EPA Presentation from MyRegion.org

This topic was tabled to a future meeting.

January 13th Board of County Commission Workshop

The group discussed the upcoming Smart Growth Workshop that is being held by the Board on January 13th.

Chuck informed the group that the workshop would be a good opportunity to provide the Board with a history of the EEL Program along with an overview of current plans, while receiving the Board's input on the Program's future acquisitions and direction.

Ross stated the Board approved Land Acquisition and Sanctuary Management Manuals, which will be provided to the Board with an information packet prior to the workshop, provides a system of checks and balances for the Program and clarifies the Program's

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mission of protecting and preserving biological diversity through responsible stewardship of Brevard County's Natural Resources.

It was determined that staff would prepare a presentation that would be presented by Mark Bush of the SMC. It was suggested that Rocky Randels be asked to speak on behalf of the Procedures Committee (PC).

Proposed EEL Land and Reason for Selection

Mike requested historical perspective from the Committee on past acquisitions. The SMC discussed the strategy of the original acquisition projects as referenced in the peer review paper *Partners in Stewardship Proceedings: Proceeding of the 7th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands*. This document is included in the Land Acquisition Manual (LAM) on pages A-63 through A-73.

The group also discussed the Land Acquisition Criteria as established on pages 3-22 through 3-26 of the LAM.

Malabar Mediation Meeting Update

As a result of the recent meeting, the Malabar Town Council will be presenting a written list of their concerns to the Board at the January 13th EEL Workshop. The Town Manager has been asked to provide a copy of the list to EEL staff prior to the workshop.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be the January 13, 2004 workshop with the BOCC.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- No Motions