

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
February 8, 2005
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Bush
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Mike Knight

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Anne Birch
Lori Thoms

GUESTS

Liz Alward, Brevard County, Parks and Recreation

*February 8, 2005
Approved May 6, 2005*

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

**February 8, 2005
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one provided comment at that time.

MINUTES:

The October, November, December and January minutes are pending approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was distributed.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Lori Thoms provided a verbal update of acquisition progress.

OLD BUSINESS:

Acquisition Priorities

The SMC reviewed a digital map of the county and discussed which of the areas currently identified for possible acquisition were the most critical.

Mark informed the group that there were a few scrub-jay families located in the undeveloped areas around the vehicle-licensing center near Florida Institute of Technology. It was suggested that this area might be appropriate for a Florida Communities Trust (FCT) acquisition grant application. Mike Knight informed the group that the County had recently approved a consultant to assist with acquiring FCT grants. Paul Schmalzer expressed concern that the site would not provide for the long-term survival of scrub-jays due to the urban setting.

The SMC suggested revising the map to show all conservation lands in the County.

The Thousand Islands

Mike Knight informed the group that he and Randy Parkinson were asked to participate in a scheduled meeting with Commissioner Pritchard and representatives from the City of Cocoa Beach to discuss the protection of the Thousand Islands area. They will report back to the Committee regarding the outcome of the meeting.

The following regarding the Thousand Islands was discussed by the SMC members:

- ❖ The State of Florida has purchased some of the islands. Other islands are in private ownership.
- ❖ The Thousand Islands were included in the 1997 CARL Blueway Proposal to the State submitted by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). The EEL Program was supportive of the inclusion of the islands in the Proposal, but never recommended the property or proposed it for purchase by the EEL Program. The final state approved Blueway project boundary did not include the Islands for acquisition.
- ❖ Two previous Florida Communities Trust (FCT) partnership grants were approved, but negotiations fell short of the asking price.

Possible options for putting the islands into conservation were discussed:

- ❖ City of Cocoa Beach could submit an application for an FCT grant
- ❖ Owners could submit an application to EEL Program for acquisition of their property. If the SMC feels the area meets acquisition criteria, consideration should be given to:
 - Possible acquisition partnerships
 - EEL Program application for amendment to the North Indian River Lagoon Blueway Project
 - Partnership with St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)

If the EEL Program received approval for partnership funding, EEL Program compliance with the partner's acquisition and management requirements would be required.

Pedestrian Trails

Mike informed the group that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) had requested the SMC consider a cooperative effort with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in their plan for a network of pedestrian trails throughout the County. The SMC stated that pedestrian trail locations will need to be considered individually to determine what impacts the trail might have to the EEL Program

areas. Randy Parkinson requested to be involved in the process during the early planning stages.

January 13, 2005 Workshop Tasks for SMC

The February 24, 2005 follow-up workshop with the Board was discussed. Mike encouraged SMC members to attend, if possible.

Citizen's Advisory Committee

A resolution to create a new Citizen's Advisory Committee for the EEL Program will be presented to the Board for their review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Laney/Barnes Site Visit

A site visit to a 40 ± acre site near Scottsmore will be scheduled for the SMC to inspect property that may be offered to the EEL Program as a conservation easement.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2005 beginning at 1:00 PM. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

No Motions