

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 11, 2005
Attendance List**

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Champaigne
Murray Hann
Mark Nathan
Beverly Pinyerd (via conference call)
Paul Saia
Steven Webster
Dorn Whitmore

NON-VOTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Brian Breslin, Brevard County ADA Coordinator
Barbara Meyer, Brevard County, Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Program Coordinator

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Judy Gregoire
Mike Knight
Chris O'Hara
Rachel Vickers

GUESTS

Amy Tidd, citizen
Maureen Parent, citizen
Dave Rich, citizen

*August 11, 2005
Approved September 8, 2005*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

August 11, 2005

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Murray Hann called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Beverly Pinyard joined the meeting via conference call.

MINUTES:

The July 13, 2005 minutes were presented for approval.

MOTION ONE:

Dorn Whitmore moved to approve the July 13, 2005 minutes as presented.

Paul Saia seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

General Discussion

General discussion ensued regarding the role and structure of the Committee. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Paul Saia nominated Murray Hann as Chairman.

Steven Webster seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Nathan nominated Steve Webster as Vice-Chairman.

Paul Saia seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Enchanted Forest Trails

Mike Knight and Brad Manley, Interim Program Manager for the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, provided an overview of the amenities in the Management and Education Center and within the Sanctuary boundaries. The group toured the Butterfly Garden and the trailhead of the Enchanted Crossing.

Mike reviewed the proposal for increased universal access and educational opportunities at the Enchanted Forest which include:

- Maintaining the trails on the east side of the property, as they currently exist, while exploring the possibility of extending the north side of the Enchanted Crossing trail to allow increased public access to the scrub ridge area.

August 11, 2005

Page 1 of 5

Approved September 8, 2005

- Construction of a half-mile long boardwalk on the west side of the sanctuary, beginning at the amphitheater, traveling to the mesic / hydric hammock, and going back to the main entrance road, with an ADA accessible walkway along the main entrance road, allowing visitors to get back to the Management and Education Center.
- Provide additional environmental educational information along existing trails in addition to the implementation of the Phase 2 exhibits (see attached).

The group discussed the proposal.

MOTION TWO:

Dorn moved to support staff's recommendation to move forward with proposed plans for increased universal access via a boardwalk on the east side of the sanctuary, and provide additional environmental education information along existing trails as part of the Phase 2 exhibit, including maintaining existing trails in a natural state without the addition of additional hardened trail surfaces.

Murray asked if there was any additional comment.

Paul requested some type of visitor counting tracking method to be utilized pre and post improvements.

Mark Nathan requested utilization of an environmental engineer to research possibilities regarding the types of hardened trail surfaces.

Bob Champaigne seconded the motion.

Murray asked if there was any additional comment.

The motion passed unanimously.

Valkaria Scrub AI Tuttle Trail

Mike reviewed a map, which showed County and State ownership along with land the County has received as mitigation within the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary.

The previous EEL Program Manager received interim management approval from the Division of State Lands (DSL) to locate the AI Tuttle trail over State-owned parcels. This approval allowed the project to move forward and authorized the Bike and Pedestrian Trail group to expend funds to develop engineered plans and survey the trail location.

The following will need to be addressed during the design and implementation of the AI Tuttle trail plan:

- Protection of the natural resource while including passive recreational and educational opportunities
 - Protection or improvement of hydrology of the trail as well as the surrounding area by not impeding the sheet-flow of water between the various plant communities
 - Minimizing the amount of new trail construction
 - Avoiding impacts to wetlands

- Working within FWS guidelines on mitigation parcels
- Identify the agency responsible for maintenance of the proposed trail. The EEL Program does not currently have the staff to maintain a trail of this size in this region.
- Appropriate use and agency responsible for monitoring of the trails will need to be addressed, as the EEL Program does not currently have the staff to monitor the area. In addition, until further acquisitions have been completed in this area, it will not be possible to secure the boundary to control access and use of the trail.

Murray presented pictures he has taken recently in the Valkaria area.

During discussion of the proposed trail, the following points were made:

- At this time, the Committee is being asked to endorse, or not endorse, the concept of the trail, not the location
- Consideration of wetlands and hydrology was included in the planning of the proposed trail
- An increase in legal use of trails generally causes a reduction in illegal use
- The proposed Bike and Pedestrian Trail is still in the design phase
- Concerns listed above are being addressed during trail design
- Finalized trail plans must be consistent with the overall management goals of the area

MOTION THREE

Steven moved that if current conditions of the site can be stabilized or improved, and site security and maintenance of the trail can be resolved, the EEL Program should enthusiastically support and facilitate development of the Al Tuttle Trail within the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary.

Mark seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Brevard County EEL Program Management Field Stations

Mike asked the group about their preference in addressing or tabling the last item on the agenda, as the meeting had run longer than expected. Mark explained he needed to leave as he had a prior commitment. The remainder of the Committee indicated their availability to continue the meeting.

Mike informed the group that on July 9, 2002 the Board of County Commissioners voted to revise the EEL Program's original plan for 4 Management and Education Centers to 2 Management and Education Centers and 2 smaller centers in an effort to provide additional funding for land acquisition.

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is the flagship Management and Education Center and has been operational since November 2002. Development of the second of the larger centers is underway at the former Chuck's Steak House in the South Beaches. A large part of the equipment used for land management in all of the four EEL regions will be kept in an area that is located in the center of the County.

August 11, 2005

Page 3 of 5

Approved September 8, 20005

Mike asked for input on the educational opportunities at the smaller centers. Dorn suggested the identification of the minimum educational standards that the EEL Program should meet at each Center. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that it would be beneficial if the REAC could review additional information regarding possible projects and associated costs. Further discussion will take place when additional information is provided.

MOTION FOUR

Dorn moved to support staff's concept to have educational facilities at various levels for different centers, based on available funding at each center.

Bob Champaigne seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2005.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the July 13, 2005 minutes as presented.
- Motion to support recommendation to move forward with proposed plans for increased universal access at the Enchanted Forest.
- Motion to enthusiastically endorse that the EEL Program support and facilitate development of the AI Tuttle Trail within the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary, if current conditions of the site can be stabilized or improved, and, site security and maintenance of the trail can be resolved.
- Motion to support concept to have educational facilities at various levels for different centers, based on available funding at each center.

August 11, 2005

Page 4 of 5

Approved September 8, 20005

PHASE II EXHIBITS FOR THE ENCHANTED FOREST SANCTUARY

1. Calendar of Events
2. Donor Recognition Exhibit
3. Sanctuary Management Exhibit
4. "Tracks" Exhibit
5. Web of Life Interactive
6. Outdoor Sign Exhibit
7. Moveable and Interchangeable Outdoor Sign Exhibit
8. Cool Facts
9. Breezeway Sanctuary Exhibit
10. Corner Tree Canopies

August 11, 2005

Page 5 of 5

Approved September 8, 20005