

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)**

**April 13, 2006  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Mark Bush  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Laura Clark  
David Drake  
Judy Gregoire  
Mike Knight  
Scott Taylor

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Danika Feodoroff  
Keith Fountain  
Anne Mayer

***GUESTS***

Mary Ann Bowman, City of Melbourne  
Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office  
Liz Lackovich, Brevard County District I  
Tammy Foster, Dynamac Corp.

*April 13, 2006  
Approved May 25, 2006*

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

**April 13, 2006  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

The March 16, 2006 minutes were presented for approval.

Ross asked for comments to the March minutes.

Paul Schmalzer stated that the TNC Report information was included twice.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Randy Parkinson moved to approve the March 16, 2006 minutes as amended.**

**Paul seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Clarification was provided that SMC comments made to the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan are being incorporated into the document and that it will be redistributed to the SMC for final approval.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

The Administrative Review was discussed.

Malabar Land Acquisitions:

On Tuesday, April 11th, the Board of County Commissioners provided direction to the EEL Program to resume any and all discussions with willing sellers within the Town of Malabar. The Board also directed the EEL Program to present each parcel for consideration to the Town Council during the application process so that Town may provide input for Board consideration if a contract is negotiated. Town input is required by the Commission before contracts are approved. However, Town support for the acquisition is not required by the Commission.

New EEL Employees:

The EEL Program has hired the following new employees:

David Drake: Land Acquisition Coordinator

Bob Giesey: Storekeeper (Inventory, maintenance and safety)

Sandy Edmonson: Naturalist (Enchanted Forest)

EEL Office:

The Suntree facility previously identified as a potential location is no longer available. The EEL Program received authority from the Commission to appraise purchase and lease options, and has identified a new building that is currently being appraised. This facility is located in the industrial park off John Rhodes Blvd. near the Eau Gallie and I-95 interchange.

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## **SMC REPORTS:**

Paul informed the group that he would be leading a Native Plant Society Field Trip to Jordan Scrub Sanctuary on May 13, 2006.

Kim reported that she lead a Cub Scout group through the Coconut Point Sanctuary and extended thanks to Ray Mojica, South Beach Region Land Manager for sending pictures related to prescribed fire.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### Central Region

Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on activities in the Central Region:

- Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) Salt Water Marsh Restoration Project progress.
- Supertrack purchase.
- Renovation efforts and archeological dig at the Sams House Property.
- Prescribed fire plans for Central Area.
- Invasive Plant Management Grants.
- Activities related to recent wildfires.

Ross commented that this was an exciting time for the Pine Island Conservation Area with the integration of activities including habitat restoration, renovation of the historical Sams House property, as well as the information being learned about Brevard County's history including previous human settlements and ancient flora and fauna.

### North Region

Judy Gregoire, North Region Land Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation on the North Region:

- Earth Day Events planned for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Hog removal.
- Plant Guide for the Enchanted Forest.
- Guide Training Recruitment and Advanced Guide Training planning.
- Phase III at Butterfly Garden at Enchanted Forest.
- Volunteer efforts from an alternative spring break group from Bowling Green University.
- Dr. Fisher's Ecology of Space Coast Tour from Averett University.
- Management efforts at North Buck Lake Scrub Sanctuary (formerly known as Continental Acreage) and TICO Scrub Sanctuary.
- Activities related to recent wildfires.

Ross thanked Scott and Judy for their informative presentations and stated they were very helpful to the Committee.

## **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

Keith Fountain reviewed the monthly TNC report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### Ag Ventures Property 669+ acres

A first majority vote on this property occurred on February 16, 2006 and a site visit occurred on March 24, 2006. Paul reviewed two site visit reports on the two parcels (McIntosh and Saddlebrook) which make up the present Ag Ventures Property and noted that the EEL Program had considered the McIntosh property in 1991. This relatively large site is located in the northern part of the County and is ecologically diverse.

### **MOTION TWO**

**Paul made a motion to move forward with the second majority vote on the Ag Ventures Property. Dave Breininger seconded the motion.**

**The motion was unanimous.**

Mike explained that consideration was being given to creating an equestrian trail head on the property if it was acquired.

There has been a significant amount of illegal ATV use on this site.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Tami Foster Presentation

Tami Foster of Dynamac Corp. provided an informative presentation on the importance of county-acquired lands for the persistence of rare scrub plants in Brevard County. Some of the presentation's highlights include:

- 20 of the 24 EEL sanctuaries sampled had at least one of the target species present.
- No single sanctuary had more than 4 of the rare scrub species.
- Most populations of the target species occurred in disturbed areas, with little to no canopy cover or litter.
- The EEL Program sanctuaries are important for maintaining the biodiversity of scrub habitat in Brevard County.
- The distribution of rare scrub plants indicates that a network of sanctuaries is needed for their conservation.
- Active management (prescribed burning) of the lands is needed to maintain proper habitat for the rare scrub plants.

### Scrub Jay Translocation

Dave Breininger provided information on possible jay translocation efforts. The SMC expressed their support of the general concept. Dave will provide additional information in the future.

### City of Melbourne FCT Grant match request (Magnolia Point Preserve) 22+ acres

Mike informed the group that the City of Melbourne has approached the EEL Program about partnering in an FCT grant application by providing 55% matching funds for property behind the Florida Institute of Technology and east of US Highway 1.

Mike and Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager provided information on the property, and the group discussed a possible partnership. It was determined that the SMC was supportive of providing a 25% funding match for this grant as they were supportive of the project concept, but were concerned that the EEL Program was being requested to be the sole match for the grant.

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**MOTION THREE**

**Kim Zarillo made a motion for the EEL Program to participate in an FCT grant application with the City of Melbourne to purchase the Magnolia Point Property, with the EEL Program providing partner funds at 25%, plus management advice and management over site to ensure that property management would be consistent with EEL Program criteria.**

**Randy seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Soreno Point Property Application, Titusville 310+ acres

The Soreno Point property is located east of I-95 and south of Garden Street in Titusville. The EEL Program was approached by the owner of this property to determine if it might be appropriate for acquisition. A site visit to this property will be scheduled in the near future.

Viera Commerce Park Blvd. Application, Viera 66+ acres

Mike provided information on a 66+ acre property in Viera located west of US 1 and South of Viera Blvd. Paul commented that there was very little scrub left in this region and that the property had previously been considered high priority within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project area established boundary.

**MOTION FOUR**

**Randy moved to proceed with a first majority vote on the Viera Commerce Park Blvd. property.**

**Dave seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION FIVE**

**Randy moved to proceed with a second majority vote on the Viera Commerce Park Blvd. property.**

**Mark Bush seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Paul commented he would like to visit the site. Other members agreed. A site visit will be scheduled in the near future.

Goodwin Property (Membry Hunt Club) Conservation Easement Application

The group reviewed and discussed a report by Paul Schmalzer and Tammy Foster regarding the biodiversity of the Membry Hunt Club property.

**MOTION SIX**

**Paul moved to proceed with a first majority vote for a conservation easement on the Goodwin (Membry Hunt Club) Property.**

**Kim seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION SEVEN**

**Paul moved to proceed with a second majority vote for a conservation easement on the Goodwin Property.**

**Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

First Equity Property Application 330+ acres

Mike provided preliminary information on a new application for consideration the First Equity Property in Scottsmoor. The property is east of I-95 and adjacent to property previously acquired by the EEL Program near the Scottsmoor landing boat ramp. A site visit will be scheduled to this property in the near future.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held May 25, 2006. Location to be determined.

**ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

- Motion to approve the March 16, 2006 minutes.
- Motion for a second majority vote on the Ag Ventures property.
- Motion to participate in an FCT grant application with the City of Melbourne to purchase the Magnolia Point Property with the EEL Program providing partner funds at 25%; plus management advice and management over site to ensure that property management would be consistent with EEL Program criteria.
- Motion for a first majority vote on the Viera Commerce Park Blvd. property.
- Motion for a second majority vote on the Viera Commerce Park Blvd. property.
- Motion for a first majority vote for a conservation easement on the Goodwin Property.
- Motion for a second majority vote for a conservation easement on the Goodwin Property.