

***ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
March 23, 2001***

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Breininger
Ross Hinkle
Randy Parkinson
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM MEMBERS

Anne Birch
Ray Mojica

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Angela Klug

GUESTS

Gary Appleson, Caribbean Conservation Corporation
Zeke Nations, Environmental Land Management Company

*March 23, 2001
Approved January 28, 2002*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

MINUTES:

The minutes for October 20, November 28, 2000 and January 12, February 14, 2001 were presented for approval. Paul Schmalzer suggested *November 28, page 3, line 3 – regarding EEL Staff Report: change misquote to mosquito*. Angela Klug suggested *November 28, page 4, line 26 – regarding Fox Lake: remove “not” to indicate the parcels are contiguous with the Fox Lake area*.

Motion 1

Paul Schmalzer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, November 28, 2000; and January 12, February 14, 2001 minutes, with November minutes amendments as noted. Randy Parkinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Zeke Nations, Environmental Land Management Company, asked if the EEL Program could provide written confirmation that the Program accepts donations of mitigation lands with management responsibilities within the CARL boundaries. Staff will prepare a letter to Environmental Land Management Company confirming acceptance of donations and clarifying where the CARL boundaries are located.

Mr. Nations also inquired if the EEL Program was interested in accepting the donation of a mitigation parcel known as the TLP Inc. Mitigation Property located near Fox Lake in Titusville. It was noted that the Selection and Management Committee previously declined to pursue purchase of this land due to its isolation from other EEL properties. This item was addressed later in the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review for March 2001 will be distributed at the next meeting.

EEL STAFF REPORT:

The EEL Program Land Management Update for February and March was distributed at the meeting. Anne thanked the members of the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) for their assistance in the 2001 Enchanted Forest Sanctuary guide training program. It was also noted that Ray Mojica had submitted a FIND grant in the amount of \$120,000 with Harbor

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Branch Oceanographic Institute as a partner to develop Digital Media Exhibits on ecosystems of Brevard County for use at the EEL Centers.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE:

The January and February Volunteer Report was distributed. On January 20, volunteers from a Brevard Community College work day assisted EEL Program staff in building 160' feet of a 200' section of boardwalk in the South Beaches. The boardwalk has since been completed. It was noted that Mike Knight is assisting in coordination of efforts for a volunteer group of county government agencies. Anne expressed her hope that the members of the Selection and Management Committee would join the EEL Program members on October 12th for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Town of Malabar Trail

The Town of Malabar is considering participation in a multi-community recreation trail that will in part, run along the north side of the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. The EEL Program has suggested the easement along the canal be amended to permit public access on a hard trail and allow the existing EEL trail to be used as a soft trail for hiking. Further information will be provided as it is received.

TLP Mitigation Property

Zeke Nations clarified that the TLP, Inc. mitigation land was being offered as a donation, with an additional management fee of approximately \$22,000 for the 22 acres of scrub in the parcel. There would also be 80 acres of wetland included in the donation. Paul Schmalzer confirmed that the land was included in the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (BCSE) CARL boundaries. It was noted that the EEL Program has a blanket approval from the Board to accept wetland and scrub donations within CARL boundaries.

Motion Two

Paul Schmalzer made a motion to recommend acceptance of the mitigation donation of the TLP, Inc. Property based on its wetland and scrub vegetation and its inclusion in the BCSE CARL project boundary, with the understanding that this donation will come with funds for scrub management. Kim Zarillo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

TNC Acquisition Summary report dated March 22, 2001 was distributed and reviewed. A copy of the report is included with these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Education Centers

Anne informed the Committee that the Board of County Commissioners is holding scrub workshops and has requested recommendations from the SMC on how to preserve scrub in the county. At the March 13 meeting, the Board requested that, due to the probability of receiving matching funds from the State for acquisition, the Committee consider using funds now dedicated to building the Management and Education Centers back into land acquisition, or,

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consider building the centers more like the facility at Erna Nixon Park with the possibility of adding to the buildings at a later date. Building plans at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary are underway. The Board has approved the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center. EEL has commitments from US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Caribbean Conservation Corp. (CCC) to partner on this project at some level.

David Breininger still has difficulty with the concept of “trading” education dollars for acquisition funds dollars. Ross Hinkle agreed that the committee didn’t want to find themselves in the situation of choosing between conservation and education because they are both directives of the referendum. The BIEC project has willing, strong partners and a high potential of impact on public education and conservation issues.

Randy Parkinson stated he was strongly in favor of the BIEC. Randy stated he did not object to putting the other two centers on hold, but felt the BIEC should continue as planned.

Paul Schmalzer commented that the BIEC land donation from Mellon was with the understanding that a center would be built.

Ross Hinkle stated he was fully behind moving forward with the BIEC and fully supported utilization of those funds for that purpose. Ross stated he does not have any objection to a partnership with USFWS taking the lead.

Gary Appleton from the Caribbean Conservation Corps. stated that the Committee should be aware that USFWS could move slowly.

Randy stated that he would support a letter to the Board supporting the continuation of the Enchanted Forest Management and Education Center and the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center with considerations made to reduce overall cost and look for partnerships in the BIEC.

It was determined that Randy Parkinson would draft a letter from the SMC to the Board and forward it to Anne for distribution to the other members. Anne will coordinate efforts to revise the letter after receiving comments from committee members and send to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Balkany Billboards

Anne informed the SMC that the state has given notification that they cannot reimburse the EEL Program for the portion of land in the Balkany property that contains a billboard. She requested confirmation from the SMC to ensure they wanted the Program to proceed with reimbursement of the larger land portion and hold back on reimbursement of the smaller parcel which contains the billboards. She also requested recommendation as to whether the SMC wanted to pursue removal of the billboards through the court system. Kim Zarillo and Paul Schmalzer voiced agreement with that plan of action. The other members of the committee concurred.

Florida Forever ranking of old CARL Projects

This item was pended until the next meeting.

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NEXT MEETING:

The next EELSMC meeting was scheduled for April 26, 2001 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m..
Location to be determined.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

1. Paul Schmalzer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, November 28, 2000, January 12, and February 14, 2001 minutes with November changes as noted.
2. Paul Schmalzer made a motion to recommend acceptance of the donation of the TLP, Inc. mitigation property based on its wetland and scrub vegetation, its inclusion in the BCSE CARL project boundary, with the accompanying donation for land management expenses.

ACTION ITEMS:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| EEL Staff | Prepare letter to Environmental Land Management Company confirming the EEL Program accepts mitigation land within CARL boundaries. |
| Randy Parkinson | Draft letter from SMC to BOCC regarding recommendations for Education Centers. |
| EEL Staff | Proceed with request for reimbursement from the state for the portion of the Balkany property that excludes the billboards and begin the process for removal of the billboards through the court system. |

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