

***ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
ATTENDANCE LIST  
November 19, 2001***

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

David Breininger  
Mark Bush  
Ron Hight  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM MEMBERS***

Anne Birch  
Laura Clark  
Mike Knight  
Ray Mojica  
Tami Robinson  
Kit Van Wagner

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Angela Klug

***GUESTS***

Brad Manley, EEL Program Intern  
Doug Renk, EEL Program Intern  
Nichole Strickler, EEL Program Intern

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Approved January 28, 2002*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 19, 2001**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MINUTES:**

The draft minutes for March 23, May 31, September 20, and October 16, 2001 have been e-mailed to SMC members for their review. The minutes were tabled for review until the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

The Administrative Review for November was distributed as part of the agenda. It was noted that on October 30, 2001 the Board of County Commissioners authorized the four Option Agreements for Sale and Purchase of properties owned by Farm & Grove Realty Company, Edward C. Tietig, or Edward C. Tietig, as Successor Trustee.

**EEL STAFF REPORT:**

The EEL Program Land Management Status Report for September–November was distributed at the meeting. A copy is included with these minutes. Staff participation in the Natural Areas Association (NAA) 2001 Conference included presentations and serving as pre-conference and conference field trip guides. Three of the current EEL Program interns: Brad Manley, Doug Renk, and Nichole Strickler were introduced to the Selection and Management Committee (SMC). Brad begins his internship today, but has served as an EEL volunteer in the past. Doug has been working on kiosks and Nichole is assisting with the photo point project. Tami Robinson reported that survey crews have begun work in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Staff anticipates that prescribed fires will be performed at the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary during the first week of December in partnership with the state-wide Fire Strike Team. Clarification was provided that a new species of parasitic wasp was discovered by scientists from England during their recent study at EEL Sanctuaries. Dave Breininger requested maps showing the boundaries of the South Lake donation sites. Ray reported on progress with the GIS system. Ross Hinkle requested information on the Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) restoration project be provided at a future meeting.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE:**

The Volunteer Program Update for October was distributed and reviewed. A copy is included with these minutes. Mike Knight provided information for volunteer activities including the EEL Program members' participation in the Brevard Zoo Exotic Removal Service Day on October 26<sup>th</sup> and sanctuary workdays. Dave Breininger commented that he has noticed a large patch of Melaleuca near Goat Creek in Valkaria. Mike will coordinate with Zach Prusak to schedule the area for exotic removal.

### ***EDUCATION SPECIALIST UPDATE:***

The September-November Education Program Status Report was distributed and reviewed. Kit Van Wagner reported that an EPA grant was submitted in partnership with the STARS Academy, an on-line educational program. The grant funds, if received, will be used to host two “Backyard Biodiversity Workshops” for local teachers as a pilot program at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. The workshop could be a model for future programs at other sanctuaries to provide education on local biodiversity issues. Ross Hinkle has agreed to assist in the education portion of the grant. Ross also suggested consideration of the GLOBE program as a future partner in education.

Anne provided information on “GreenTrust”, a development firm wishing to establish a “green”, conservation sensitive development in Brevard County, possibly adjacent to an EEL Sanctuary or other conservation land.

Ray provided information on OASES, a non-profit organization doing a pilot program with school children who are directly involved in a revegetation program at Maritime Hammock. OASES will provide information on the project’s progress in the near future.

### ***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:***

TNC Acquisition Summary report dated November 19, 2001 was distributed and reviewed. A copy of the report is included with these minutes.

### ***ADDITIONAL LAND DISCUSSION:***

Dave Breininger commented on the large scale conservation area possibilities in the north end of the county and suggested that acquisition of this land be considered in long term planning. Dave provided clarification that these areas may have been missed in the past due to constraints of the technology that existed at that time and stated that there is a large amount of xeric scrub that has not been developed. Further discussion ensued regarding the availability of land that might be set aside for conservation purposes. Dave, Anne Birch, and Ron Hight will bring maps to the next meeting so these areas may be reviewed. The Maytown Flatwoods was discussed as a possible acquisition site.

### ***OLD BUSINESS:***

#### **Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant Request – Rockledge properties**

Anne Birch reported that the EEL Program request for an FCT grant has received a score of 120 points. Anne will travel to Tallahassee on November 28<sup>th</sup> to provide testimony that will be taken into consideration for a possible increase in the allocation of points in the grant request. The original score of 120 does not fall into the group receiving funds in the original \$66 million dollars that was allocated to the project, but it is hoped that an increase in the point allocation, and/or the possibility of additional funding will allow the EEL Program to be included.

#### **Site Visit to Babcock LLC Property**

Paul Schmalzer’s report of the SMC site visit to the approximately 2,088 acre Babcock LLC site (formerly called Brisben) located west of Babcock Road and south of Micco Road on October 31<sup>st</sup> was distributed and reviewed. A copy of the information is included with these minutes. Paul Schmalzer reviewed the findings and indicated that the property was more disturbed than anticipated and did not connect to other conservation lands. Also, ditches have affected the hydrology of the site and there is a lot of Brazilian pepper throughout the site. David Breininger stated that although the site did not meet

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the current EEL criteria, conservation of the land would be beneficial due to the size of the area, wetlands, and potential indigo and bobcat populations. Anne provided clarification that the land had been presented to the EEL Program for possible acquisition and the owners of the property have requested an expeditious reply. A first majority vote for this property was taken previously to allow for the appraisal bid, but notice to proceed with appraisals has not been issued following the site visit because of the new information on the site's resources discovered during the site visit.

**Motion One:**

Paul Schmalzer called for a 2<sup>nd</sup> majority vote on the Babcock LLC property.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously opposed.

This action confirms that the SMC does not wish to proceed at this time with acquisition of the Babcock LLC property.

Further discussion ensued regarding the possible notification of St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) that the land was available for sale. Anne will send a letter to the SJRWMD to advise.

The possible reconsideration of how the SMC will look at property in the future was discussed in relation to a possible future referendum. Anne provided clarification there are approximately \$9 million dollars available for land acquisition. It was determined that Anne would circulate a request for items to be considered at the next meeting in January to assist in determining the direction the EEL Program will take regarding future acquisitions. The SMC will then hold a workshop in March to connect with other agencies on the availability of remaining land and discuss the need to begin planning for a new referendum in the next calendar year. Randy Parkinson stated it was important that future planning efforts does not over shadow land management needs.

**Space Coast (TICO) Airport Tree Trimming – Environmental Assessment Report**

On July 20, 2001 a letter was sent to the Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville indicating the SMC's recommendation that the trimming of trees in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary would have an unacceptable impact on the area. Since that time, the Airport has asked the SMC for further discussion on the issue. Anne obtained a copy of the Environmental Assessment Report prepared for the Airport's runway expansion. Several areas of concern have been identified within the report. Scott Carr has requested a delay in a meeting he requested with the SMC in order to first meet with EEL Staff. Further information will be provided as it is received.

**Update on The Conservation Fund Property (at Maritime Hammock)**

It was discovered during the appraisal process that this property includes an easement granted to Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) that prohibits development of the land. It is not felt that the easement would affect how the property would be managed, if acquired. There are a large number of Brazilian pepper trees on the easement. Mark Bush will contact Dick Bartrem, V. P. Financial Affairs at FIT to discuss the property.

**Acquisition of Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (BCSE) South Brevard Properties**

Mr. David Gravas with Land O' Lots Realty has presented two parcels near the Anstalt Property for

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consideration by the SMC. One parcel includes 4 acres, the other parcel is 6 acres. Both are near the Amistad Anstalt Property and within the BCSE Florida Forever project boundaries. Mr. Gravas has indicated there are willing sellers in the project boundaries. It was determined that the SMC supported proceeding with consideration of any properties available in this area.

**City of Titusville's request for discussion at next meeting**

Anne advised the SMC that representatives from the Titusville Environmental Commission have indicated they would like to attend a future meeting to discuss the following items: wellfield acquisition, weir structure, and a trail system near the Enchanted Forest. Randy Parkinson indicated that he has not received previously requested information on the geology of the area. Anne will follow up with Keith Cunningham on the previously requested information.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Barrier Island Ecosystem Center – SMC member to serve on A&E Selection Committee**

Anne asked the SMC for a volunteer to serve on the Architectural & Engineering (A&E) Selection Committee for the construction of a Management and Education Center at the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center (BIEC). Randy volunteered his time. Mark Bush will be an alternate, if necessary. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was printed in last week's paper. The pre-proposal meeting will be held on December 6, 2001 at 1:30 PM on site at the location formerly known as Chuck's Steakhouse.

***NEXT MEETING:***

The next EEL SMC meeting was scheduled for January 28, 2002. Location to be determined.

***ADJOURNED:***

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

***SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:***

**1. Motion One:**

**Paul Schmalzer called for a 2<sup>nd</sup> majority vote on the Babcock LLC property. Kim Zarillo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously opposed.**

***ACTION ITEMS:***

1. Anne Provide maps of boundaries to South Lake donation property as requested by Dave Breininger.
2. Lisa PICA Restoration Project presentation will placed on next agenda as requested by Ross Hinkle
3. EEL Staff Schedule melaleuca removal from south of Goat Creek in Walmart mitigation area
4. Ron Hight Provide map USFWS ownership NIRL area in Volusia – NAWCA.
5. Anne Send letter to SJRWMD regarding availability of Babcock LLC property.
6. Anne Contact Keith Cunningham, City of Titusville regarding geology report requested for Randy Parkinson regarding the Enchanted Forest.
7. Anne Send e-mail to SMC requesting informational items to be considered for January meeting.

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8. Dave Provide information on possible conservation areas in the north part of the County, that would be viable habitat but are outside current CARL boundaries
9. Paul Provide to Anne draft of letter from SMC supporting ARC.