

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

October 7, 2002

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

EEL PROGRAM DRAFT

Anne Birch
Laura Clark

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Angela Klug

GUESTS

Margo McKnight, Brevard Zoo

*October 7, 2002
Approved December 10, 2002*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

MINUTES:

The September minutes are pending. No minutes were presented for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ross asked if anyone wanted to speak during the public comment section of the meeting. No one requested speaking time.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

ARC Rankings

Anne Birch stated that the next Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) ranking is scheduled for December 5th and asked the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) for a recommendation regarding a formal request to elevate the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (BCSE) Full Fee Project from Group B to Group A. Members of the SMC voiced their agreement for the preparation of a recommendation to be included with the informational packet that will be sent to the ARC for their review.

MOTION ONE

Paul Schmalzer moved to support staff in crafting a package to the ARC to recommend that the BCSE Project be elevated to Group A during the December ARC ranking meeting.

Randy Parkinson seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Construction Progress Updates

Members of the SMC voiced their pleasure in the Malabar Road repair efforts.

Kim Zarillo and Randy Parkinson spoke regarding the October 3rd workshop for the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center (BIEC). Kim mentioned the importance of establishing policies to clarify how the spaces in the new facilities will be used and which organizations would be eligible to participate. Anne stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being prepared with the Caribbean Conservation Corp. (CCC) relative to activities at the BIEC.

**LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT, VOLUNTEER PROGRAM REPORT, AND
EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORTS**

Ross commented on the large amount of work being performed by volunteers. Anne stated Mike Knight, EEL Volunteer Coordinator, was currently working very hard at the Enchanted Forest in preparation of the grand opening.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Angela Klug reviewed the acquisition and reimbursement summaries. A copy is included with these minutes. Anne stated that coordination of efforts in the negotiation versus available funds process is becoming a challenge due to available funding and explained to the SMC that staff needed clarification of SMC priorities for active negotiation. Randy asked if the next TNC report could include clarification of active priorities for work in progress. A draft report for review and revision by the SMC will be provided at the next meeting.

Dave Breininger asked about the status of the GIS information being gathered by Mark Ehle. Anne clarified that it was almost complete. Randy stated this type of information would be useful in preparing for the referendum.

Ron Hight asked if there were standards for the priority ranking of properties. Anne clarified the SMC had not needed to establish prioritization standards. Anne also reminded the group that first time capital improvements (first time firebreak, fence, etc.) come from the acquisition fund. There is approximately \$5 million available in the acquisition fund at this time. Total expenditures to-date in this area is approximately \$24 million. It was noted that State reimbursements have exceeded the \$24 million spent by the EEL Program.

OLD BUSINESS:

SMC Workshop

A revised draft agenda was mailed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed the draft agenda and offered their suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Margo McKnight – Brevard Zoo Wildlands Project

Margo McKnight from the Brevard Zoo provided information on opportunities to partner with the Zoo in educating the public regarding Brevard's natural resources. The importance of educating both children and private landowners was discussed. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Zoo and the EEL Program will be provided for review by the SMC before being submitted to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) - Rothenberg Property Management

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is considering acquisition of approximately 30 acres near PICA. This property was previously reviewed and declined for acquisition by the SMC. The property will include an easement required by the Brevard County Regional Stormwater Utilities Department for a project on the north borrow pit. The EEL Program has been asked by SJRWMD if EEL would be interested in managing this property as part of PICA. Members of the SMC requested information regarding the potential expenses that would be incurred if management of the property were approved. Costs to secure the land, to remove exotics, and perform prescribed fire would be absorbed by EEL if management responsibilities were accepted.

October 7, 2002

Page 2 of 4

Approved December 10, 2002

MOTION TWO

Kim Zarillo moved to accept management responsibilities for the Rothenberg property providing the SJRWMD provide in kind or payment assistance for start up management costs, including exotic removal, controlled burning and fencing.

Paul Schmalzer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

PICA Entrance Property

Anne provided information regarding a partnership opportunity with the State on an outparcel located near the entrance to PICA. The SJRWMD is working to acquire the parcel and will coordinate the possibility of matching funds from the County in the future. Further information will be provided as it is received.

OLD BUSINESS:

Request from TICO Airport regarding possible tree trimming in Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Anne reported that the Board of County Commissioners has forwarded correspondence to the Governor, Cabinet, and Acquisition and Restoration Council regarding this issue. Citizen support for protection of the Sanctuary has been very strong. Anne has provided additional information to the State at their request. Further information will be provided on this topic as it is received.

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard King Mellon Foundation Donations

The Mellon Foundation has offered to donate 18 parcels of land along the South Beaches to the EEL Program. Two of the parcels contain buildings. Details regarding the requirements included with the acceptance of buildings are being researched. Anne asked the SMC for a recommendation regarding possible acceptance of the donations. The building on the Yotti property is being considered by EEL staff as possible housing for AmeriCorps teams.

MOTION THREE

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve acceptance of the Mellon donation of 18 parcels of land in the South Beaches area.

Ron Hight seconded the motion

The motion carried unanimously.

Members of the Committee voiced their pleasure in the favorable precedent being set by the receipt of large property donations of this type. This is the second substantial donation made to the EEL Program by the Mellon Foundation.

Reynolds & Babcock LLC properties

Appraisals have been completed on two adjacent properties in Turkey Creek (Malabar) owned by Thomas E. Reynolds. The northern parcel is within the BCSE boundaries while the southern parcel is not. The owner wishes to sell both properties together and may not be willing to separate them. Clarification was requested from the SMC regarding the possibility of requesting a boundary amendment for the BCSE Project and whether acquisition efforts should continue if the owner declines to split the parcels.

October 7, 2002

Page 3 of 4

Approved December 10, 2002

MOTION THREE

Paul Schmalzer moved to request a boundary amendment to the BCSE Project to include the southern portion of the Reynolds property.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

Ron Hight asked if there might be possible groups in Brevard County who would be interested in partnering on the southern parcel. Anne replied that there were no known interested parties.

The motion carried unanimously.

SMC REPORTS:

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2002 from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Location to be announced.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to support staff in crafting a package to the ARC recommending elevation of the BCSE Project to Group A during the December ranking meeting.
- Motion to accept management responsibilities for a 30 acre parcel near PICA in the event the land is purchased by SJRWMD if they provide in kind or payment assistance for start up management costs.
- Motion to make a request to ARC to approve a boundary amendment to the BCSE Project that would include the southern portion of the Thomas E. Reynolds property.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Staff will prepare a packet of information to be sent to the ARC. The information will be reviewed by the SMC prior to being sent to ARC.
- TNC's acquisition summary will be revised to clarify prioritization in current acquisition efforts.
- A Memorandum of Understanding for educational projects between the EEL Program and Brevard Zoo will be provided to the SMC for review before being submitted to the Board.
- Additional information on a possible partnership opportunity with the State on an outparcel located near the entrance to PICA will be provided as it is received.
- Additional information regarding the possible trimming of trees in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary will be provided as it is received.

October 7, 2002

Page 4 of 4

Approved December 10, 2002