

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

**July 30, 2004
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Mike Knight

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Anne Birch
Sue Mullins, via teleconference
Lori Thoms

GUESTS

Liz Alward, Parks and Recreation
Chuck Nelson, Parks and Recreation
Amy Tidd, Preserve Brevard

*July 30, 2004
Approved October 27, 2004*

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

**July 30, 2004
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ross asked if anyone wanted to make public comment. No one desired to provide comment at that time.

MINUTES:

The June 25, 2004 minutes are pending approval. The June minutes were presented for review. Paul Schmalzer noted two changes: 1) Page one, third paragraph under Public Comment – the Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) site is called Bird Lake, and 2) Page two, second paragraph under Administrative Review – reimbursement for the beach front property near Aquarina purchased for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would come from Congress, as opposed to the State of Florida.

MOTION ONE:

Randy Parkinson moved to approve the June 25, 2004 minutes with amendments as noted. Paul Schmalzer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Lori Thoms provided an overview of the Acquisition and Reimbursement Summary. Randy asked if TNC could prepare a summary report showing on an annual basis, total acres pursued and indicating how many acres were acquired and how many acres where negotiations had ceased. Ross commented that the report would reflect a varying number of acres targeted.

Paul Schmalzer asked about the status of the Capron Ridge and Keystone mitigation donations. Mike informed the group that both donations are moving forward and the Capron Ridge donation is expected to be complete before Keystone.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of Program Manager Position

Chuck Nelson, Director of Parks and Recreation congratulated Mike on doing a great job as Interim Program Manager and clarified that further consideration will be given to filling the Program Manager's position after the possible referendum is reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Referendum Update – Sue Mullins

Sue Mullins joined the meeting via teleconference. Results of the recent public opinion survey were reviewed.

Ross mentioned that the City of Titusville has a referendum scheduled for November to establish a bond to fund the purchase of riverfront property in the Titusville area. He asked Sue if she felt that would impact the referendum for the EEL Program. Sue indicated that it presented an opportunity for folks in that area to work with the EEL Program in a joint campaign to support both referendums. Amy Tidd commented that the City of Titusville provides it's own drinking water and water recharge areas were included in EEL lands targeted for acquisition.

Amy Tidd informed the group that this item will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their meeting on August 10, 2004. She mentioned there was presently no confirmation that the SMC would coordinate the oversight of funds generated by the referendum. Clarification was provided that the connection was made during the original referendum by a resolution that accompanied the referendum.

Motion One

Kim Zarillo moved to request that the BOCC authorize the EEL SMC to provide oversight of funds from the 2004 Environmental Bonds Referendum.

Randy Parkinson seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chuck advised the group that it was important to clarify what the SMC recommended as far as perpetual management funds to ensure that financial support was set aside for that purpose.

Randy stressed the importance of setting aside funds for perpetual management and reminded the group that the estimates that had been provided were based on land that had already been acquired and did not include new acquisitions. Mike relayed that the figures did include costs associated with the four Management and Education Centers that were planned as part of the original referendum. These centers include the Enchanted Forest, the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center and two smaller offices, one in the Central Region and one in the South Region.

Status of Program Manager Position

Chuck Nelson advised the group that work to fill the open Program Manager's position would resume after the Board has voted on whether or not to pursue the referendum.

Citizen's Advisory Committee Discussion

The group reviewed information regarding the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) as stated in the Sanctuary Management Manual. Additional discussion regarding the make up and role of members is required in order to ensure the original goals for the Committee can be implemented. A draft resolution will be provided for discussion at the November SMC meeting.

EEL Future Projected Operations Budget

See referendum information shown above.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lake Washington Road Donation Request

Mike presented information on a 7-acre parcel of land in Melbourne that has been offered for donation to the EEL Program to offset mitigation requirements for a subdivision being planned in the Lake Washington area. The parcel is presently occupied by 5 scrub-jays.

Dave Breininger stated that although it was not possible to guarantee that jays would remain on the site, it was currently functioning as a known stepping-stone to other areas and was good quality scrub.

Several SMC members expressed concern regarding the resources that might be necessary to do first time land management activities and to maintain the property due to its small size and proximity to developed areas.

Mike and Zach Prusak, Land Manager for the South Region have visited the site and feel that it is manageable without great difficulty. The creation of a fire line and a one-time fee of \$1,000 per acre will accompany the donation.

Motion Two

Paul moved to accept the Lake Washington Road scrub parcel as a mitigation donation with the understanding that staff will negotiate with the landowners for the most favorable management deal possible.

Kim seconded the motion.

Ron asked if it might be possible for equipment to be considered as part of the mitigation donation. This possibility will be given consideration.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lagoon Blueway Questionnaires (Anne Birch)

Anne Birch explained that in her new position as Indian River Lagoon Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy, her role is to develop TNC's roll in protection of the Lagoon within its 6 county area. In order to identify what the TNC roll might be, she is interviewing individuals and groups along the Lagoon. Answers to the questionnaires will be reviewed by TNC in September and the information will be used to develop a conservation plan for TNC.

The SMC discussed the questionnaires and provided Anne with their opinions.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on August 27, 2004 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the June 25, 2004 minutes with amendments as noted.
- Motion to accept the Lake Washington Road scrub parcel as a mitigation donation with the understanding that staff will negotiate with the landowners for the most favorable management deal possible.