

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
March 24, 2005  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Mark Bush  
Ron Hight  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Laura Clark  
Mike Knight

***GUESTS***

Charles Billias, City of Cocoa Beach  
Jon Brangan, Brevard Zoo  
Ron Caparros, River Lakes Condo Assoc.  
John E. Compson  
Robert Day, St. Johns River Water Management District  
Jim Durocher, Space Coast Paddlers  
James V. Doyle, Jr., member, Land Management Committee, City of Cocoa Beach  
Jeannette G. Elliott  
Ken Griffin, City of Cocoa Beach  
Tim Kozusko, citizen  
Darrell Johnson, Hometown News  
Scott Linkenhoker, Director, Brevard County Mosquito Control  
Joseph R. Morgan, Citizen  
Kim Sims, Florida Institute of Technology  
Amy Tidd, Citizen  
Bob Watkins, Citizen  
John E. Wiseman, Cocoa Beach

*March 24, 2005  
Approved May 6, 2005*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
March 24, 2005  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ross explained that he knew there were several people who wished to provide comment on one of the agenda items and he asked if anyone had a concern with waiting until the item came up for discussion before making their comments. No one expressed concern or wished to provide other comment on items that were not shown on the agenda.

**MINUTES:**

The October, December, and January minutes were presented for approval. The November 8<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> minutes are outstanding.

Ross asked for comments to the October minutes.

Paul Schmalzer stated that on page 2, under New Business PICA, it should be noted that the Pine Island Conservation Area was purchased for conservation of the natural resources of the area, in addition to storm water management for North Merritt Island.

Ross asked for additional comments to the October minutes. None were expressed.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the October minutes as amended.**

**Ron Hight seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

Ross asked for comments to the December minutes.

Paul suggested changing the FEMA section of the Administrative Review to remove the phrase "operations and maintenance" as bonded funds can only be used for capital projects while excess ad valorem taxes could be used for operations and maintenance.

Ross asked for additional comments to the minutes. None were expressed.

**MOTION TWO**

**Ron Hight moved to approve the December minutes, as amended.**

**Paul seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Ross asked for comments to the January minutes.

Paul clarified the need to change the reference to Randy Parkinson's title in the EEL Committee from Co-Chair to Vice-Chair of the EEL Program.

Ross asked for additional comments to the minutes. None were expressed.

### **MOTION THREE**

**Randy Parkinson moved to approve the January minutes, as amended.**

**Paul seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

Mike Knight mentioned that the format of the Administrative Review has been changed. Selection and Management Committee (SMC) members expressed their pleasure with the new format.

### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken Griffin, Vice-Mayor of Cocoa Beach spoke to the group regarding the desire held by the city's Commission and citizens to see that the Thousand Islands are protected as a natural area. He stated that there have been previous attempts to purchase the property that did not come full circle as the parties involved had not been able to come to terms on price. Ken also stated that the City of Cocoa Beach would be willing to provide financial support if the islands could be purchased.

### **Thousand Islands**

Ross explained that he had first-hand information on the Thousand Islands as he has been to the area kayaking. Paul Schmalzer and Randy Parkinson who recently participated in a field trip to the area have prepared reports on their observations.

Paul said that there was a lot of historical information contained in a previous Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant application, and that a variety of habitats were seen during the site visit. Some of the islands were modified by mosquito control during the 1960s and 1970s. Tropical species as well as Australian pine and Brazilian pepper have colonized some islands that contain spoil. The area is sensitive biologically. He said he felt there would be at least some potential for development of the higher islands that contained the spoil, while development permits for the lower mangrove islands could be more difficult to obtain.

The group reviewed a 1951 aerial photograph while Randy explained that as noted in his report, the area was a relic tidal delta from an historic inlet and therefore, a significant geological landform that warrants preservation as one of the last remaining examples of coastal processes and land forms that at one point would have been very predominant along the east coast.

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Clarification was provided that the islands were included as part of the original Blueway proposal, but the area was not included in the final boundary approved by the State. In order for the area to be reconsidered for State funding, an amendment to the existing project boundary would have to be approved by the State. Mike stated The Nature Conservancy has extended an offer to assist with the preparation of a boundary amendment to the State's Blueways Project.

Additional discussion ensued, including:

- Concerns
  - Concerns were expressed that protecting this type of habitat was a new direction for the EEL Program.
  - Concerns were expressed regarding the types, amounts and costs of restoration and management work that may be required.
- Protection of the Thousand Islands
  - Interest in reviewing ownership of the north side of the islands for areas that have not been protected.
  - The area is not within any current approved funding project boundary.
  - The City of Cocoa Beach may be interested in participating as a funding partner.
  - St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) previously purchased some of the islands and may be interested in participating as a funding partner in the event that additional areas could be preserved.
- Management and Restoration
  - The area is considered to be a hot spot for mosquito production.
  - Currently, Mosquito Control manages mosquito populations on the islands through the use of a larvicide.
  - There may be management funding assistance through the Everglades Restoration Project.
  - Many birds utilize the area, but it is not known if the area contains a rookery.

#### **MOTION FOUR**

**Randy moved for a first majority vote on the Thousand Islands to allow EEL staff to move ahead with title work and appraisal services for the area, based not only on the ecological communities, but also on the distinct geomorphic landscape, while researching possible funding partners for acquisition as well as management.**

**Mark seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Land Acquisition Priorities**

The SMC discussed land acquisition priorities while reviewing a digital map of the county.

Mike told the group that the city of Melbourne has clarified they are not supportive of conservation of the area near the driver's license facility near Florida Institute of

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Technology. EEL will no longer be considering the area for acquisition as it was anticipated that the city might have been an acquisition partner.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Amy Tidd expressed her concern regarding a recent request from the Board to research the possibility of using EEL Program funds to purchase mosquito impoundments. Amy reported that during her research on the topic, she learned there were legal issues involving a court settlement on some of the parcels. She stated that while she understood that the Program has purchased areas with mosquito impoundments in the past, her concern was that perhaps purchase price on some properties could be determined by court settlement, instead of the appraised values. She also expressed her feeling that costs related to court action regarding mosquito impoundments should come out of the mosquito impoundment tax.

### **Mosquito Impoundments**

The following was discussed by the SMC regarding the acquisition of mosquito impoundments:

- Concerns
  - Potential purchase of an altered landscape under chemical control.
  - Potential EEL involvement in a legal settlement, especially as related to acquisition cost or additional claims.
  - Impact that requests for purchase of mosquito impoundments could have on land acquisition priorities.
  - Each property should be considered individually following the guidelines in the Land Acquisition Manual.
- Clarification was provided that on March 8<sup>th</sup> the Board directed staff to provide a report on the possibility of purchasing mosquito impoundments with EEL funds. On March 10<sup>th</sup> the County Attorney's Office prepared a memo that clarifies that the County may acquire land with mosquito impoundments under the EEL Program, if the land meets the criteria for the EEL Program and the appraisal process is followed.
- Clarification was provided that the EEL Program has purchased properties with mosquito impoundments in the past. Approximately 40% of the impoundments that are left unacquired throughout the county are part of a group appraisal presently being conducted on North Indian River Lagoon Properties. Research is being done to determine if the other unacquired properties are within the boundary of the Blueways Project.
- There is an element of management that includes mosquito control for some lands within the EEL Program, but the primary reason for purchase of the lands was protection of the natural resources.

Additional information will be provided on this topic in the future.

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## **Revisions to Land Acquisition & Sanctuary Management Manuals**

As a result of the November 2004 EEL Program Referendum #04-201, updates to the Land Acquisition and Sanctuary Management Manuals are needed.

### Land Acquisition Manual (LAM)

The SMC reviewed a list of possible updates to the LAM and concurred the manual needed to be revised to reflect the date and referendum number of the new referendum along with a few other minor changes regarding membership listings and EEL Program contact information. A memorandum to the EEL Program Coordinator and EEL Procedures Committee will be prepared regarding these changes.

### Sanctuary Management Manual (SMM)

The SMC reviewed a list of possible changes to the SMM and concurred the manual needed to be revised to reflect the date and referendum number of the new referendum along with a few other minor changes regarding EEL Program contact information. They also reviewed the section of new information regarding the Recreation and Education Committee (previously referred to as the Citizen's Advisory Committee) and requested item number 3 of Resolution # 05-503 which formed the REAC be included and that the item come back before the SMC for final approval before a revision is completed.

## **EEL Program Proposed Staffing Structure**

The SMC reviewed an organizational chart, which reflected proposed changes to EEL Program staff and provided comments.

## **EEL Program Administrative Office Needs**

The current lease for the EEL Program Office expires in approximately two years. The SMC discussed options for future needs.

### ***NEXT MEETING:***

Staff will poll members to determine the date of the next meeting.

### ***ADJOURNED:***

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

### ***SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:***

- Motion to approve the October 29, 2004 minutes as amended.
- Motion to approve the December 9, 2004 minutes as amended.
- Motion to approved the January 8, 2005 minutes as amended.
- Motion for a first majority vote on the Thousand Islands.

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