

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
October 21, 2005  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Laura Clark  
Mike Knight

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Danika Feodoroff  
Keith Fountain

***GUESTS***

Gayle Hoffman, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office  
Susan Gosselin, Brevard County, Natural Resources Management Office  
Barbara Meyer, Brevard County, Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Program  
Maureen Parent, Citizen  
Amy Tidd, Citizen

*October 21, 2005  
Approved January 12, 2006*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
October 21, 2005  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**MINUTES:**

The July 29, 2005 minutes were presented for approval.

Ross asked for comments to the July minutes.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the July 29, 2005 minutes as presented.**

**Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

Mike informed the group that the TNC contract for Land Acquisition Services for the EEL Program was approved by the County Commission on September 27, 2005.

The SMC offered congratulations to the EEL Program regarding the receipt of \$711,124.50 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as reimbursement for property in the South Beaches.

**SMC REPORTS:**

Ross reported that he recently attended a Gopher Tortoise Council seminar where one of the themes focused on engaging private landowners in conservation efforts. There are several programs that provide funding for agencies to implement conservation programs. Staff will contact these organizations to determine if the EEL Program could partner with them in an effort to optimize conservation on EEL sanctuaries.

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

Keith Fountain introduced Danika Feodoroff, who will be based in the Melbourne TNC office and working with the larger land acquisition contracts. He distributed the December Full Fee Acquisition and Reimbursement Summary and asked for input from the Committee relative to the structure or the report and presentation of information. The SMC stated that it would be extremely helpful if the information could be incorporated into the GIS system and coded to indicate priority and acquisition progress.

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## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Management and Education Centers (Cruickshank and Malabar)**

Mike Knight reviewed information on the original EEL Program Master Site Plans which were preliminary documents completed in the early history of the EEL Program. The plans called for four Management and Education Centers. This was later changed to two larger Centers (Enchanted Forest in the North Region, and Barrier Island in the South Beach Region) and two field stations (for the Central and South Regions) in response to financial concerns expressed by the Board of County Commissioners. At the same time, it was determined that the Central Region field station should be moved from the Cruickshank Sanctuary to the Pine Island Conservation Area, because there was an existing structure at Pine Island. Consideration for providing a facility at the Cruickshank Sanctuary was delayed in an effort to determine if additional acquisitions in the area would provide better opportunities for having a building on site, as it is a small sanctuary of approximately 140 acres.

The SMC was asked to re-consider whether or not it would be appropriate to place a facility at the Cruickshank Sanctuary. The following points were addressed:

- Efforts to purchase land adjacent to, or, near the Sanctuary have been largely unsuccessful.
- The footprint required in creating a facility that would serve as both a Management and Education Center would have a detrimental impact on the small site.
- The existing EEL Office will need to be relocated as the lease on the building ends May 31, 2006 and the building is scheduled for demolition.
- A facility that may be suitable as an EEL Office, and with enough space for an educational presentation regarding the Cruickshank Sanctuary, is available for sale at this time, on property adjacent to the Sanctuary.
- The new EEL Office needs to be located in a central part of the County as it will also be used to store equipment.
- It will be more cost effective in the long run to purchase an EEL Office than to lease one.

### **MOTION TWO:**

**Randy Parkinson moved that given the landscape changes and lack of success in acquisition of additional properties around the Cruickshank Sanctuary, the original visioning of a large scale Management and Education facility is unrealistic. The SMC supports the concept of meeting management and education needs in combination with the establishment of an EEL Office on adjacent property, with a lower intensity development on the Sanctuary site, if that becomes an option.**

**Paul seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

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## **Parker Property (Parcel "A" Aquarina PUD)**

Paul reviewed the report from the September 28, 2005 site visit. The Parker Property is approximately 6 acres and is located in the South Beaches. It is adjacent to the Aquarina development and not connected to any EEL Program or other conservation area. The landscape is Maritime Hammock, but it is not the same quality as the other sites that have been acquired. Edge effects from adjacent development are significant. The property is scheduled for development and is likely to be very expensive. The SMC discussed the possibility of acquisition of this property.

### **MOTION THREE**

**Paul moved to decline any further consideration of the Parker property based on its small size and isolation.**

**Dave Breininger seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Miami Corporation, Florida East Coast Railway, Right-of-Way Greenways Trail**

Barbara Meyer of the Brevard County, Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Program informed the SMC that they have been working on a plan to convert a section of the Florida East Coast Railway property in the north part of Brevard County to a Rails-to-Trails Greenways Trail. The Miami Corporation owns property adjacent to the railway and has confirmed that although they are not actively seeking a buyer for the property, they are willing to have the SMC review the planned trail area in the event that the EEL Program was interested in purchasing property adjacent to the trail in an effort to establish a wildlife corridor.

The SMC indicated they would be supportive of review of the area to determine if it meets acquisition criteria.

### **Kaufman Property**

Mike asked if any of the SMC members were familiar with the Kaufman property. This area is a mosquito impoundment in the South Beaches and is part of the Phase I Blueway Project which the EEL Program has not committed funds to. The group was not aware of previous discussion on this area.

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

### **Additional Discussion**

Mike provided information regarding events related to EEL Program acquisition within the Town of Malabar. It is anticipated that the County Commission will address this issue at their November 1, 2005 meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held December 1, 2005.

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*Approved January 12, 2006*

**ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

- Motion to approve the July 29, 2005 minutes.
- Motion that given the landscape changes and lack of success in acquisition of additional properties around the Cruickshank Sanctuary, the original visioning of a large scale Management and Education facility is unrealistic. The SMC supports the concept of meeting those needs in combination with the establishment of an EEL Office on adjacent property with a lower intensity development on the Sanctuary site, if that becomes an option.
- Motion to decline any further consideration of the Parker property based on its small size and isolation.