

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
December 1, 2005  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Mark Bush  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Laura Clark  
Mike Knight  
Kit Van Wagner

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Danika Feodoroff  
Keith Fountain

***GUESTS***

Maureen Parent, Citizen  
Amy Tidd, Citizen

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Approved January 12, 2006*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
December 1, 2005  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

The September 16, 2005 minutes were presented for approval.

Ross asked for comments to the September minutes.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the September 16, 2005 minutes as presented.  
Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

Mike Knight informed the group that Kris Brown, staff member at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, will receive the 2005 Titusville Environmental Achievement Award for his work with Gopher Tortoises.

Mike confirmed that Brevard County Facilities is coordinating efforts to obtain office space for the EEL Program as the lease on the current building expires May 31, 2006.

Clarification was provided that three SMC members and several staff members participated in the recent Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Approximately 2,000 persons participated in this annual event.

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

Keith Fountain reviewed the December 2005 TNC report and the Brevard Coastal Ecosystem Project Small Holdings Acquisition Summary from October 1 - November 30, 2005.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Laney-Barnes Conservation Easement**

Mike explained that the Laney-Barnes Conservation Easement is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on December 13, 2005. This 40 ± acre easement, located in north Brevard County, will be the first conservation easement secured

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by the EEL Program. A first majority vote was done by the SMC previously to begin the due diligence process. That work is nearing completion. A draft version of the easement language has been circulated to the SMC and County Attorney for review. A second majority vote from the SMC is needed to confirm the SMC's recommendation for approval of the conservation easement as it is presented to the Commission.

**MOTION TWO:**

**Paul moved to approve a second majority vote on the Laney-Barnes Conservation Easement.**

**Randy Parkinson seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**Management and Education Center (Malabar Scrub)**

At the last meeting, the SMC asked staff to provide information on a suggested facility for the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. Mike provided pictures and cost information on the building and pavilion recently completed by the Parks and Recreation Department at Riverside Park in Rockledge. He also provided information on a maintenance facility recently completed in the south part of the County. It is anticipated that one acre of land will be needed for these buildings.

Mike explained that the Town of Malabar has asked the State for access to five acres of land, purchased for conservation and currently managed by the EEL Program, to be used for a Town Hall and Community Center. The SMC indicated their support of a possible cooperative effort with the Town of Malabar on lands that might be purchased in the future, while expressing concern regarding the possible negative impact of an additional five acres being developed within land already set aside for conservation. Mike will meet with Town representatives in the near future to clarify what the Town needs, in order to see if a cooperative effort between the EEL Program and Town of Malabar can be arranged.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management Plan Amendment**

A draft recreational plan prepared by staff for the Enchanted Forest was recently reviewed and approved by the EEL Program's Recreation and Education Advisory Committee as part of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's Management Plan Amendment that is in progress. Mike reviewed the information and asked the SMC for their comments. Staff will incorporate the SMC comments into the recreation plan. Once the management plan amendment is complete, it will be presented to a separate advisory committee, and then submitted for public review and comment. After that, it will be reviewed again by the SMC, submitted to the Commission, and to the State's Acquisition and Restoration Council for final approval.

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## **Boyd Property**

Mike provided information on 120± acres of property on Sykes Creek in Merritt Island which has been offered for sale to the EEL Program. The area is directly adjacent to the north boundary of Ulumay Park and is near 50± acres that was recently accepted by the Program as a mitigation donation. The area is impounded wetlands and is currently managed by Mosquito Control. The following points were made during discussion:

- The area is very wet and may be appropriate for purchase by the St. Johns Water Management District (SJRWMD).
- The focus of the EEL Program has historically been on upland properties that are not being protected by any other agencies, unless the property is in immediate threat of development.
- The area would require a significant amount of fill to facilitate any development.
- The property is highly disturbed and contains many exotic plant species making management and/or restoration very costly.
- It may be possible that the area could be used for mitigation for development in another area.

### **MOTION THREE:**

**Mark Bush moved to decline from further consideration, purchase of the Boyd property, as it is highly disturbed and would require extensive management and restoration.**

**Randy seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

Staff was directed to determine if the area was within either of the Blueways projects, and to research if the property might be acquired by SJRWMD.

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

The next meeting will be held January 12, 2005.

### ***ADJOURNED:***

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

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

- Motion to approve the September 16, 2005 minutes.
- Motion to approve a second majority vote on the Laney-Barnes Conservation Easement.
- Motion to decline from further consideration, purchase of the Boyd property as it is highly disturbed and would require extensive management and restoration.

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