

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
December 8, 2005  
Attendance List**

***RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Bob Champaigne  
Murray Hann  
Karen Hill  
Mark Nathan  
Eve Owens  
Beverly Pinyerd  
Paul Saia  
Steven Webster

***SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Brian Breslin, Brevard County ADA Coordinator  
Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Laura Clark  
Brad Manley  
Scott Taylor  
Kit Van Wagner

***GUESTS***

Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office

*December 8, 2005  
Approved January 12, 2006*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM  
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
December 8, 2005  
Meeting Minutes**

***CALL TO ORDER:***

Murray Hann called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. He introduced Brad Manley, who has recently been hired as the EEL Program's Public Access and Volunteer Coordinator. Mike Knight, Program Manager was not able to attend the meeting.

***MINUTES:***

The September 8, 2005 minutes were presented for approval.

Murray asked for comments to the September minutes.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Eve Owens moved to approve the September 8, 2005 minutes as presented.  
Beverly Pinyerd seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Other Conservation Lands Map**

A map of Brevard County which was formatted to show some of the other conservation lands in the County was reviewed. The group offered suggestions on additional information that they would like to see provided.

Paul Schmalzer commented that the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has the mandate to protect the St. Johns River Basin which is primarily wet, fresh water wetlands. The EEL Program targets habitats that are not protected by other agencies, primarily uplands.

It was noted that not all public land is geared to conservation and the focus of the map may change as additional items are included.

Brad clarified that the EEL Program Land Managers are very familiar with properties that are adjacent to EEL Sanctuaries. Surrounding areas are evaluated as public use plans are prepared for each site. Connectivity protecting both the conservation value and passive recreation goals will benefit all concerned.

Staff will research including additional information on the map.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Pine Island Conservation Area Public Access Plan**

Scott Taylor provided information on the history of the Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) and a draft of the revised Public Access Plan. He also presented information on the PICA restoration project along the Indian River Lagoon and the proposed Storm Water Utility Project which is planned.

The EEL Program and SJRWMD partnered for the purchase of this 879 acre Sanctuary on Merritt Island in 1996. The first Public Access Plan was written in 1999. Primary passive recreational opportunities include hiking, nature observation; including bird and manatee watching, canoeing and kayaking, and fishing. Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted in some areas. There is an aninga rookery at the South Borrow Lake. Existing and planned trails are focused in the areas already disturbed by previous ATV activity. Revisions to the Public Access Plan include shifting some of the activities to different locations, and adding an observation tower near the restoration area.

Public vehicle access has recently been reduced in an effort to decrease vandalism and road maintenance needs. The roadway now terminates at the south end of South Lake. The roadway will be permanently blocked at that point for motorized vehicles upon completion of a Brevard County Storm Water Utility Project.

Part of the plans for the Storm Water Project are to enlarge the two borrow lakes on the property and create berms around the perimeters. In advance of large tropical storms, pumps will be run to de-water the upstream basin of the Pine Island Canal. The water will be pumped into the two borrow lakes to increase the Canal's storage capacity. It is anticipated that this will help reduce possible flooding in the north Merritt Island area. A secondary benefit will be that the storm water runoff will be filtered by the lakes before it reaches the Lagoon.

Members of the group asked if it might be possible to arrange mountain bike access to the berms after the project has been completed. Scott informed the Committee that the Storm Water Utility Department will have an easement over the lake berms, but that staff could notify the Storm Water Utility Department of the Committee's request.

Several members of the group expressed concern regarding possible negative impact to the Conservation Area. Paul informed the group that site monitoring is a continuous part of all sanctuary maintenance plans.

### **MOTION TWO:**

**Eve Owens moved to accept the conservation area access plan draft for the Pine Island Conservation Area and encourage staff to lobby for public access around the berms.**

**Bob Champaigne seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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*Approved January 12, 2006*

## **South Beaches Interpretive Plan**

Kit Van Wagner, Education Specialist, provided overview information on the South Beach Region and preliminary information on the draft South Beaches Interpretive Plan.

The EEL Program manages eight sanctuaries which total 360 acres of conservation land in the South Beach Region. Three of these sanctuaries are currently open to the public with maintained hiking trails.

The Regional Interpretive Theme for the South Beach area is: *All living and non-living components of the ocean, lagoon, and barrier island are dynamically linked.*

Themes for the sanctuaries which will be highlighted include:

- Coconut Point Sanctuary - *Fire maintains coastal strand.*
- Maritime Hammock Sanctuary – *Brevard's barrier island is a place where the north meets the south.*
- Barrier Island Sanctuary - *Land managers restore barrier island habitats using several land management tools.*

The document will be e-mailed to the REAC for their review and comment.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT:***

None

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

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 12, 2006

### ***ADJOURNED:***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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

- Motion to approve the September 8, 2005 minutes as presented.
- Motion to accept the conservation area access plan draft for the Pine Island Conservation Area and encourage staff to lobby for public access around the berms.

*December 8, 2005*

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*Approved January 12, 2006*