



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

**January 11, 2007
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
David Drake
Judy Gregoire
Mike Knight
Chris O'Hara
Scott Taylor

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Danika Feodoroff
Anne Mayer

GUESTS

Jack Hochheimer, Florida Power & Light
Daniel Hronec, Florida Power & Light
Trudie Infantini, Brevard County Clerk's Office
Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
Paul Marion, Citizen

*January 11, 2007
Approved May 23, 2007*



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

January 11, 2007
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Ross asked if anyone had concern regarding a change in the agenda to allow for the North Region presentation to occur first as a couple of Committee members had not yet arrived. No concerns were expressed.

STAFF REPORT:

North Region

Judy Gregoire provided an update on events in the North Region including:

Enchanted Forest

- ❖ Citizen Fire Wise meetings continue to help with the education of citizens about the importance of Prescribed Fires.
- ❖ Prescribed Fires and Scrub Restoration Project.
- ❖ Fence damage by vandalism and subsequent repairs.
- ❖ Concerns related to the discovery of the "Evil Weevil" (*Metamasius callizona*) in the Enchanted Forest.
 - University of Florida student volunteer doing 2 year monitoring program.
- ❖ Forest Fundays and Forest Festival.
- ❖ Upcoming Guide Training.
- ❖ Two Florida mice (*Podomys floridanus*) documented.
- ❖ One iguana removed.

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

- ❖ Listed as field trip for Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.
- ❖ Exotics removal and fire line maintenance.

Indian Mound Sanctuary

- ❖ Trash Clean Up Days.
- ❖ Exotics Removal.

Other

- ❖ Management Plan progress for North Region Sanctuaries.
- ❖ North Region Newsletter.
- ❖ It is anticipated that a revised EEL Program Species Translocation policy draft will be presented to the SMC in February.

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- ❖ Clarification was provided that most fire lines are currently maintained by mowing and that the EEL Program plans to purchase a tiller in the next year.
- ❖ Clarification was provided that the ADA walkway and butterfly garden display are used by many visitors.

Ross commented that five Committee members were now in attendance at the meeting.

MINUTES:

The November 30, 2006 and December 14, 2006 minutes were presented for approval.

Ross asked for comments to the November 30, 2006 minutes.

MOTION ONE:

Paul Schmalzer moved approve the November 30, 2006 minutes as presented.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

Ross asked for comments to the December 14, 2006 minutes.

Paul Schmalzer noted that on page 2, in the discussion regarding the Marion Property, there was a sentence ending with the word *enjoyed* that was missing a period. Staff will revise the document as needed.

MOTION TWO

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the December 14, 2006 minutes as amended.

Ron Hight seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed. Mike explained that the format of the agenda had changed to allow speakers and higher priority items at the top of the list, but that each item would be identified as old or new business on the agenda.

Mike commented that the Munich property acquisition had been approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOARD) on January 9, 2007. This property is in the North Indian River Lagoon (NIRL) Blueways Project which means that there is also a potential for State reimbursement for this property.

Mike explained that the EEL Program has authority through the Board to accept donations that are within an established Project Area. The Dougherty Donation is within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project (BCSE) but it will be presented to the Board to request a waiver of the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. Paul Schmalzer commented that they had flown over the area on January 9th and that he was impressed with the site from the air.

Ross asked if anyone wanted to provide Public Comment. There was none.

The next Recreation and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2007. Location to be determined.

SMC REPORTS

Paul mentioned that he would be guiding Florida Native Plant Society field trips to the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary on February 10, 2007 and to the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary on March 24, 2007.

Ross mentioned that he had attempted to attend a meeting in Orlando regarding a proposed transportation corridor for trains and suggested everyone take note of these meetings when possible.

Ron Hight mentioned that a draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Sanctuary was currently being distributed for review. Comments are due by February 27, 2007.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Danika Feodoroff reviewed The Nature Conservancy's January Report to the SMC.

AGENDA ITEMS:

FPL Easement Request at Micco Scrub Sanctuary (New Business)

Daniel Hronec and Jack Hochheimer of Florida Power and Light (FPL) provided preliminary information on a request from FPL for a Micco Scrub Sanctuary easement that would run on the south side of Micco Road. It is anticipated that FPL would install high voltage lines on 14 poles which are 115 feet long with 19 feet set into the ground, for an above ground height of 96 feet. An auger is used to set the poles into the ground. It is anticipated that the easement would cover approximately 5,425 LF (2,470 LF of State land, and 2,955 LF of County land, varying from 36 to 60 feet in width. There will be height restrictions for vegetation in the easement, but the ground would not have to be completely cleared of vegetation. The type of pole that will be used allows for the installation of additional lines in the future, if needed.

The following was noted during the discussion:

- FPL indicated that they were prepared to consider monetary or in-kind compensation for the easement.
- Mike Knight clarified that coordination of any easement would need to be obtained through the County and State, as the State holds title to some of the land, with the EEL Program named as managing entity.
- Concerns were expressed by the SMC related to possible detrimental impact to birds in flight. FPL indicated there was a national committee studying this topic and that they could provide scientific literature on this topic
- It was mentioned that consideration should be given to placing the easement on the north side of the road due to possible road widening that might occur in the future.
- Clarification was requested regarding the number of acres that would be impacted and what type of compensation would be provided to the Program.
- It was determined that a site visit be beneficial. A tentative site visit date was set for February 9, 2007.

Ross asked if there were additional questions or discussion. There were none. Additional information will be provided in the near future.

Marion Groves Property, Mims (Old Business)

The group reviewed the report from the January 9, 2007 site visit. The property consists of two areas of native vegetation and some old grove now used as pasture. It is not within any existing Project boundary and is separated from the properties in the North Indian River Lagoon by developed areas and current or former citrus groves or pastures. The northern area of native vegetation is about 20 acres in size. It ranges from xeric hammock on the west down slope, to hydric hammock on the east. The southern area of native vegetation is about 10 acres in size. It is generally similar to the northern one and is separated from the other section by a cleared area. The hammocks are of good quality showing only minor anthropogenic disturbance. However, they are relatively small, surrounded by developed or agricultural areas, and not easily connected to other natural areas.

Paul Marion, citizen, provided information on this 51± acres of property which is owned by his family, and on the surrounding area. The property is located east of US 1 and south of Brockett Road in Mims. He indicated much of the property in this vicinity has been developed and that the family was interested in saving the natural areas in their land as a small oasis in a developed region.

It was suggested that although acquisition of the property did not fit within the purview of the EEL Program, it might make a good community park. It was suggested that the EEL Program might be able to work as a partner, if another agency took the lead in acquisition efforts. Ross asked if anyone had comments or questions.

MOTION THREE

Paul Schmalzer moved to decline a 1st Majority Vote on the Marion Groves Property as a direct acquisition by the EEL Program.

Ron Hight seconded the motion

Discussion:

Clarification was provided that several members of the SMC have asked if staff could research potential partners to assist the Marion family in their effort to protect the property. Staff will research possible alternatives and provide the information to the Marion family.

The motion carried unanimously.

Communities Finance Property, Scottsmoor (Old Business)

The group discussed the report from the January 9, 2007 Site Visit. This 11± acre property is east of I-95, south of Gandy Road and is north of, and adjacent to the Buck Lake Sanctuary. It adjoins other properties being considered for acquisition. The site was viewed from the air and from the ground and is primarily flatwoods with at least one depression marsh. The property probably burned in the 1998 wildfires and has had rapid re-growth with a dense shrub layer, so it is in need of prescribed burning. One active gopher tortoise burrow was observed. There is some evidence of off-road vehicle use, but the site supports substantially intact natural communities.

Judy mentioned that acquisition of property from the existing sanctuary boundary to Gandy Road would help reduce vandalism. Ross asked if anyone had comments or questions.

MOTION FOUR

Paul Schmalzer made a motion to approve a 1st Majority Vote for the Communities Finance Property.

**Dave Breininger seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.**

Smith Property (Old Business)

The group discussed the report from the January 9, 2007 site visit. The property is located east of Grissom Parkway, south of Canaveral Groves Blvd. and west of the FEC rail road, near and slightly east of Sharpes Lake. The site was viewed from the air. Vegetation of the site is hydric hammock and marsh. Vegetation of the area appears to be largely intact, natural communities.

The property is a wetland and is not within any defined Project boundary. Mike stated that the owners have indicated they had tried to build on the site, but had not been able to do so. Ross stated his opinion that the property would be useful for mitigation purposes and asked if anyone had comments or questions.

MOTION FIVE

Ron Hight moved to decline a 1st Majority Vote on the Smith property due to the fact that the SMC would need to readdress the entire area before considering purchase of an isolated parcel.

Paul Schmalzer seconded the motion

Ross asked if there was any public comment

The motion carried unanimously.

Management Site Visit Report for Pine Island Conservation Area (Old Business)

Scott Taylor provided information on the SMC's October 19, 2006 site visit to the Pine Island Conservation Area's (PICA) restoration project. The group expressed approval of the work being done and offered a few possible suggestions for consideration.

North Indian River Lagoon Boundary Amendment (Old Business)

A draft copy of the North Indian River Lagoon Boundary Amendment was distributed to the SMC for their review prior to the meeting. Comments were incorporated. Mike explained that if the Boundary Amendment was approved by the SMC, it would be submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in Tallahassee on February 15th. Paul explained that the some of the maps still did not show the habitat overlay. Mike confirmed that the maps would be corrected.

MOTION SIX

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the North Indian River Lagoon Blueways Full Fee Boundary Amendment with corrections made to maps as indicated above.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion

The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: It was determined that the next meeting would be held on February 27, 2007 at the EEL Program's Office in Melbourne.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the November 30, 2006 minutes as presented.
- Motion to approve the December 14, 2006 minutes as presented.
- Motion to decline a 1st Majority Vote on the Marion Groves Property as a direct acquisition by the EEL Program.
- Motion to approve a 1st Majority Vote for the Communities Finance property.
- Motion to decline a 1st Majority Vote on the Smith Property.
- Motion to approve the North Indian River Lagoon Blueways Full Fee Boundary Amendment with corrections made to maps as indicated.