



**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
February 27, 2007  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Mark Bush  
Dave Breininger  
Ron Hight  
Ross Hinkle  
Paul Schmalzer  
Kim Zarillo

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Jenny Ashbury  
Brad Manley  
Sandy Carnival  
Laura Clark  
Mike Knight  
Ray Mojica  
Scott Taylor

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Danika Feodoroff  
Anne Mayer  
Keith Fountain

***GUESTS***

Murray Hann, citizen  
Sue Hann, citizen  
Rochelle Lawandales, citizen  
Barbara Meyer, MPO  
Sandy Sanderson, Florida Power & Light  
Jack Hochheimer, Florida Power & Light  
Owen Hughes, Forte Macaulay / Scottsmoor Partners  
Ryan Risnak, Forte Macaulay / Scottsmoor Partners

*February 27, 2007  
Approved April 25, 2007*



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

February 27, 2007  
Meeting Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **MINUTES:**

The January 11, 2007 minutes were presented for approval. Ross asked for comments to the January minutes.

#### **MOTION ONE:**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the January 11, 2007 minutes as presented.**

**Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

The Administrative Review was reviewed. Mike Knight, EEL Program Manager, explained that the North Indian River Lagoon Boundary Amendment, which was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on February 6, 2007, was approved by the State's Acquisition and Restoration Council at their February meeting. Paul congratulated the EEL Program on the successful application. Ross clarified that this would mean that there would be partnership funding opportunities from the State for the ten properties within the Boundary Amendment.

Mike also relayed that the Board had approved the reappointments of all seven SMC members on February 6, 2007 and he and Ross thanked the members for their willingness to continue to serve on the Committee.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **SMC REPORTS**

#### **REAC**

Brad Manley, Public Access / Volunteer Coordinator for the EEL Program explained that the REAC Committee had reviewed the Public Access Plan for the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge at their last meeting. During the meeting, there was discussion of considering using the fire breaks as bike trails. This was not included in the original public access plan, partially because the sanctuary is frequently wet and has a lot of sugar sand, which does not provide for optimum trails. It is possible that allowing bike users on the fire breaks will be considered in the future, if it is determined that there is no adverse impact to the sanctuary. Clarification was provided that this topic should be considered at the same time as the request for the possible storm water project is considered. Paul asked staff to also consider locations of rare plants that are in the Cruickshank Sanctuary when considering the trail issue.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **OTHER SMC REPORTS**

Paul Schmalzer commented that he had been involved with guide training at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and that there would be a Florida Native Plant Society Field Trip to Maritime Hammock Sanctuary on March 24, 2007.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **Central Region**

Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager, provided additional information on properties in the Central Region including:

- Habit restoration, archeological dig efforts, and restoration on the Sams House continue at the Pine Island Conservation Area on Merritt Island.
- It is important to remember that the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge is an ecological island in a rapidly urbanizing landscape. Management activities have included fencing, timbering and prescribed fire, in addition to trash removal and invasive exotic species control.
- Central Region staff is working on a Management Plan for the Crawford portion of the Thousand Islands property in Cocoa Beach.

Dave Breininger offered his congratulations to the Central Region staff, and stated that restoration efforts at Cruickshank have gone very well, and has resulted in several Florida Scrub Jays moving in to this area where they have not been seen for several years.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **South Beach Region**

Ray Mojica, South Beach Region Land Manager, provided information on properties in the South Beach Region including:

- Construction efforts at the Barrier Island Sanctuary's Management and Education Center are going very well.
- A citizen's request was received for access to the Hog Point Cove Sanctuary that is not open to the public due to the planned ecology research facility under a Memo of Understanding with Florida Institute of Technology, and OASES. Clarification of an alternate location in the vicinity was provided to the citizen.
- Prescribed fire is being used to reduce torpedo grass, which is an invasive exotic species, at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary. The EEL Program uses a reverse 911 system, and other communication methods to notify citizen regarding scheduled burns.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

Keith Fountain reviewed The Nature Conservancy's January 2007 Report to the SMC.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **Citizen Request: Public Access Concerns**

Mike Knight, Murray Hann and Sue Hann provided information on a request for a pilot project paved linear trail at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. SMC members will provide their comments to Mike Knight who will compile the information for review by the Recreation and Education Advisory Committee members at their March 14, 2007 meeting. It is anticipated that the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan Amendment will come back to the SMC for their input before being submitted to the Board. If approved by the Board, the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Plan Amendment will be sent to the Acquisition and Restoration Council in Tallahassee for their review, as the State holds title to the land with the EEL Program as managing entity.

#### **Florida Power and Light Easement Request at Micco Scrub Sanctuary**

This item was first presented to the SMC for their consideration at the January 11, 2007 meeting.

The group reviewed the February 9, 2007 site visit report to the Micco Scrub Sanctuary. John Denninghoff was not able to provide information on the possible widening of Micco Road at the February meeting. It was determined that, based available information, the best place for the easement would be on the south side of Micco Road. Staff will contact the State as they hold title to the land, with the EEL Program as the managing entity.

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

None.

#### **MOTION 1**

**Paul moved to approve an FPL easement on the south side of Micco Road, with terms to be negotiated by EEL staff.**

**Ron Hight seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **Scottsmoor Partners Property**

Mike provided information on a new willing seller application that has been received on the Scottsmoor Partners Property. This 854± property is located in northern Brevard County adjacent to the Ag Ventures property. The SMC indicated they were familiar with the area, and that a site visit would be appropriate at a later date, but it was not needed to proceed with a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote.

The property is designated as highest priority for acquisition by the SMC.

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

None.

#### **MOTION 2**

**Paul moved to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote on the Scottsmoor Partners property.**

**Dave Breininger seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mike informed the group that this area would be submitted as a new project area to request partnership funding from the State under the Florida Forever Project.

### **Communities Finance**

This property received a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote on January 11, 2007. The group reviewed the January 9, 2007 site visit to this 11± acre property in Scottsmoor, which is north of and adjacent to the North Buck Lake Sanctuary and adjacent to other properties being considered for acquisition. It is designated as High Priority for acquisition by the SMC.

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

None.

#### **MOTION 3**

**Paul moved to approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Vote on the Communities Finance Property based on the information provided in the site visit report.**

**Dave seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **MLCI, David Lee Property**

The February 9, 2007 site visit report was reviewed. This property consists of 4 parcels, totaling 760± under one ownership. It is primarily improved pasture. It is located within the Brevard Coastal Ecosystem (BCSE) Project south of Micco Road and between the Buffer Preserve and the Grant Flatwoods Property (formerly known as MEP). The area was added to the BCSE Project because it offers connectivity between two major conservation areas. There is potential to restore these sites to flatwoods and wetlands over time. Maintaining a mowing or perhaps grazing regime to keep Brazilian pepper from colonizing the pastures may be necessary until restoration could be accomplished. Sandhill Cranes were observed using the pasture. It was suggested that it might be beneficial to try to partner on this purchase as it was a large area. The property is designated as Highest Priority for acquisition by the SMC.

#### **MOTION 4**

**Mark Bush moved to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority vote on the MLCI Properties.**

**Ron Hight seconded the motion.**

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

None.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Bornstein Property**

The group reviewed the new application for this 1.25± acre out parcel in the mega-parcel site along SR528. It is included in the Highest priority for acquisition area as determined by the SMC previously and may be included as part of an anticipated boundary amendment. Members of the SMC indicated they were familiar with the site.

#### **MOTION 5**

**Paul moved to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote on the Bornstein property.**

**Kim seconded the motion.**

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

None.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Peace Lutheran Church Property**

The group reviewed the owner submitted application for this 8± property north of Port Malabar Blvd. and east of Troutman Blvd. near the Turkey Creek Sanctuary. It is not within any area targeted for acquisition by the SMC.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

Sue Hann stated she felt the property could provide for passive recreational opportunities and that it was proposed for conservation in Palm Bay's Comprehensive Plan.

It was noted by the SMC, that the area might be appropriate for a municipality's Florida Community Trust grant, but that due to the urban area, the layout of the parcel, and the high number of current willing sellers being considered by the EEL Program, it would not be a priority for acquisition by the EEL Program.

### **MOTION 6**

**Paul moved to decline a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote on the Peace Lutheran Church Property.**

**Mark seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Prioritization of existing willing sellers and BCSE Boundary Amendment Discussion**

Mike provided information on 5 properties that staff was recommending holding for acquisition efforts due to the large number of currently willing sellers and the limited funding that was available.

### **MOTION 7**

**Paul moved to hold acquisition efforts on the First Equity, Serreno, Betrock, and Hatcher properties, but not for the Vero Beach Estates property.**

**Kim seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Owners of the above referenced properties will be contacted with information on the determination of their property's acquisition status.

Ross asked if the SMC could be provided with a report that showed what's on the table, what the potential for was for acquisition, and what funding was available.

Kim suggested that the monthly TNC report be cross referenced with maps.

It was suggested that this topic be considered as an agenda item in a future meeting.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

None.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Staff will poll members for a date for the next meeting.

### **ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

## **SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

- Motion to approve a FPL easement on the south side of Micco Road, with terms to be negotiated by EEL staff.
- Motion to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority vote on the Scottsmoor Partners Property.
- Motion to approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Vote on the Communities Finance Property based on the information in the site visit report.
- Motion to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority vote on the MLCI Properties.
- Motion to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote on the Bornstein property.
- Motion to decline a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote on the Peace Lutheran Church property.
- Motion to hold acquisition efforts on the First Equity, Serreno, Betrock, and Hatcher properties, but not for the Vero Beach Estates property.