

***ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
ATTENDANCE LIST
March 18, 2002***

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Breininger
Mark Bush
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Randy Parkinson
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM MEMBERS

Anne Birch
Laura Clark
Ray Mojica
Zachary Prusak
Kit Van Wagner

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Angela Klug

GUESTS

Donna Oddy, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
Bob Rossman, Town Council, Malabar

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

March 18, 2002

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 25 and February 19, 2002 meetings are pending. No minutes were presented for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The March 18, 2002 Administrative Review was distributed for review. Randy Parkinson commented that VOA Associates, Inc. has been selected as the Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firm for the Barrier Island Ecosystem (BIEC) Management and Education Center construction project.

Frazier Engineering is working with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Brevard County agencies to relieve flooding of the entrance road to the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. A plan that is considered to be the most cost effective and cause the least habitat destruction will begin after final review and permits are completed.

Construction work at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is on schedule and proceeding well.

MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

The EEL Program Land Management Status Report for February 19 – March 18, 2002 was distributed at the meeting. A copy is included with these minutes.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE:

The information for March volunteer activities was distributed and reviewed. A copy is included with these minutes. Staff is pleased to announce that due to the recent cancellation of a project previously scheduled with another organization, another AmeriCorps team has offered to come to Brevard County this year. The team will be constructing a boardwalk at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from May 17 – June 14, 2002 at a substantial cost savings.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST UPDATE:

The Education Specialist Update for February 19 - March 18, 2002 was distributed for review. A copy is included with these minutes.

SMC REPORTS:

Ross Hinkle reported he joined a group from the Children's Museum in Indianapolis on a tour of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. This organization is the largest children's museum in the United States. They will be building an outdoor education center near Indianapolis and took this opportunity to review our site. They also provided materials, including their management plan for our review. Ross reported they were impressed with the plans at the Enchanted Forest.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC):

Acquisition Summary

TNC Acquisition Summary report dated March 18, 2002 was distributed and reviewed. A copy of the report is included with these minutes. Randy Parkinson requested clarification of the wording "stalled" on the report as many parcels include this wording. Clarification was provided that "stalled" indicates that an offer was made to the owners of the property, but the offer is declined at the present time. It was noted that an overview of the stalled group as it affected overall plans for acquisition could be of benefit. Angela Klug will look into reformatting TNC's monthly report to better reflect acquisition progress.

FIND Swap

Anne Birch requested direction from the SMC regarding a possible swap of land that was received by the EEL Program during mitigation with land presently held by the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND). The FIND site is currently proposed as a spoil containment area. Angela Klug and Dave Breininger provided information on the two areas. Dave stated that the FIND site has very high quality scrub – some of the best remaining scrub along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. He also stated that if the FIND site is used for spoil containment it will clearly disrupt the last remaining section of scrub along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. Other members of the SMC voiced their agreement. It was suggested that a field trip to the area might be beneficial.

Anne requested the SMC provide their recommendations along with scientific documentation that outlined reasons the swap would be beneficial. Once prepared, the information will be circulated among SMC members for review before submission to the Board of County Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Workshop with Town of Malabar

Anne Birch reported that the Malabar Town Council has approved a workshop with the SMC to discuss land acquisition issues in Malabar. Mr. Bill Hall, Malabar Town Manager, has notified the EEL Program that the Town Council would like to have scientific information indicating why lands within the Town were selected. It was also requested that the data be presented in a manner that would be easy to understand for non-scientific readers.

Anne will work with representatives from the Town of Malabar to establish a firm agenda. A date of April 22, 2002 has been set for the workshop.

A discussion ensued with Bob Rossman as to what type of information would be helpful to have for the workshop.

Possible additional information to include:

Information on the 1990 referendum which created the EEL Program and EEL Program history. Clarification that SMC has followed the referendum.

Clarification of whether land the Program is interested in acquiring is, or is not, easily buildable. Determine if sale of land to the EEL Program would actually reduce the Town's tax base.

Clarification that the EEL Program is a willing-seller program; that not all proposed acquisitions will be acquired, and that the land acquisition process can take a considerable amount of time for completion.

Opportunities where EEL Program sanctuaries can co-exist with Malabar conservation and passive recreation programs. (i.e. Greenways and Trails Program, ecotourism). Discuss benefits of EEL Sanctuaries to citizens of Town.

Determine what effect land purchase would have on BML/Brookhollow litigation issues.

Include Brevard County Planning and Zoning Department information regarding land considered for acquisition.

Confirmation of previous communication with the Town.

Benefits of prescribed fire and requirements of land management.

% of conservation land in Brevard vs. % of land identified in Malabar

Species present in addition to Scrub Jay; *i.e.* sand hill cranes, bobcats, indigo snakes, trees, fauna.

It was determined that Ross Hinkle would provide introductory information at the workshop and David Breininger would prepare scientific data. Further discussion of these items and other possible agenda topics will be held at the April 15, 2002 Selection and Management Committee Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next EEL SMC meeting has been scheduled for April 15, 2002 from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Supervisor of Elections Conference Room at the Viera Government Complex.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 P.M.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

No Motions.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Angela Klug and EEL staff Will redesign TNC's monthly land acquisition report.
2. EEL staff and SMC Will provide recommendation with scientific documentation regarding possible swap of EEL area with FIND site.
3. EEL staff Will work with representatives from the Town of Malabar to coordinate and prepare for a workshop between the SMC and Town Council members.