

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

January 13, 2003

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM MEMBERS

Anne Birch
Laura Clark
Zachary Prusak
Kit Van Wagner

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Angela Klug
Lori Thoms

GUESTS

Brian Hunter, Malabar Town Council
Suzanne Kennedy, Brevard County Natural Resource Management Office
Bob Wilbur, Town of Malabar Planning and Zoning
William Withers, Citizen of Malabar
Carlos Zarate, Brevard County Parks and Recreation Construction

*January 13, 2003
Approved February 25, 2003*

ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2003

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ross asked if anyone wanted to speak during the public comment section of the meeting. No one requested speaking time.

MINUTES:

The December 10, 2002 minutes are pending. No minutes were presented for review.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed. A copy is included with these minutes.

Dave Breininger inquired about the status of the suggested Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) land swap. Anne Birch stated that she requested information from the US Fish and Wildlife Service a while back regarding the permit they issued for the FIND property. She will continue to follow up on a response. Ron Hight offered his assistance if needed. Dave expressed his concern that the land be protected as it potentially affects the viability of the Valkaria scrub jay populations.

Anne reported that the timber removal portion of the scrub jay habitat restoration project at the Cruickshank Sanctuary was recently completed. The 6.53-acre Schopke-Barge property was also included in the timber project. The Selection and Management Committee (SMC) was invited to view the area at their convenience.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Angela Klug provided an overview of the Acquisition Summary. A copy is included with these minutes. TNC is working on maps, which will be presented with this report in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brevard Hardwoods Site Visit

Anne provided background information on a previous site visit to Brevard Hardwoods during the early 1990's. It was determined that the SMC was not interested in purchase at that time, as the Program had not yet considered construction of the Management and Education Centers. Last year Jim and Linda Nobel, owners of the site, approached the SMC to see if there might be a renewed interest. Anne confirmed she recently met with Ed Booth, Manager for the Town of Malabar, and he clarified that the Town is not interested in acquisition of the site or in putting dollars towards a joint acquisition project with the EEL Program. The 2002/2003 fiscal year provides for \$400,000 to develop a field station type center in the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

The group then toured the building and grounds. After the tour, the group met to discuss their findings. Carlos Zarate, Brevard County Parks & Recreation Construction, indicated that if the SMC was serious in their interest, a structural analysis of the building should be performed. Carlos also suggested obtaining a history on permitting to ensure the septic system had been permitted through the Department of Health. It was noted that the following items should be considered:

- Structural analysis
- Permitting history
- How will the building function as an EEL Management and Education Center or Field Office
- What options are available for the use of the second floor
- Costs associated with refurbishing and converting one or both floors
- Preservation requirements/restrictions/goals
- Need for central air and heat
- ADA requirements for 2 story public building
- Grant funding opportunities that might be available
- Zoning
- Ditch ownership and management issues
- Are sufficient capital funds available to oversee restoration

Parks & Recreation could provide a written report and estimate regarding the potential cost to bring the building to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards and establish the building as a Management & Education Center.

MOTION ONE

Paul Schmalzer moved for staff to contact Dan Click, Brevard County Parks and Recreation Construction Manager, to request a preliminary assessment of costs involved in bringing the Brevard Hardwoods site to ADA standards and to allow for an EEL presence to be established at the site.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Anne will contact Dan to see if Parks & Recreation Construction can provide the estimate prior to the next meeting.

2. Sales Tax Discussion – continued from 12/10/02

Anne confirmed that no additional information has been received from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the possible inclusion of the EEL Program in a potential sales tax referendum that may be proposed in the spring. Anne emphasized that the SMC needs to start a discussion regarding capital needs in the event the referendum moves forward. Anne asked what information the SMC needed in order to begin discussion on this topic. Further discussion regarding prioritization of capital expenditures will be scheduled for the next meeting. Maps of current, proposed, and acquired EEL lands; capital needs for existing EEL managed lands; acquisition information from the St. John's River Water Management District; and the potential reserve units and Blueways project area will be provided at the next meeting.

January 13, 2003

Page 2 of 3

Approved February 25, 2003

3. East Central Florida Regional Conservation Workshop

Anne confirmed with the SMC that their preference for the next step would be to hold a workshop composed of just the scientists/modelers to look at the region's conservation areas and discuss the next steps to developing a regional plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2003 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to contact Dan Click, Brevard County Parks and Recreation Construction, to request preliminary assessment of costs involved in bringing the Brevard Hardwoods site to ADA standards and to allow for an EEL presence to be established on site.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Information will be provided in the near future regarding a possible land swap in the Valkaria area with FIND.
- Staff will contact Dan Click to see if Parks & Recreation Construction can provide an estimate regarding the Brevard Hardwoods Site prior to the next meeting.
- Staff will continue plans for the next conservation workshop.

January 13, 2003

Page 3 of 3

Approved February 25, 2003