

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
ATTENDANCE LIST
April 22, 2003**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

EEL STAFF MEMBERS

Anne Birch
Laura Clark

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Angela Klug

GUESTS

Rene Davis, D1 Commission Office
Edward M. Fleis, Fleis & Bennett Engineering, Inc.
Ford Garvin, Melbourne Resident
Ed McMahon, Indian River Colony Club Resident
Donna Oddy, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
Maureen Parent, Titusville resident
Brian Toland, Toland Environmental
Janet Tucker, Lake City Community College

*April 22, 2003
Approved July 7, 2003*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

MINUTES:

The March 25, 2003 minutes are pending approval. Ross asked for comments to the minutes.

Motion One

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the March 25, 2003 minutes as written.
Ron Hight seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ross asked the SMC if they would mind shifting the order of the agenda to allow for New Business items to be presented by the public at the beginning of the meeting. No concerns regarding the order of the agenda items were expressed. Ross advised the public they were welcome to stay for the entire meeting if they wished.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Property Application – Indian Mound #8 Br9 in Titusville

Maureen Parent provided the SMC with information on 299 acres of land in the Titusville area that a group of citizens would like the EEL Program to consider for acquisition. The property is held by 5 different owners and is outside any current project boundary. One of the properties includes a state documented Indian Burial Mound. Paul and Mark mentioned that although current funds have already been delegated for existing projects, there was a possibility the area might be considered for acquisition in the event additional funding was received. Anne mentioned that EEL application forms would be required from each owner before a site visit could be scheduled to the property. Maureen is in the process of obtaining the required documents. Staff will schedule a site visit once the required forms are received from all owners. Ross thanked Maureen for her efforts in presenting the information to the SMC.

Cochran Property Donation

Robert Cochran is proposing donation of property adjacent to the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary in Malabar. The property includes scrub and wetland areas. The majority of the property has been set aside for conservation as a result of scrub and wetland mitigation requirements. The property is within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (BCSE) Florida Forever project. Paul stated the property would be an important piece for conservation purposes.

Motion Two

Mark moved to accept the donation of the Cochran property.

Paul seconded the motion.

Ross asked for comments or questions. Ron asked if there were any outstanding agreements that needed to be adhered to. Anne stated additional information regarding the permit monitoring requirements and responsibilities would be provided as the information was received. Vote on this item was delayed until further information can be received regarding the regulatory permit requirements. Clarification was provided that Mr. Cochran may be willing to sell the remaining 14-acre piece that is not encumbered by any regulatory permit. A first majority vote would not be required to obtain appraisals on this piece since it is within the BCSE project.

Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) – Regional Storm Water Utility Department Property Donation (Hunt) Storm Water Project

Anne stated that Ron Jones, Director of the Brevard County Regional Storm Water Utility Department has asked if the EEL Program would be interested in receiving part of a property that is being purchased as part of the PICA Storm Water Management project. The property, owned by Darryl Hunt, is adjacent to PICA but is outside any existing project area. Scott Taylor, EEL Program Central Region Land Manager visited the site and reports the area is quite disturbed and includes heavy Brazilian pepper growth.

The SMC indicated an interest in the property and requested the following information:

- What is the overall size of the parcel and area to be donated?
- How will the storm water project land be used?
- Who will be responsible for first time management for the removal of Brazilian Pepper?
- Who will be responsible for management of the property after the donation and where will funding for future management come from?

Anne will talk with Ron Jones and provide further information at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Patrick PUD – Scrub Mitigation Donation proposal

Brian Toland of Toland Environmental and Edward Fleis of Fleis & Bennett Engineering, Inc. provided information on a 25-acre scrub mitigation site south of Rockledge that is being offered as a donation to the EEL Program. The property is part of an on-site conservation area for the St. Patrick PUD. A site-specific management plan has been written for the conservation area. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Office are involved with scrub and wetland mitigation permitting and have expressed concern over long-term management of the property. These agencies have indicated their approval for the EEL Program to be the managing entity. Ed is agreeable to including deed restrictions to confine cats to the interior of homes. Ed indicated the developer may be flexible in the designs of fencing and understands the need for firebreaks and prescribed fire in the management of the area. Land required for the firebreaks will come out of the 25-acre

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conservation area. The storm water system is being designed so it will function outside the conservation area. Ron expressed concern regarding prescribed fire management. Brian mentioned that much of the area had dense overgrowth and would require mechanical site preparation before burning. It was suggested that the restoration of the unoccupied habitat on the interior of the conservation area be conducted first. Mark Bush asked if the main entrance road might be relocated to widen the area at its most narrow point. Ed indicated the developer was interested in all input the SMC might wish to offer. It was mentioned that Dave Breininger's input would be beneficial. Staff will schedule an SMC site visit to the area.

PICA 2002/2003 Season Waterfowl Hunt Report

The final report on the PICA 2002/2003 Season Waterfowl Hunt was distributed. Current year expenditures to the EEL Program were \$1,355.00 not including staff time. These costs, in addition to a very low harvest with a high number of hunter no shows, has resulted in staff recommending a request to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for cancellation of the agreement. If the SMC agrees, an agenda request will be presented to the BOCC at the May meeting in order to meet the June notification deadline required by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC). The FWCC has verbally indicated they will not oppose cancellation of the agreement.

Motion Three

Paul moved to present the BOCC with a recommendation for cancellation of the agreement with the Florida FWCC regarding waterfowl hunting at PICA.
Mark seconded the motion.

Ross asked for discussion of the motion.

Ron asked if this cancellation would prohibit renegotiation of an agreement in the future. Anne clarified that if the current agreement was cancelled, a new agreement would need to be established. Mark stated the guidelines for activity on EEL sanctuaries called for passive recreation. Ross stated the original agreement was made on a trial basis at the time of purchase in order to preserve the historic use of the land for some period of time after acquisition.

Ross called for a vote on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Referendum Discussion

Members of the SMC discussed the possible sales tax referendum as a potential opportunity to establish long term funding for the EEL Program. The sales tax referendum is one source that might provide additional funds to the EEL Program. The Land Acquisition Manual states the SMC shall serve as an expert scientific advisory committee on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands within the EEL Program network; and to provide the Procedures Committee (PC) with information about the needs of the EEL Program including the requirements for long-term management funding. The manual also states the PC shall advise the EEL SMC and EEL staff regarding opportunities and recommendations for outside funding.

Joint Procedures Selection and Selection and Management Committees Meeting

The SMC discussed the tentative agenda for the PC and SMC joint meeting that is scheduled for June 2, 2003. Topics for consideration include:

- Information regarding completed and proposed land acquisitions
- Updates from each Land Manager
- Presentations by the Education Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator
- Information from the East Central Florida Regional Conservation Workshop sponsored by the EEL Program including clarification of the need to purchase additional lands for connectivity in order to ensure viability of species in existing Sanctuaries
- Long-term funding requirements for management of lands and EEL Program staff

The importance of the role of the PC in establishing funding and the need to provide them with this information as soon as possible was emphasized. Anne will prepare an information packet for new PC members prior to the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed. A copy is included with these minutes as part of the agenda. Angela Klug reported that the Brevard Hardwoods property was in the appraisal process. Anne Birch reported that a Building Evaluation/Feasibility Study is also being prepared for the Brevard Hardwoods site.

SMC REPORTS:

None

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Angela provided an overview of the Acquisition Summary. A copy is included with these minutes.

NEXT MEETING:

The next SMC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2003 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the EEL Program Office in Melbourne in order to review staff presentations for the Joint PC/SMC meeting.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion One to approve March 25, 2003 minutes.
- Motion Two to accept donation of Cochran property. Vote on this motion was pended until further information can be received.
- Motion Three to present the BOCC with a recommendation for cancellation of the agreement with the Florida FWCC regarding waterfowl hunting at PICA.

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