

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 12, 2006
Attendance List**

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Murray Hann
Karen Hill
Mark Nathan
Eve Owens
Beverly Pinyerd
Paul Saia
Dorn Whitmore

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barbara Meyer, Brevard County, Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Program Coordinator
Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Judy Gregoire
Brad Manley
Chris O'Hara

GUESTS

Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office

*January 12, 2006
Approved February 9, 2006*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 12, 2006

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Murray Hann called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MINUTES:

The November 10, and December 8, 2005 draft minutes were presented for approval.

Murray asked for comments to the minutes.

Karen Hill stated she had attended both the November and December meetings, but had not been included on the Attendance Lists.

Eve Owens stated that on the November minutes, under New Business, Jordan Scrub Proposed Public Access Plans, the beginning of the second paragraph read "This Plans" which should be changed to "The Plans"; and, the time of adjournment for that meeting should be changed from 6:08 PM to 8:08 PM.

No additional changes were required to the November or December minutes.

MOTION ONE:

Eve moved to approve the November 10 and December 8, 2005 minutes as amended.

Dorn Whitmore seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Other Conservation Lands Map

Brad commented that including all of the items suggested by committee members became a difficult project when applied to all areas of the County. Staff will work to include the additional information on a local level as individual Recreation Plans are reviewed. A copy of the current draft map was presented at the meeting for members' review and comment.

EEL Sites Field Trip

Brad suggested that the Committee take several field trips with the first one covering the North, and possibly Central areas of the County. The group discussed possible dates for a trip. Staff will poll absent committee members to determine if February 18th would be a good date.

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Old Business Continued

Mark Nathan mentioned that during the last meeting, the group had reviewed and approved a motion of support for the draft Recreational Plan at the Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA). Mark and other members of the Committee expressed further concern that the PICA Stormwater Project could negatively impact the rookeries in the pond areas. The Committee expressed their desire to see the rookeries maintained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Public Access Plan

Judy Gregoire, Land Manager for the North Region provided information on the existing Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary and associated Public Access Plan. The Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary is named after a rare species of mint found only in the Titusville and North Brevard area. There are other rare plants, along with Indigo snakes, gopher tortoises, and scrub lizards on the Sanctuary as well. Acquired in 1993, this 44± property is a Category III (Primary Conservation and Research) Site. This designation provides enhanced conservation benefits to sites with exceptional resource values or vulnerabilities and provides public access at levels that will not disturb on-going resource management and research projects.

The current Public Access Plan has changed slightly from the Conceptual Plan that was originally submitted to the State as staff has gained knowledge of the area and mapping capabilities have improved. The main entrance to the Sanctuary is located within an existing neighborhood on Marie Street in Titusville. Recent EEL staff and volunteer efforts to remove debris and exotic plants from the trail head have been supported by the neighborhood. A one-mile loop hiking trail provides opportunities to view scrubby flatwoods and a small depression marsh. The Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary is adjacent to the Titusville well fields conservation area, which increases the potential for conservation.

Motion Two

Dorn Whitmore moved to support the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Public Access Plan as presented by staff.

Mark Nathan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Micco Scrub Sanctuary Public Access Plan

Chris O'Hara, Land Manager for the South Region provided information on the Micco Scrub Sanctuary and Draft Public Access Plan. This 1,735± acre site is located along Micco Road in southern Brevard County and includes scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and pine flatwoods. Much of the site has been wet during the last few months. Opportunities for recreation on this Category II (Intermediate Use) Site include hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The parking lot at the trail head is large enough to accommodate horse trailers. The Sanctuary is directly adjacent to the St. Sebastian Buffer Preserve to the south.

Trail placement at this location was originally determined by existing roads and disturbed areas. The proposed recreation plan is changed to two trail loops in an effort to reduce the workload caused by maintaining a large number of trails. All other trails will be maintained

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as fire breaks. One trail will be one and one-half mile long, the other will be three miles long. It is anticipated that the main users will be horse back riders and hikers. There are plans to build a small footbridge across the wet area with a possible boardwalk near the Bay Head depression marsh.

Chris reported that public access south of Micco Road is not being planned at this time as Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, which are a federally listed endangered species, have recently been relocated from Georgia to other conservation lands to the south and have been seen foraging at the Micco Scrub Sanctuary. This small woodpecker inhabits old growth pines in open areas and this type of habitat is rapidly declining. This is the only location in Brevard County where the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is known to exist. There are also active Scrub-Jay populations in the area.

Murray mentioned that there have been discussions of providing a connection to the St. Johns Buffer Preserve for the Greenways and Trails South Brevard Linear Trail Project. It was determined that when plans were further along and support for a connection of this type could be received from the Buffer Preserve, the topic could be re-addressed.

Motion Three

Eve Owens moved to support the Micco Scrub Sanctuary Draft Public Access Plan as presented by staff and encourage staff to be open to the concept of connecting to the St. Johns River Buffer Preserve.

Karen Hill seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2006.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the November and December 2005 minutes as amended.
- Motion to support the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Public Access Plan as presented by staff.
- Motion to support the Micco Scrub Sanctuary Draft Public Access Plan as presented by staff and encourage staff to be open to the concept of connecting to the St. Johns River Buffer Preserve.

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