

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
March 16, 2006
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Mark Bush
Ron Hight
Randy Parkinson
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Kit Van Wagner

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Danika Feodoroff
Keith Fountain

GUESTS

Liz Lackovich, District 1

*March 16, 2006
Approved April 13, 2006*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
March 16, 2006
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER:

Randy Parkinson called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MINUTES:

The January 12, 2006 and February 16, 2006 minutes were presented for approval.

Randy asked for comments to the January minutes.

Paul Schmalzer stated that there had been discussion regarding the Boeing mitigation donation deed restrictions that indicated nearby property owners would be made aware that prescribed fire would be included in management of the site. Mike stated that all the deed restrictions could be included in the minutes.

Randy asked for additional comments to the January minutes.

MOTION ONE:

Paul moved to approve the January 12, 2006 minutes as amended.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

Randy asked for comments to the February minutes.

Paul stated that the time that the meeting had been adjourned was not included.

This information will be added to the minutes.

Randy asked for additional comments to the minutes.

MOTION TWO

Ron Hight moved to approve the February 12, 2006 minutes, as amended.

Mark Bush seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

Mark Bush said that he was pleased that the EEL Program had developed a method for the SMC to offer input to proposed development plans that will required upland or wetland mitigation. The group expressed their agreement.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Keith Fountain reviewed the Nature Conservancy report.

STAFF REPORTS

Kit Van Wagner gave a presentation on the recent events in the EEL Education Program including:

- Revision of the EEL Program Brochure.
- Revision of the EEL Program Education Master Plan which will include Interpretive Plans for each of the regions. Enchanted Forest and Barrier Island Center interpretive plans are complete. The Central Region plan is underway.
- Teacher Training Workshops.
- Guide Training Programs.
- Development of a CD which includes K-12 lesson plans for teachers who wish to bring their classes to the Enchanted Forest.
- Design and development of the Barrier Island Center and educational programs.

Kit also informed the SMC that she would be leaving the EEL Program in April to accept a position in Rhode Island.

Brad Manley also gave a presentation on Volunteer and Public Access activities:

- Volunteer efforts in the Regions
 - Citizen group maintains the native plant gardens at the Forest
 - Outward Bound youth group volunteered with exotic plant management
 - A group of students from Bowling Green University in Ohio who spent a day of their spring break vacation at the Enchanted Forest removing grape vine and planting native species
 - Archeological dig at Sams House in Pine Island Conservation Area
 - Boardwalk construction at the Barrier Island Center
 - Youth groups volunteering and learning carpentry skills on BIC Boardwalk
- Recreation and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) events
 - Field trip to Enchanted Forest, Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary, and Pine Island Conservation area on February 18th to gain information on the sanctuaries.
 - Review of Jordan, Malabar, and Micco Scrub Sanctuary Access Plans.
- Review of Public Meetings for citizen input related to Public Access plan for Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

During the review of the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary information, Brad relayed that staff had not been able to accommodate all of the citizen's suggestions for public access because they were not compatible with the conservation and management goals of this Sanctuary.

The Malabar Scrub Sanctuary is comprised of two large parcels, referred to as Malabar East and Malabar West. Malabar East was acquired first. The western parcel, acquired second, is scheduled for significant restoration as a Core Conservation Area. Restoration efforts will significantly reduce the number of trees as the area is scheduled to be managed for Florida Scrub Jays, which require an open landscape with sandy, scrubby patches.

A citizen request was received to allow continued use on an existing trail in the Core Conservation Area located in Malabar West. The request included maintaining a 100'

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heavily vegetated path along this trail in an effort to provide a shaded trail for mountain bikers, and to prevent the trail from becoming sandy and difficult to ride. Staff was not able to accommodate this request as it would fragment the restoration area, and, it would not be able to be maintained during prescribed fire management. Although staff originally indicated that access to the entire Malabar West Core Conservation Area would be restricted, it was determined that public use could continue on the trail until the restoration begins.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan Review / Approval

The Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Management plan was recently revised and distributed to the SMC for review as a formal approval was required for the plan to be sent to the Board of County Commissioners and the State. The SMC asked if Paul's written comments could be distributed to the Committee for their review. Paul's comments will be distributed and a formal vote will be taken at the next meeting.

Maytown Flatwoods Wetland Boundary Assessment

Mike provided an aerial map of the Maytown Flatwoods area. The SMC discussed the area's high conservation value and possible ways to communicate their knowledge of the area to the Miami Corporation in order to assist them as they explore rural land stewardship options. Keith will work with Richard Hilsenbeck to obtain additional information on habitats. A draft letter will be prepared and distributed to the SMC for their input.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chain of Lakes

Bill Row from BRPH Architects – Engineers, Inc. provided information on a Parks and Recreation project near Parrish Hospital in Titusville which was also designed to improve the quality of stormwater flowing into the Indian River Lagoon. Mike asked the SMC to consider partnering in acquisition efforts on one parcel that was within the Parks and Recreation project. Bill also provided information on a different parcel near the project.

The SMC stated they thought the Parks and Recreation plan was a good one, but that they did not feel that project property met the criteria for acquisition by the EEL Program due to the significant alterations planned for the parcel.

Motion Three

Mark Bush moved to decline involvement in acquisition efforts for the subject property within the Parks and Recreation project as the extensive alteration that was planned did not meet the EEL Program criteria for acquisition.

Paul seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional information on the second property, further to the south, will be provided at the next meeting.

Additional discussion

Paul stated that this may be the time to reconsider the Blueway Phase 2 properties that were not currently in approved projects.

Public Comment

Liz Lackovich provided additional information on the project at the Chain of Lakes Regional Park.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held April 13, 2006.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the January 12, 2006 minutes as amended.
- Motion to approve the February 16, 2006 minutes as amended.
- Motion to decline the Chain of Lakes property as presented by Bill Row.