

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 11, 2006
Attendance List**

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Champaigne
Murray Hann
Karen Hill
Mark Nathan
Beverly Pinyerd
Paul Saia

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
David Drake
Brad Manley
Chris O'Hara

GUESTS

Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
Linda Mason, Citizen

*May 11, 2006
Approved August 10, 2006*

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

**May 11, 2006
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER:

Murray Hann called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Mason, citizen from the Grant area, spoke of her concerns for the protection of the natural areas near Grant.

MINUTES:

The March 9, 2006 minutes were presented for approval.

Murray asked for comments to the March minutes.

MOTION ONE:

**Beverly Pinyerd moved to approve the March 9, 2006 minutes as presented.
Bob Champaigne seconded the motion.**

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

Brad Manley reviewed the Administrative Review.

OLD BUSINESS:

EEL Sites Field Trip

The group discussed options for an additional field trip to visit some of the EEL Program Sanctuary Sites.

Staff will poll members of the REAC Committee to determine if June 24th would be a convenient date.

AI Tuttle Trail Update

Brad reviewed the REAC motion from March 9, 2006 meeting regarding the AI Tuttle Trail. He explained that Barbara Meyer was not able to attend this meeting as she has been out sick, but that there has been communication with the MPO regarding the trail.

Murray stated he felt there was a need for a formal process that would confirm when REAC motions were formally presented to the SMC along with feedback to the REAC Committee once the motions were presented. Brad explained that REAC motions on Public Access Plans are included in the Public Access portion of each sanctuary's Management Plan, but that the Management Plan review process can be quite lengthy. Information confirming SMC review of Management Plans will be provided to the REAC committee when the plans are presented to the SMC for approval.

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Murray stated he also felt that there was a need for a formal process that would confirm when motions that were not specific to Public Access Plans were presented to the SMC for their consideration.

Additional discussion continued on the AI Tuttle Trail Update. It was the opinion of one of the REAC Committee members that the EEL Program has not exhibited a cooperative effort in this project, which has hindered the Trail's development. Clarification was provided that the EEL Program is open to communication on the project, but that concerns outlined in the August 2005 REAC minutes remain unresolved. The concerns were listed in the August 2006 minutes as:

- ❖ Protection of the natural resource while including passive recreational and educational opportunities
 - Protection or improvement of hydrology of the trail as well as the surrounding area by not impeding the sheet-flow of water between the various plant communities
 - Minimizing the amount of new trail construction
 - Avoiding impacts to wetlands
 - Working within FWS guidelines on mitigation parcels
- ❖ Identify the agency responsible for maintenance of the proposed Trail. The EEL Program does not currently have the staff to maintain a trail of this size in this region.
- ❖ Appropriate use and agency responsible for monitoring of the trails will need to be addressed, as the EEL Program does not currently have the staff to monitor the area. In addition, until further acquisition have been completed in this area, it will not be possible to secure the boundary to control access and use of the trail.

Clarification was provided that providing passive recreation and educational opportunities are secondary goals of the EEL Program and that the Mission of the Program is: *Protecting and preserving biological diversity through responsible stewardship of Brevard County's natural resources.*

The importance of trail monitoring and maintenance was also discussed.

Staff will continue to work with the MPO on the AI Tuttle Trails Project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary Proposed Public Access Plan

Chris reviewed the proposed public access plan for the Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary:

- ❖ Parking and Public Access
- ❖ Hiking
- ❖ Horseback riding
- ❖ No Hunting (unless agreed upon by special permit)
- ❖ The central theme for environmental education will be cypress and flatwoods ecosystems, and how those natural communities support a vast array of species.
- ❖ EEL staff will work with area schools, school board and agencies/organization offering education programs to augment the educational programs offered at the Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary.

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Clarification was provided that there are plans to include mountain biking opportunities at this sanctuary.

MOTION TWO:

Bob Champagne moved to approve the Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary Proposed Public Access Plan as presented by staff, with the clarification that there are plans to include mountain biking opportunities on site. A possible observation platform may be considered for this sanctuary in the future.

Mark Nathan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on June 8, 2006. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the March 9, 2006 minutes as presented.
- Motion to approve the Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary Proposed Public Access Plan as presented by staff, with the clarification that there are plans to include mountain biking opportunities on site. A possible observation platform may be considered for this sanctuary in the future.