

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

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Laura Clark
Xavier De Seguin Des Hones
Judy Gregoire
Brad Manley

GUESTS

Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
William Riley, Citizen

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Approved February 8, 2007*

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RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Murray Hann called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

MINUTES:

The August 10, 2006 minutes Recreation and Education Advisory (REAC) Committee were presented for approval.

Murray asked for comments to the August minutes.

MOTION ONE:

Dorn Whitmore moved to approve the August 10, 2006 minutes as presented.

Karen Hill seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status update on past REAC Motions

Brad provided a review of past motions made by the Committee, along with an update on each item.

Additional Discussion

Concerns were expressed regarding feral hogs on properties in the South Region.

Clarification was provided that these hogs are considered undesirable on EEL Program properties and that staff was working with the Parks and Recreation Department to develop a feral hog policy.

Clarification was also provided that while firebreaks can sometimes serve as trails, not all firebreaks are suitable for trail use.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Officers of the REAC committee serve a one-year term. The group discussed potential candidates for the coming year.

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MOTION TWO:

**Eve Owens moved to nominate Murray Hann as Chairman for the 2006-2007 term.
Paul Saia seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION THREE:

**Dorn Whitmore nominated Bob Champaign as Vice-Chairman for the 2006-2007 term.
Eve Owens seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.**

North Region Sanctuaries Overview

Judy Gregoire, Land Manager provided an overview of sanctuaries in the North Region and explained that she would be reviewing an Access Plan for the South Lake Conservation Area (SCLA) and Public Access Site Assessments for the TICO Scrub and Indian Mound Station Sanctuaries.

South Lake Conservation Area

Judy reviewed the South Lake Conservation Area (SLCA) Proposed Public Access Plan. This 155± acre site in northern Titusville was acquired by the EEL Program in 1999 and consists mainly of scrub and scrubby flatwoods with several depression marshes. The site is north of Dairy Road, and west of Carpenter Road, with adjacent residential properties. Because the site is a Florida Scrub-jay mitigation donation, US Fish and Wildlife Service reviews all management plans, including public access. There has been some concern expressed by neighbors about the possibility of increased traffic, crime and loss of privacy; for these reasons, the advertised public trail head with parking will be located at the opposite side of the site, and trails will be routed away from the homes. Neighbors were invited to attend a public stakeholder meeting held on September 27, 2006. The neighbors that attended seemed to be satisfied with the plan.

Protected species that may inhabit this site once habitat restoration has been completed include: Gopher tortoises, Indigo Snakes, Scrub-Jays and Bald eagles.

Components of the Public Access Plan include:

- Parking area on Lancaster Road (west)
- Walk through gate on Lancaster Road (east)
- 1.67 miles of hiking and biking trails
- Core Conservation Area
- Educational interpretive signs
- Potential future connection(s) with the Salt Lake Wildlife Management area and/or the Greater Titusville Eco-Heritage Trail.

Other upcoming goals for the South Lake Conservation Area include:

- Guided Hikes
- Volunteer Workdays
 - Exotic plant species removal
 - Prescribed Fire

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- Mechanical vegetation reduction
- Fire line maintenance
- Prescribed fire implemented in various burn units

MOTION FOUR:

Eve Owens moved to support the South Lake Conservation Area Public Access Plan as presented.

Karen Hill seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Indian Mound Station Sanctuary – Review of Public Access Site Assessment

The Indian Mound Station Sanctuary was acquired by the EEL Program in 2006. It is within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project boundary and is included in a Florida Communities Trust grant application. Public access plans for this 85-acre site, which is located east of I-95 and south of Holder Park in Titusville, are contingent on the acquisition of additional property that is planned to the north of the Sanctuary.

Natural communities on this site include: dry prairie, floodplain marsh and floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, upland mixed forest, wet prairie and xeric hammock.

Protected species that may inhabit this site once habitat restoration has been completed include: Gopher tortoises, Indigo Snakes, Scrub-Jays and Bald eagles.

Historical elements of this site include a documented Indian Burial Mound (8 BR 9) and the St. Johns and Indian River Railway/Tramway (8 BR 1914).

Plans to restore and provide protection for the mound were discussed. These plans will be reviewed by a Florida State Archeologist prior to implementation.

The Public Access Plan, when developed, will include:

- Complete mound restoration plan and secure mound from further desecration
- Parking area at Holder Park
- Hiking along existing trails throughout both parcels
- Interpretive signs including information on both the biological and historical features of the site

Other upcoming goals for the Indian Mound Station Sanctuary include:

- Guided hikes
- Site security
- EEL Program staff workdays
- Prescribed Fire

MOTION FIVE:

Karen Hill moved to support a delay consideration of a Public Access Plan for the Indian Mound Station Sanctuary until restorations of the Indian Mound and sanctuary habitat are complete.

Bob Champaigne seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

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TICO Scrub Sanctuary – Review of Public Access Site Assessment

Judy provided information on 3 parcels totaling 52± acres along Grissom Parkway near TICO Airport which were acquired by the EEL Program in 1994.

Natural communities include: floodplain swamp, scrub, and scrubby flatwoods.

No recreation plan is proposed at this time due to the size and location of the three parcels. Any recreation plan will be dependent upon the acquisition of the additional parcels.

Upcoming goals for the TICO Scrub Sanctuary include mechanical vegetation reduction and prescribed fire implementation in various burn units.

MOTION SIX

Eve Owens moved to support a delay consideration of a public access plan for the TICO Scrub Sanctuary until additional properties in the adjacent area could be acquired.

Beverly Pinyerd seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of upcoming Proposed Public Access Plans and Committee Schedule

Brad provided a brief overview of the status of EEL Program public access assessment plans and an explanation of the anticipated time that would be required before the plans could be presented to the REAC Committee for their input.

It was determined that staff would convene the next meeting when information was ready for review.

Public Comment

William Riley spoke of his concerns related to public access to EEL Program in the South Region.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the August 10, 2006 minutes.
- Motion to elect Murray Hann as Chairman for the 2006-2007 term.
- Motion to elect Bob Champaigne as Vice-Chairman for the 2006-2007 term.
- Motion to support the South Lake Conservation Area Public Access plan as presented.
- Motion to support delay in considering a Public Access Plan for the Indian Mound Station Sanctuary until the mound and habitat restorations could be completed.
- Motion to support delay in considering a Public Access Plan for the TICO Scrub Sanctuary until additional acquisition can be completed.

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