



**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
October 17, 2006
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Ron Hight
Ross Hinkle
Randy Parkinson
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Jenny Ashbury
Sandy Carnival
Laura Clark
David Drake
Judy Gregoire
Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Ray Mojica
Katrina Morrell
Chris O'Hara

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Danika Feodoroff
Anne Birch

GUESTS

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

*October 17, 2006
Approved November 30, 2006*



ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)

October 17, 2006
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

William Riley, spoke of his concerns regarding his inability to access his property through the Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary. The property was purchased under the EEL Program and subsequently transferred to the State for reimbursement. The Brevard County EEL Program is the managing entity under State Lease #4263. Currently, no legal access exists through the property and staff is working closely with Mr. Riley to address his concerns and ensure that he is in contact with the County Attorney's office, and the Division of State Lands.

MINUTES:

The September 26, 2006 minutes were presented for approval.

Mike Knight provided clarification regarding a few revisions that were made to the land acquisition priority maps that were originally distributed with the draft minutes including:

- ❖ Northern Map
 - Addition of Darryl White, John White, Taylor, Esposito, and Jeffreys properties to the northern border of Buck Lake Sanctuary.
 - Addition of eight properties as the southern expansion to the Northern Indian River Lagoon/Blueways Project.
 - Color changes on properties now removed from consideration for acquisition.
- ❖ Central Map
 - Addition of Boyd and DiChristopher properties in the Merritt Island Sykes Creek area.
 - Addition of Johnson property off Hall Road near Kaboord Sanctuary.
- ❖ Southern Map Beachside Map
 - Addition of Vistar/Hog Point, Betrock, and Hatcher properties.
 - Color changes on properties now removed from consideration for acquisition.

Paul Schmalzer noted the following:

- ❖ Mike's explanation of the changes to the maps had addressed his questions.
- ❖ Minutes
 - Page 2, REAC update: "stakeholder" is usually written as one word.
 - Page 7, North Buck Lake Additions: Include clarification that the depression marsh is adjacent to two of the properties owned by John White.

October 17, 2006

Page 1 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

- Page 9, Cronin: Discussion included consideration of St. Johns River Water Management District as a potential partner regarding the Cronin property.

MOTION ONE:

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the September 26, 2006 minutes as amended.

Randy Parkinson seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed.

Paul commented that the South Lake Conceptual Recreation Plan Public Meeting had gone very well.

Mike distributed booklets on invasive exotic plants that have been created as a jointly funded project between the EEL Program and Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office.

REAC Committee

Brad Manley reported that during the REAC Committee meeting on October 12th, Murray Hann was elected Chairman and Bob Champagne was elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

Brad explained that Judy Gregoire, North Region Land Manager, recently presented information on the following sites to the REAC Committee who expressed support for the plans as presented:

- ❖ South Lake Conservation Area
 - Proposed access plan presented.
- ❖ Indian Mound Sanctuary
 - Mound and habitat restoration plan presented.
 - Request delay of public access until restoration is complete and readdress if additional property to the north is acquired.
- ❖ TICO Sanctuary
 - No recreation plan is proposed at this time due to the size and location of the three parcels.
 - Future plans will be dependent on acquisition of additional properties in the area.
 - For reconsideration in three years, unless additional property is acquired before that time.

A second field trip to EEL Program sites will be planned for the group in the near future.

Brad and Paul provided information on a suggestion from Dorn Whitmore regarding the possibility of vacating road rights of ways in some circumstances. Kim Zarillo clarified that the rights of ways would remain in the County's Comp Plan until removed.

REAC Committee members also reviewed a list of topics that would be scheduled for discussion in the future and determined that the next meeting should be held in February 2007, unless staff has items that will require input before then.

Ross commented that he thought the REAC committee was working well.

October 17, 2006

Page 2 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

SMC REPORTS

Paul stated that during the Florida Native Plant Society Field Trip on October 14th, they observed a new, rare plant at Coconut Point Sanctuary in the South Beaches. *Tephrosia angustissima* var. *curtisii*, (common name Curtiss' hoary pea) is listed as Endangered by the State of Florida. This is the first confirmed occurrence of this plant on an EEL Sanctuary.

Ross stated he has been involved in a multi-county project entitled "How Should We Grow?" related to planned growth and development, and that protection of the environment was receiving a high priority in the discussions. Sandy Carnival, Support Services Manager, confirmed that EEL Program staff is also participating in the project. Additional information can be obtained on the project at <http://www.myregion.org>.

STAFF REPORTS:

Volunteer / Public Access

Brad explained that he realized that the SMC received updates on volunteer activities during the Land Manager's regional presentations and stated that he would focus mainly on new information. He provided information on the Volunteer Banquet held last August. Ross asked for clarification of the number of volunteer hours that had been completed. Staff will provide additional information on volunteer hours in the future.

Education

Katrina Morrell gave a presentation on educational activities for the last four months including:

- ❖ The EEL Program is involved in the Space Coast Science Educators Alliance (SCSEA) and participated in the Exemplary Science Teachers Awards Dinner.
- ❖ The SCSEA held a secondary science teachers workshop where Katrina participated along with Sandy Edmondson and Grace Foley, the EEL Program's two Naturalists, in presenting information about the EEL Program and what it can offer school programs to approximately 100 of Brevard County's secondary level education science teachers.
- ❖ Katrina also participated in an elementary teachers science project workshop attended by approximately 120 elementary level science teachers.
- ❖ The EEL Program's traveling display has been updated and presented at many recent events, a few of which include:
 - Teacher open house at Brevard Zoo – 100 teachers attending.
 - Erna Nixon Park's Annual Crackerfest – 600 people attending.
 - EEL Program presentation on Bats at North Brevard Library – 150 people attending.
- ❖ Information on recent events in several regions including the update of regional themes:
 - North: "*Connected lands provide a bridge for biodiversity*".
 - Study Trips to Enchanted Forest – 566 people attending.
 - Forest Fundays – average 20 people attending each month.
 - Advanced Guide Trainings – 11 people attending.
 - Friends Oyster Mat Program – 22 people attending.

October 17, 2006

Page 3 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

- Central: *“Humans and nature have been forces of change throughout history”*.
 - Satellite Beach marine summer camp field trip to PICA.
 - New trail signs at Cruickshank Sanctuary.
- South Beaches: *“From ocean to lagoon, all things are connected.”*
 - Presentation to Sierra Club – 25 people attending.
 - National Public Lands Day volunteer event and hike – 12 people attending.
 - Updates on progress in the educational material for the Barrier Island Center.
- ❖ Eleven EEL staff members have signed up for Certified Interpretive Guide Training.
- ❖ EEL Program staff will chair a middle school science fair conference next year.
- ❖ The North Region K-12 curricula and interpretive is plan being developed to complement the FCAT requirements.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Danika Feodoroff reviewed The Nature Conservancy’s October Report to the SMC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vero Pittsburg Partners, LLC Property

This 41± acre property is located directly adjacent to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary’s north border. It is also adjacent on the eastern boundary to property planned for a facility expansion at Brevard County’s W.W. James Park in Titusville. The September 21st site visit report was reviewed at the last SMC meeting when the property received a 1st Majority Vote. The Project Summary Report was reviewed. Vegetation is similar to that of the Forest. There is some disturbance with exotic species along a sand road that runs through the property, but it is in good shape overall. It is thought that acquisition of this property may be the last chance to expand the Forest boundaries. The Property is within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project Boundaries and was designated as Highest Priority by the SMC.

MOTION TWO

Kim made a motion for a 2nd Majority Vote on the Vero Pittsburg Partners, LLC Property.

Paul seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Additional Discussion

Kim and Paul asked for clarification of the *“Perceived Value Range”* section of the Property Summary.

Mike indicated as part of the Land Acquisition Manual appraisal procedures, staff must estimate a range of perceived land value in order to determine the number of appraisals that will be required to meet the County & State appraisal rules.

Staff will provide this clarification as part of the report.

October 17, 2006

Page 4 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

Vero Beach Estates LLC Property

This site is 197± acres is located in the Micco area. It is south of Micco Road and north of the St. Sebastian River Preserve. The September 22, 2006 site visit report was reviewed at the last SMC meeting when the property received a 1st Majority Vote. The Project Summary Report was reviewed. The property is outside of the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (BCSE) Project area and will become part of the boundary amendment application when it is submitted. It was designated as Highest Priority by the SMC.

MOTION THREE

Paul moved for a 2nd Majority Vote on the Vero Beach Estates LLC Property.

Randy Parkinson seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Smit Property

This 26± acre property is located near Grant, directly adjacent to the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary with private land to the south. The August 29th site visit report was reviewed at the last meeting when the property received a 1st Majority Vote. The Property Summary Report was reviewed.

Mike reviewed information from the last meeting and provided an update regarding the possibility of the County's Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) acting as a funding partner. The following was noted:

- ❖ The property is primarily improved pasture.
- ❖ The property contains several structures and is currently operated as an equestrian center.
- ❖ Several of the existing buildings could be used as the maintenance facility for the EEL Program's South Region.
- ❖ The property could be used as a buffer to protect the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary, and has potential for restoration.
- ❖ Purchase of the property could help facilitate the proposed property exchange with the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND), which would protect the best of the remaining high quality scrub left in Brevard County.
- ❖ P&R has expressed interest in a possible joint use of the property, but at this time is unable to confirm they could be a funding partner. There is no current time-table that would determine if, or when, P&R could confirm their ability to partner on this site.
- ❖ The site could provide a trailhead for equestrian use at the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary.
- ❖ Development of the property could have a negative impact on the Valkaria Scrub Sanctuary and complicate the FIND exchange.
- ❖ The property is within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Boundaries and was determined to be High Priority by the SMC.
- ❖ A 2nd majority vote at this time would allow The Nature Conservancy to negotiate towards a contract that would then come back to the SMC for review before going to the Board of County Commissioners.

October 17, 2006

Page 5 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

MOTION FOUR

Dave Breininger moved for a 2nd Majority Vote on the Smith Property.

Ron Hight seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

North Buck Lake Additions (fka Continental Acreage)

Taylor, John White (2), Darryl White (2), Espinoza, Jeffreys Properties

These properties are individual, small lots directly north of the Buck Lake Sanctuary, excluding one Darryl White property, which is 9± acres. The August 15th site visit reports were reviewed at the last meeting when the properties received a 1st Majority Vote. It was noted that the Darryl White parcels #3 and #4 were not included in the previous vote. The Project Summary Reports were reviewed. The two John White properties being considered contain portions of a wetland that are partially located on existing EEL Property. These properties are not within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Project, but could be added as part of the future boundary amendment.

MOTION FIVE

Paul moved for a 2nd Majority Vote on the Taylor, John White (2), Darryl White (2), Espinoza, and Jeffreys properties.

Ron seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

PICA Indian Mound (Jenkins Property)

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

Cronin Properties 1&2

The multi-parcel Cronin property was reviewed by the SMC at the last meeting, but a vote was not taken at that time as the SMC requested clarification regarding the possibility of funding partners. Staff informed the group that the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) have been contacted regarding possible partnerships on these sites. The SJRWMD is interested in partnering in the possible acquisition of this property, but the DOT is not.

Kim reported that she and EEL Staff met with the owners to provide information and discuss possible methods for putting the land in conservation.

It was determined that the portion which lies east of the intersection of SR 528 and Hwy 407, is currently used for grazing cattle, met the EEL Program criteria for acquisition.

MOTION SIX

Randy moved to decline a 1st Majority Vote on all Cronin properties, excluding the parcel east of the intersection of SR 528 and Hwy. 407.

Additional discussion

Ron Hight stated he needed to abstain from voting on any Cronin property due to his involvement with management of property in the adjacent area through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

October 17, 2006

Page 6 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

MOTION SEVEN

Paul moved for a 1st Majority Vote on the Cronin property located east of the intersection of SR 528 and Hwy 407 contingent on confirmation that the owner would be a willing seller for just this section before appraisals were ordered.

Kim seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Management Plan Approvals

South Region - Malabar Scrub Sanctuary / Jordan Scrub Sanctuary

Chris O'Hara provided a brief review of revisions that were made to this region's management plans after review by the SMC.

MOTION EIGHT

Randy made a motion to approve the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary and Jordan Scrub Sanctuary Management Plans as presented by staff.

Ron seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Staff will present the plans to the Board for their approval as the next step in the management plan process.

South Area Mega-Parcel Acquisition Priorities

Mike reviewed acquisition progress in the South Area Mega-Parcel region and outlined the current rational for acquisition priority. The SMC expressed support for the plan as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Management Plan Approvals

South Beach Region - Maritime Hammock / Hardwood Hammock / Ocean Ridge / Washburn Cove / Hog Point (Interim)

Ray Mojica provided a brief review of revisions that were made to this region's management plans after review by the SMC.

MOTION NINE

Randy Parkinson moved to approve the Maritime Hammock, Hardwood Hammock, Ocean Ridge, Washburn Cove, and Hog Point (Interim) Management Plans as presented by staff.

Ron Hight seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Staff will present the plans to the Board for their approval as the next step in the management plan process.

Indian River Lagoon Management Plan – Anne Birch

Anne Birch from The Nature Conservancy presented information regarding the current ownership and responsibility for management of conservation lands along the Indian River Lagoon. She explained that in order for the State to consider acquisition of additional lands, a managing entity must be determined for each area. The Brevard County Mosquito Control Department has indicated they will assist in the management of some of the wetland areas.

October 17, 2006

Page 7 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

MOTION TEN

Randy moved for the EEL Program to accept responsibility of Lead Managing Entity for the Indian River Lagoon parcels as presented by Anne Birch, if they are acquired by the State for conservation.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Nail Property

Mike provided information on the 850± acre Nail property near Palm Bay. It is outside the existing BCSE but within the newly determined highest priority boundary. The property is currently used for cattle grazing with some sod farming and could help establish connectivity between the St. Sebastian Buffer Preserver and the EEL Program's Micco Sanctuary, which are larger conservation areas. It was determined that a site visit to the area would be scheduled.

MOTION ELEVEN

Randy moved for a 1st Majority Vote on the Nail Property.

Ron seconded the motion

The motion carried unanimously.

Staff will schedule a site visit.

Public Comment:

Shawn Lambert, citizen, spoke of his concerns regarding access at the Pine Island Conservation Area in the Central Region. Staff will assist him in getting his questions answered.

NEXT MEETING:

Staff will poll the SMC to determine a date for the next meeting.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the September 26, 2006 minutes as amended.
- Motion to approve a 2nd Majority Vote on the Vero Pittsburg Partners, LLC Property.
- Motion to approve 2nd Majority Vote on the Vero Beach Estates LLC Property.
- Motion to approve a 2nd Majority Vote on the Smit Property.
- Motion to approve a 2nd Majority Vote on the Taylor, John White, (2), Darryl White (2), Espinoza, and Jeffreys properties.
- Motion to decline a 1st Majority Vote on all Cronin properties, excluding the parcel east of the intersection of SR 528 and Hwy 407.
- Motion for a 1st Majority Vote on the Cronin property located east of the intersection of SR 528 and Hwy 407, contingent on confirmation that the owner would be a willing seller for just this section, before appraisals were ordered.
- Motion to approve the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary and Jordan Scrub Sanctuary Management Plans as presented by staff.

October 17, 2006

Page 8 of 9

Approved November 30, 2006

- Motion to approve the Maritime Hammock, Hardwood Hammock, Ocean Ridge, Washburn Cove, and Hog Point (Interim) Management Plans as presented by staff.
- Motion for the EEL Program to accept responsibility of Lead managing Entity for the Indian River Lagoon parcels as presented by Anne Birch, if they are acquired by the State for conservation.
- Motion for a 1st Majority Vote on the Nail Property.