

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)
December 14, 2006
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Sandy Carnival
Laura Clark
David Drake
Mike Knight
Chris O'Hara
Dean Vanderbleek

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Danika Feodoroff
Keith Fountain
Rebecca Perry

GUESTS

Paul Marion, Citizen

*December 14, 2006
Approved January 11, 2007*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
December 14, 2006
Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Ross asked if there were objections to having the Marion Groves Property move up in the agenda, as the owner was in attendance at the meeting. There was no objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Ross stated that it was important to point out that the EEL Program has historically asked for public comment at the beginning and end of each SMC meeting and that no one has ever been turned down who wanted to provide comment at any SMC meeting. Mike clarified that the Program was formally revising the procedure to more accurately reflect the County ordinance for public comment, and that the County designated minimum was three minutes for each comment.

MINUTES:

No minutes were presented for approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review as reviewed.

Mike explained that the Ag Ventures property acquisition has not yet been able to be presented to the Board as a result of concerns related to a PUD (Planned Unit Development) that is in effect on the property, and possible obligation that the County might have if the PUD was not able to be dissolved. The owner is willing to continue work with the EEL Program in a cooperative effort and it is hoped that the issues will be resolved.

Paul Schmalzer asked if it was anticipated that John Denninghoff, of the Brevard County Storm Water Utility Department would be able to provide information to address the concerns expressed by Randy Parkinson's e-mail, related to a possible storm water easement at the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge, during the SMC's next meeting in January. Mike confirmed he has forwarded the information to Mr. Denninghoff.

Ross commented that there was no automatic response to requests of this type and that there was a tremendous amount of responsibility on the part of the Committee to look at any proposed alteration from the perspective of whether or not it enhances the ecological function or significance of the property. He stated that in his opinion, the process was being followed; an idea had been presented, pertinent questions had been asked, and staff was working to bring back information for the SMC to review. Then the SMC will make a recommendation. He also commented that one issue involved is that by creating a certain type of habitat near a sanctuary, it would enhance the potential of predators for species that we're trying to protect.

Mike stated that a request for a Florida Power & Light (FP&L) easement on the Micco Sanctuary would be presented to the Board for review in January. Dave Breininger requested that input from the South Region Land Manager be presented at the same time as the request.

SMC Reports

Paul stated that on January 13, 2006 he would be assisting with the orientation of volunteers from the Florida Native Plant Society who would be working with the North Region staff in gathering information for a floristic inventory of the South Lake Conservation Area.

STAFF REPORTS:

Prescribed Fire

Dean Vanderbleek provided information on his activities as the EEL Program's new Fire Manager including:

- Capron Ridge Prescribed Fire
- Cruickshank Prescribed Fire
- Pine Island Conservation Area Wild Fire
- Upcoming Prescribed Fire at Enchanted Forest
- Exotic Plant Pile burns at Maritime Hammock and Pine Island Conservation Area

South Region

Chris O'Hara, South Region Land Manager provided information on recent activities in his area including:

- Malabar Fire Break
- Micco Fire Break
- Micco Restoration
- Malabar West Fence Project
- Upcoming Prescribed Fire at Malabar Scrub Sanctuary

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Keith Fountain provided information on TNC's monthly report to the Selection and Management Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marion Groves Property

Mike Knight and Paul Marion (property owner) provided information on a 51± acre property located in Mims between the North Indian River Lagoon expansion area and US 1. It is not within a current project area. Mr. Marion stated his family has owned the property since 1912 and most of it has never been cleared. They would like to see the property purchased so other people could enjoy the natural areas that his family has enjoyed. The following was noted in the discussion:

- ❖ There are varying levels of elevation with several different habitats.
- ❖ Part of the property was cleared for an orange grove and is now being used for cattle grazing.

❖ There are plans for development that will be directly adjacent to at least two sides of the property.

❖ Clarification was provided that the property is outside any area acquisition priority zone.

It was determined that it would be beneficial to schedule a site visit to see if there might be unique features on the site.

Staff will schedule a site visit.

OLD BUSINESS:

Munich Property

Mike reviewed information on the 8.5 ± acre property on the west side of the Indian River Lagoon in Mims which includes .9 acres of Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) right-of-way. The Munich property is within the North Indian River Lagoon Project which was determined to be of the Highest Priority by the SMC. A contract for acquisition is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) for their approval on January 9, 2006. The EEL Program Land Acquisition Manual requires that the general terms of the contract be presented to the SMC for a final recommendation to the Board regarding acquisition of the property.

MOTION ONE

Paul moved to recommend purchase of the Munich Property to the Board.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

Discussion

It was noted that Randy Parkinson had left the meeting, but that a majority of members were still in attendance.

Ross asked if there were other questions or comments. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

Additional Discussion

Keith provided clarification that funding from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on mega-parcel properties was exhausted until July 2008 and requested input from the SMC on whether or not there was support for continued acquisition in that area using EEL Program funds. Clarification was provided that the SMC was supportive of continuing acquisition in the mega-parcel area, and then requesting reimbursement if and when funding became available.

Dave Breininger suggested that efforts should be made to prioritize acquisition in the mega-parcel area.

Scottsmoor Scrub Jay Additions

Mike discussed map information provided by Dave Breininger regarding the possible expansion of the highest priority area in the north part of the County.

MOTION TWO

Randy moved to include the Scottsmoor scrub additions in the highest priority acquisition target boundary.

Paul seconded the motion.

Ross asked if there were additional questions or comments. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

A map of the new area is included as part of these minutes.

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Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) Site Visit Report

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

Project Summary Report

Mike provided clarification regarding two items on the Property Summary Report:

- ❖ Perceived Property Value – Staff estimate of market value, used to determine number of appraisals that will be requested.
- ❖ Estimated Cost of Action – Staff estimate of whether the acquisition would have unusual circumstances which might affect acquisition costs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communities Finance Property

The owner of the Communities Finance Property has requested that the SMC consider this property for acquisition. The property is 11± acres, located north of the Continental Acreage property and adjacent to the recently added John White property. This property is not within the existing BCSE Project.

It was determined that a Site Visit should be scheduled to this property, due to the anticipated habitat and it's proximity to other lands being targeted for acquisition. Staff will schedule a site visit.

Mack, Cornelius & Reginaldo Property

The owners of the Mack, Cornelius & Reginaldo property have requested that the SMC consider this property for acquisition. The property is 18 ± acres located north of the Pine Island Conservation Area and adjacent to the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The property is not within the existing BCSE Project, but it is within the Blueways Project.

MOTION THREE

Paul made a motion to confirm support for appraising the Mack, Cornelius & Reginaldo Property.

Randy seconded the motion.

The following was noted during additional discussion:

- ❖ The property is wetlands.
- ❖ Access issues may require clarification.
- ❖ Much of the surrounding property has been purchased for mitigation.
- ❖ It is not directly adjacent to the Pine Island Conservation Area, but there are other conservation lands nearby.
- ❖ St. Johns River Water Management District may be a potential acquisition partner.
- ❖ Clarification was provided that there are times the appraisals may not be ordered immediately after they are approved, in an effort to determine if there are other willing sellers in the area before starting the appraisal process.
- ❖ There is hunting on adjacent property.
- ❖ A strong potential for development does not exist on this property.

Ross asked if there was additional discussion or comment. There was none.

The motion carried unanimously.

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Public Comment:

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2007. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to recommend purchase of the Munich Property to the Board
- Motion to include the Scottsmoor scrub additions in the highest priority acquisition target boundary.
- Motion to confirm support for appraising the Mack, Cornelius & Reginaldo Property.

Scottsmoor Scrub Additions to Highest Priority Boundary Added by EEL SMC on 12/14/06

