



ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
Selection and Management Committee
Procedures Committee Meeting
April 25, 2007
Attendance List

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Priscilla Griffith
Rocky Randels
Leesa Souto
Amy Tidd
Kim Zarillo *

SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Breininger
Randy Parkinson
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo*

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Jenny Ashbury
Sandy Carnival
Laura Clark
Sandy Edmondson
Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Ray Mojica
Katrina Morrell
Chris O'Hara
Scott Taylor

TNC STAFF

Keith Fountain
Anne Mayer
Rebecca Perry

GUESTS

Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
Susanne Valencia, Citizen



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

**April 25, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order, Introductions and Welcome

Rocky Randels, Chairman of the Procedures Committee, called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM and asked the group to provide introductions.

Rocky explained that the Procedures Committee is responsible for the Program's Land Acquisition Manual (LAM) and he commented that in 1990, four of the committee's current members, Priscilla Griffith, Diane Stees, Kim Zarillo, and himself, had been part of the original committee which created the original LAM.

Rocky provided information on the objectives of the LAM from page 5 of the manual:

- To provide, in one document, the current policies relating to land acquisition or interests therein, and real property management.
- To ensure that acquisition procedures and real property management activities will be carried out uniformly throughout the County.
- To make the acquisition and real property management process easily understood and readily available to the public, county staff and all parties involved in the acquisition process.

Rocky introduced Randy Parkinson, Vice-Chairman of the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) who provided information on the responsibilities of the SMC.

- Serve as expert scientific advisory committee to the Board on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands within the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County.
- Review all parcels nominated for public acquisition.
- Provide technical review for all land acquisition proposals for outside funding.
- Consider and develop a conceptual county-wide strategy for land acquisition and management that considers local, state and national conservation issues and needs (Sanctuary Management Manual).
- Serve as an advisory committee to County EEL staff for comprehensive management plan development and implementation for all EEL Program acquisition sites.

EEL Program Reports

Introduction to EEL Program Goals and Operations

Mike Knight, EEL Program Manager who provided an annual Program planning overview:

- EEL Program Directives
 - Land Acquisition

EEL Program SMC / PC Meeting

April 25, 2007

Page 1 of 6

Approved February 27, 2008

- Land Management
- Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Annual Goals Planning
 - Quarterly Regional / Divisional Goals Review
 - July: Visioning and Strategic Objectives Meeting (Management Staff)
 - August: Regional/Divisional Goals Meetings
 - September: Goals Finalization
- Focus for 2005/2006
 - Administrative: Staff training, equipment inventory, office space, contracts administration.
 - Land Acquisition: Revisions to LAM, hire Acquisition Coordinator, procedural manual (audit), buy land.
 - Land Management (General): Management Plans, plan development process, site security.
 - Fire Management: Hire Fire Manager, GIS tracking procedures, funding, feral animal management, on-site maintenance
 - Restoration: Identification and prioritization of projects for funding and mitigation.
- Public Access: Site assessments, center development, trailheads and trails.
- Environmental Education: Regional master plans, Exhibits, Hire Naturalists.
- Staff Training: County management courses, equipment, new staff.
- Procedural Manuals: Acquisition, safety, general staff orientation.
- Time Tracking
- Acquisition Database
- Audits (follow up for 2004, and Clerk's audit)
- Management Plans Consideration is being given to consolidating into two plans.
- Public Access Evaluation
- Burn!
- Species Relocation Procedure
- Center Development: Opening Barrier Island Center, Sans House and Malabar?
- PR: Improve Public Awareness of Program
- Upcoming Committee Tasks
 - Land Acquisition Manual and Sanctuary Management Manual Revisions (pending audit outcome)

Additional Discussion

Clarification was requested regarding the status of the Program's recent audits.

Mike explained that the Program began a normal audit process in 2004, and that as a result of recent concerns raised by the Clerk of the Court, a follow up of the 2004 audit was being performed which would include a review of the concerns expressed by the Clerk.

Acquisition Report

Keith Fountain, from The Nature Conservancy provided information on land acquisition:

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006:

- Appraisals completed for 8 tracts containing 1,070 acres.
- Offers presented to 9 landowners that resulted in contracts to purchase 5 tracts containing 851 acres.
- Closed an additional 59 acres.
- Contracts and/or Closings.
 - Laney/Barnes 51 acres (North: donation of conservation easement)
 - Brookhollow 8 acres (South: lengthy closing)
 - Munich 8 acres (NIRL)
 - Parrish/Holder 85 acres (North: Indian Mound Ridge)
 - Ag Ventures 669 acres (North: Contract signed, did not move forward)
 - J & S Curb 80 acres (Grissom: Contract signed, declined by BOCC, purchased by State)
 - St. Lucie Consulting 9 acres (PICA: TNC purchase, will transfer to Brevard Co)

October 1, 2005 – Today

- 32 tracts appraised containing 3,113 acres.
- Offers presented to 25 landowners.
 - Offers accepted for 16 tracts, containing 1,334 acres.
- Negotiations failed on 8 tracts.
- Negotiations deferred on 5 tracts. (Deemed by SMC as time progressed as no longer highest priority, or were dependent on acquisitions of other properties that did not move forward.)

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006 – Megaparcels Projects (Grissom Parkway & South County)

- State of Florida has agreed to purchase at 100% in these acres.
- Small lots.
- Offers to landowners with a combined 1,200 acres.
- Contracts for the purchase of 179 acres.
- Closings on 114 acres.

Challenges

- Buyers real estate market.
- Florida Forever Program funding availability.
- Acquisition prioritization in rapidly developing county.

Discussion

Randy Parkinson commented on the importance and limited remaining number of large tracts of undeveloped land. Keith agreed that focus on the large tracts of land should be a high priority.

Rocky Randels commented that it is a lot easier to plant a garden than it is to maintain it.

Dave Breininger commented on the importance of monitoring how the Program is doing on biodiversity and conservation standpoints and that corridors were still needed.

Management Reports

Mike explained that a draft of the 2005-2006 EEL Program Annual Report was distributed to Committee members for review and comment before it was posted out beyond the Committees.

EEL Program SMC / PC Meeting

April 25, 2007

Page 3 of 6

Approved February 27, 2008

He asked the group to review the information and provide any comments they might have in the next few days.

Amy Tidd mentioned it might be beneficial to clarify that the expenses under Administration do not come from bond proceeds, in order to clarify that Administrative expenses do not reduce funding for acquisition.

EEL Program Reports

North Region Management Report

Sandy Edmondson, North Region Naturalist, provided information on the North Region:

- Sanctuaries
 - North Buck Lake Conservation Area (*fka Continental Acreage*)
 - Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
 - Fence and fireline installation
 - South Lake Conservation Area
 - Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
 - Volunteer Workdays
 - Firebreak work in preparation for prescribed fire
 - Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary
 - Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
 - Volunteer Workdays
 - Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
 - Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
 - Expanded hours of operation
 - Expansion of Tortoise Trail
 - New Kiosk at entrance
 - Phase II exhibit completed
 - Keep Brevard Beautiful Grant to create Butterfly Gardens
 - New Greenhouse
 - Guide training
 - Volunteer Workdays
 - Public Events
 - Friends of Enchanted Forest
 - Restoration Projects
 - Gopher Tortoise Survey
 - Titusville Environmental Achievement Award
 - TICO Scrub Sanctuary
 - New trail map for visitors
 - Volunteer workdays
 - Indian Mound Sanctuary
 - Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
 - Fence and fire line installation
 - Volunteer workdays

Central Region Management Report

Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager, provided information on the Central Region:

EEL Program SMC / PC Meeting

April 25, 2007

Page 4 of 6

Approved February 27, 2008

- Focus Areas
 - Habitat Management
 - Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
 - Marsh Restoration
 - Fire
 - Listed Species
 - Management Plans
 - Capron Ridge interim plan complete.
 - PICA Recreation Assessment complete. Reviewed and supported by REAC Committee.
 - Kabboord Recreation Assessment complete. Reviewed and supported by REAC Committee. Management Plan pending review and approval by SMC.
 - Cruickshank Sanctuary Recreation Assessment complete. Reviewed and supported by REAC Committee. Management Plan pending review and approval by SMC.
 - New Acquisitions
 - Capron Ridge 20 acre mitigation donation
 - Crawford Portion of Thousand Islands
 - Other prospects, mitigation donations
 - Center Development
 - PICA – Sams House restoration.
 - PICA – Geological Assessment complete. Fossil findings.
 - Volunteer Efforts – region wide

South Region Management Report

Chris O'Hara, South Region Land Manager provided information on the South Region:

- Malabar Scrub Sanctuary
 - Trail clearing and removal of unsafe trees after 2004 hurricane season
 - Trail plans
 - Recreation plan
 - Fence Project
 - Work completed on North Malabar wetland project
- Jordan Scrub Recreation Plan
 - Work has begun on wetland improvements
- Grant Flatwoods Recreation Plan
 - Wildfire
- Micco Scrub Sanctuary
 - Americorps Gopher Tortoise Survey
- Prescribed Fire Plans

South Beach Region Management Report

- Funding received from Bureau of Invasive Plant Management Grants (1999-2006) \$494,100.

EEL Program SMC / PC Meeting

April 25, 2007

Page 5 of 6

Approved February 27, 2008

- Management Plans
- Land Management for control of invasive exotic species
- Volunteer Workdays
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Prescribed Fire
- Coconut Point Sanctuary “Wildfire”
- Maritime Hammock Sanctuary
 - Trail planning and maintenance
 - Restoration Project
- Barrier Island Sanctuary
 - Groundbreaking and Construction Work

Education

Katrina

- Education Master Plan Completed
- Citizen’s Academy
- Community Outreach
- Facilitated Session at Florida Native Plant Society Conference
- Trained 8 EEL Program staff as Nationally Certified Interpretive Guides
- Implementation of new K-8 student curricula at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
- Teacher in service
- Trail Signs in Central Region
- Cruickshank Sanctuary Brochure
- South Region – Began discussions to determine regional themes and design for future Management and Education Center.
- South Beach
 - Completed Interpretive Plan
 - Created self guided booklet for Barrier Island Sanctuary
 - Obtained \$20,000 grant for sea turtle exhibits
 - Began design of construction center exhibits

Additional Discussion

Brief discussion ensued regarding the possible effects of budget cuts being considered by the State Legislature.

Rocky thanked the group for coming to the meeting.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

No motions.