



**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMC)  
August 21, 2007  
Attendance List**

***SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Dave Breininger  
Ron Hight  
Ross Hinkle  
Randy Parkinson  
Paul Schmalzer

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Sandy Carnival  
Mike Knight  
Brad Manley  
Chris O'Hara

***THE NATURE CONSERVANCY***

Keith Fountian  
Rebecca Perry

***GUESTS***

Charles Billias, City of Cocoa Beach  
Ray Dickinson, City of Cocoa Beach  
Jim Egan, Marine Resources Council  
Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office  
Alice Griffin, citizen  
Ken Griffin, City of Cocoa Beach  
Maureen Rupe, Partnership  
Hank Saunders, South Island Real Estate  
Tony Sasso, City of Cocoa Beach  
Matt Sexton, The Conservation Fund

*Protecting and Preserving Biological Diversity  
Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County's Natural Resources*

*Selection and Management Committee Minutes*

*August 31, 2007*

*Approved December 5, 2007*



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

August 31, 2007  
Meeting Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **MINUTES:**

No minutes were presented for approval.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

The Administrative Review was reviewed.

Mike clarified that the EEL Program's response to the Clerk's concerns regarding the Veronica Estates/Lawhon property acquisition were still in review and would be distributed in the near future.

Mike clarified that he was incorporating SMC comments into the EEL Program stipulations regarding Transportation and Engineering's (TE) request for a Ditch Maintenance Access Easement at the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge and that the final document would be sent out to the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) before it is sent to John Denninghoff in TE and the Board of County Commissioners (Board).

Mike explained that the Land Management Committee from the City of Cocoa Beach is reviewing the first draft of the Thousand Islands Exotic Species Removal Plan and that there is a consensus that an agreement can be reached between the EEL Program and the City of Cocoa Beach regarding the removal of invasive exotic plants on the Islands. There has been concern from some Cocoa Beach residents regarding the removal of the Australian pine trees. The EEL Program's land management guidelines and the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cocoa Beach both require the removal of invasive exotic species.

Ross clarified that after the Exotic Species Removal Plan is approved by the City of Cocoa Beach and the SMC, it will be incorporated into the EEL Program's Thousand Islands Management Plan which will be sent to the Board for final approval. The SMC recently approved a preliminary Management Plan so that the paperwork for the FCT grant funds could be submitted.

### Public Comment

Maureen Rupe asked about the status of pending revisions to the Land Acquisition Manual relative to approval of activities on EEL Program Sanctuaries.

Paul Schmalzer asked if consideration was being given to revising the Land Acquisition Manual.

Mike clarified that as a result of the last Hoyman and Dobson audit, a few minor changes were planned for the Land Acquisition Manual, and that the pending revisions regarding approval of activities on EEL Program Sanctuaries would be made in the Sanctuary Management Manual, not the Land Acquisition Manual.

Staff will send a copy of the Hoyman/Dobson audit to the SMC for their review.

Ross suggested that a copy of the audit also be sent to the Procedures Committee.

### **SMC REPORTS:**

Brad Manley, EEL Program Public Access Coordinator, explained that the last Recreation and Education Committee (REAC) meeting was held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. No formal motions were passed at the August REAC meeting, with the exception of approval of minutes. Katrina Morrell, EEL Program Education Specialist, provided an overview of the draft North Region Interpretive Plan. Dorn Whitmore has resigned from the Committee and Doug Sphar has joined it. There is one additional opening on the Committee at this time. Brad expressed his thanks to Kim Zarillo who attended the August meeting to represent the SMC, as Paul Schmalzer had provided advanced notice he would not be able to attend.

Ross Hinkle mentioned that he has been involved in the MyRegion.org *How Shall We Grow?* Meetings.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

#### **South Region**

Chris O'Hara, Land Manager for the South Region gave a presentation on recent events in that area including information on:

- Malabar West Scrub Sanctuary Improvements
  - Improved Entrance
  - Bridge over Creek
  - Volunteer Day
- Jordan Scrub Sanctuary
  - 61 acre prescribed Fire
  - Perimeter Firebreak
- Micco Firebreak
  - Perimeter Firebreak
  - 20,000 linear feet
  - Burn Piles
- Treatment of Invasive Exotics
  - Bureau of Invasive Plant Management Grant
  - Jordan, Malabar, Crane Creek
- Intern Project
  - Intern writing Grant/Valkaria Management Plan

Paul Schmalzer requested the status on the proposed paved linear trail at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. Mike stated that the plan had been sent to the State's Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in Tallahassee for their review as the property is titled to the State. Paul asked if

there has been any other activity regarding the plans for the trail. Mike stated there has not been any other activity.

### **South Beach Region**

Nichole Perna, Assistant Land Manager for the South Beach Region gave a presentation on recent events in the South Beach area.

- Coconut Point
  - North area burned in wildfire last year, prescribed fire planned for remainder soon.
  - 55 Gopher Tortoise Burrows identified
- Hog Point
  - Working with Florida Institute of Technology to develop a field station on site
- Maritime Hammock
  - Boardwalk
  - Stormwater project update
  - Red Bay Trees affected by Laurel Wilt Disease
- Barrier Island Center
  - Observation deck with night scopes planned for turtle watching
  - Application for wildflower grant
  - CCC Staff person on board

### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

Keith Fountain reviewed The Nature Conservancy's August 30, 2007 Report to the SMC.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ross asked if there would be any concern regarding a change in the order of the agenda items to allow for information on the funding update to be provided first. No concerns were received.

### **Funding Update and Land Acquisition Prioritization**

The SMC reviewed a Bond Proceeds Report which provided information on current funding and pending acquisitions, along with a draft priority ranking worksheet which had been prepared by staff. Mike explained that it was anticipated that the Program currently had more willing sellers than available funds and that at the next meeting, staff would be requesting clarification of land acquisition priorities from the SMC. The following was noted:

- Hank Saunders, who indicated he represented the Boyd and DiChristopher property owners, expressed his support for the acquisition of both of these properties. He reminded the group that these properties were being renegotiated with a lower acquisition cost.
- Jim Eagan, from the Marine Resources Council, asked why some properties ranked as "high priority by the SMC" had received a higher priority rating on staff's draft priority ranking worksheet than some which had been listed as "highest priority" by the SMC.
- Mike clarified that the Program has historically moved forward with willing sellers as they are identified and that some of the "high" priority properties have been approved for acquisition by the SMC and the Board, and some of the "highest" properties have not yet had Board review. He confirmed that the draft priority ranking worksheet had not received previous input from the SMC and that it had been created by Staff.

- Charles Billias from the City of Cocoa Beach spoke of his strong support for the proposed EEL Program acquisition of the Thousand Islands Reynolds property.
- Matt Sexton provided information on the Thousand Islands Reynolds property.
- Tonny Sasso from the City of Cocoa Beach spoke of his strong support for the proposed EEL Program acquisition of the Thousand Islands Reynolds property.
- Ray Dickenson, from the City of Cocoa Beach Land Management Committee spoke of his strong support for the proposed EEL Program acquisition of the Thousand Islands Reynolds property.
- The members of the City Council for the City of Cocoa Beach indicated they felt a mutually agreeable plan to deal with control of exotic species on the Thousand Islands Reynolds property could be worked out.
- The SMC clarified they felt it was very important that contracts which had been negotiated in good faith and approved by the Board continue through the acquisition process.
- Ron Hight stated that the SMC had not had enough time to review the information presented at the meeting and that he did not feel they had received enough information to make decisions. He suggested that additional information be provided and that prioritization of land acquisition should be the primary focus of the September meeting.
- Clarification was provided that the EEL Program would continue business as usual until the September SMC meeting; which included confirmation that the Thousand Island Reynolds acquisition contract would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their review and approval.
- Clarification was provided that the primary mission of the EEL Program is the protection of biodiversity.
- Mike confirmed that ARC has indicated they are agreeable with counties submitting projects and boundary amendments and that the EEL Program would move forward on this.
- Clarification was provided that at the September SMC meeting, the Committee would review all potential acquisitions to determine land acquisition priorities. Staff will distribute information for SMC review prior to next meeting.

#### **Proposed Paved Trails on EEL Program Lands**

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on September 28, 2007.

#### **ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

#### **SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

None.