



**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM  
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REAC)  
November 8, 2007  
Attendance List**

***RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Bob Champaigne  
Jim Durocher  
Murray Hann  
Karen Hill  
Mark Nathan  
Beverly Pinyerd  
Doug Sphar  
Paul Saia

***SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS***

Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

***EEL PROGRAM STAFF***

Brad Manley

***GUESTS***

None



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RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
November 8, 2007  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Murray Hann, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

No minutes were presented for approval.

**Administrative Review**

BOCC Amendment to REAC Resolution

Brad Manley reviewed Resolution 07-269 which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on October 23, 2007. While the original resolution which formed the REAC Committee in 1995 included a monthly meeting schedule, the new resolution provides for quarterly meetings, with the ability for additional meetings to be called when necessary. A recent audit finding recommended that the previous resolution be changed to reflect the existing meeting schedule.

Status Update on past REAC Motions and Issues

Brad provided a status update on past REAC motions and current issues:

- North Buck Lake Management Plan:  
A citizen's group has expressed an interest in establishing a Welcome Center off I-95 near Mims which might include a connection to a trail at the North Buck Lake Sanctuary. Considerations include benefits to tourism, along with trail monitoring and prevention of possible undesirable activity.
- Cruickshank Sanctuary:  
Work continues on trails and the parking area which is expected to fit about 6 vehicles. The 11± acre Shopke/Barge property, recently approved for acquisition by the BOCC, completes the last remaining opportunity to expand this sanctuary.
- Thousand Islands property:  
Acquisition of the Crawford portion of this property was approved by the BOCC. Negotiations continue on the Reynolds parcel. Plans for management of exotic plant species is under discussion with the Cocoa Beach City Council.
- South Region Management Plans:  
The Jordan Scrub Sanctuary was approved by the SMC and BOCC. The State's Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the plan with minor revisions.

When the Malabar Scrub Management Plan was submitted to the SMC, they approved the plan with the contingency that the proposed paved linear trail be placed on the exiting 4 lane concrete road that runs down the center of the sanctuary. When the BOCC approved the plan, a change was made to place the proposed paved linear trail down the east side of the Sanctuary. The ARC Council has pended consideration of the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan until additional information can be provided. Some of that information includes:

- Restoration plans
- Location of facilities
- Plans for location of the trail and impacts to sanctuary

Paul Schmalzer clarified that removal of all or part of the concrete boulevard is being considered, but that neither a feasibility study, nor a cost/benefit analysis have been done, and that removal of the concrete is not part of the existing management plan.

Members of the REAC Committee expressed their desire to visit the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary as well as other sites they were being asked to consider. Brad confirmed that there are plans for a field trip to this location.

Additional information will be provided on this item in the future, as review of the proposed paved trail is scheduled to come back to the REAC and SMC committees again, before the Malabar Scrub Management Plan is resubmitted to the ARC Council.

#### Additional Discussion

Brad and Paul provided information on upcoming land acquisition option agreements that were scheduled to be presented to the Board on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Crane Creek Sanctuary Proposed Public Access Plan**

Brad provided overview information on this 22± acre sanctuary that is located in the South Region, on the west coast of the Indian River Lagoon, near Melbourne.

It is anticipated that the primary access to this site will be from the water, using canoes or kayaks. The Crane Creek Sanctuary does not currently have a legal access point from land, or a place for vehicle parking. An agreement has been reached with neighboring homeowners for EEL staff to get to the site using private driveways, but these citizens, understandably, do not want their private property opened to the public. Fire lines will be identified as non-hiking areas. There are plans for educational signs at the nearby Riverview Park, along the sanctuary trails, and at the planned canoe landing.

A hiking trail approximately 1 to 1½ miles long will be established within the sanctuary with the trail head being located at the canoe landing.

A public meeting was held on October 30<sup>th</sup> to provide an opportunity for the public to receive information and provide comments on the proposed public access plan for this site.

Comments received at the stakeholder meeting included:

- Neighboring homeowners who live adjacent to the sanctuary had concerns regarding possible public land access and possible illegal activity.

- Neighbors who did not live adjacent to the sanctuary said that they would like to have access.
- One citizen was concerned about littering and alligators.

The group also discussed their field trip to this site.

Members of the REAC Committee expressed their support for the proposed plan.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Jim Durocher moved to support the Crane Creek proposed public access plan as presented by staff.**

**Doug Sphar seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEXT MEETING:**

To be determined.

**ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

- Motion to support the Crane Creek proposed public access plan as presented by staff.