

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 10, 2008
REAC Committee Field Trip to Malabar Scrub Sanctuary
Attendance List**

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Murray Hann
Mark Nathan
Eve Owens
Doug Sphar
Jim Durocher

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee

EEL PROGRAM/BREVARD COUNTY STAFF

Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Chris O'Hara
David DeMeyer
Heidi Denis
Barabara Meyer
Brian Breslin
Alan Woolrich

CITIZENS

Bonnie Wilbanks-Free (Town of Malabar, Town Manager)
Brian Vail (Town of Malabar, Town Council)
Nancy Borton (Town of Malabar, Town Council)
Stuart Borton
Jeff McKnight (Town of Malabar, Town Council)
Don Krieger (Town of Malabar, Zoning Board)

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Minutes**

The Recreation and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) met at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary in Malabar at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 10, 2008. This trip was scheduled so that Committee members could review issues related to a proposed paved linear trail at Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

The tour began with a discussion of approximately 30 minutes about the history of the paved trail project, and the issues considered in regard to alignment. Some of the issues that were discussed included:

- Clarification that the Public Access Plan and Sanctuary Management plans were originally reviewed by the REAC and SMC, and that they were supported and approved without any mention of a paved trail project.
- When the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners, the Board pended approval of the plan to consider a citizen's request for a paved trail.
- A paved trail was proposed for the firebreak on the east side of the Sanctuary's eastern portion.
- The proposed paved trail on the east side of the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary was not brought to the SMC for consideration until February 2007, after the Board of County Commissioners deferred action on the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan. Citizens provided overview information to the SMC for their consideration. This information included references to the need to have the paved trail located on the east side so it could line up with the Town of Malabar trail head, as part of a long standing project which had been coordinated with previous EEL Program staff.
- SMC overview concerns were forwarded to the REAC Committee for their review.
- The REAC Committee reviewed plans by staff for a revised Public Access Plan with a paved trail project on the east side of the sanctuary. The REAC supported the plans, which included the paved trail project on the east side of the sanctuary, as presented by staff.
- A revised Sanctuary Management Plan, which included plans for the paved trail project to be located down the east side of the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary was submitted to the SMC for consideration.

- The SMC approved the revised Management Plan with the contingency that the paved trail project be located on the existing 4 lane concrete road down the middle of the sanctuary.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved the Management Plan with the paved trail project located on the east side of the sanctuary.
- The Management Plan was sent to the State's Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) for approval as the State holds title to the land because they were a funding partner.
- The ARC Council deferred consideration and requested additional information regarding the paved trail project including; history of the planning process, justification of the proposed location, permitting requirements, environmental impacts, and a few outstanding issues.
- Placement of the paved trail project is one of the outstanding issues that ARC has asked the County to address.
- The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) directed staff to send the plan back through the EEL committee process prior to resubmission. It was mentioned that the purpose of this site visit was to better inform REAC members on the site conditions. No decisions were made by the committee during the field trip.

The participants drove north on Malabar Woods Boulevard through the sanctuary to the northern boundary. Everyone got out of the vehicles and were able to view the existing concrete Boulevard that bisects the sanctuary, the north entrance, the existing paved North Boundary Canal Trail, and the pedestrian footbridge connecting the neighborhood to the north. Eve Owens provided background information on the Boundary Canal Trail project.

The participants then traveled the Boundary Canal Trail to the east toward Marie Street. On Marie Street, everyone disembarked near a wetland on the eastern boundary of the sanctuary. It was discussed that, if the proposed trail was constructed, a boardwalk would be needed to span the wetland, and that gates could be installed at each end to allow vehicle access around it. The participants were able to view a dirt portion of Marie Street, and the firebreak on the eastern boundary of the sanctuary.

The next stop was south on Marie Street, where the pavement begins. It was discussed that at this point, it seems that the road easement is wider, and would allow the paved trail to be located next to the road. EEL staff, Barbara Meyer, and representatives from the Town of Malabar agreed that this would be the preferred alignment. The Town of Malabar was having Marie Street surveyed to clarify questions regarding easements. Participants viewed the existing fireline that follows the boundary of an out parcel. This could be the alternate location for the paved trail, if adequate easement along Marie Street does not exist.

The next stop was at Malabar Trailhead #1. Murray Hann described the amenities there: parking, covered picnic pavilion, equestrian facilities, fire ring, scout camping area, porta-potty.

Most of the work had been done by volunteers. He explained that a grant proposal for upgraded handicapped parking, and restrooms with running water had been submitted. He explained that the grant was not received, because there was no ADA accessible trail to the site.

The final stop of the field trip was along Marie Street, south of Malabar Road, near Glatter Road. There, the participants could see the easement along Marie Street north of Glatter, and the mulched easement adjacent to a new development south of Glatter, that have been secured for use as a trail. The participants then traveled west on Glatter, and saw that it is primarily a narrow dirt road with a deep ditch on the south side, and large power poles on the north side.

The group reconvened at the parking area at Malabar Park and discussed the trail project for a few minutes longer. It was stated that a REAC meeting would be scheduled once the information requested by ARC had been gathered, hopefully in March. Everyone was thanked for their participation.

The field trip was concluded at approximately 12:00 PM.