



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

**April 8, 2008  
Attendance List**

**SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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

**EEL PROGRAM STAFF**

Sandy Carnival  
Laura Clark  
David DeMeyer  
Mike Knight  
Katrina Morrell  
Chris O'Hara

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

Keith Fountain  
Anne Mayer  
Rebecca Perry

**GUESTS**

Ernie Brown, Director, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office  
Bonilyn Wilbanks-Free, Town Administrator, Town of Malabar  
Susan Gosselin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office  
Suzanne Valencia, Sierra Club

*April 8, 2008  
Approved June 17 2008*



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

April 8, 2008  
Meeting Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

### MINUTES:

The March 11, 2008 minutes were presented for approval.

Ross asked for comments to the March minutes.

Paul Schmalzer stated that he had some items on these minutes. He said that the first items were on the order of corrections, and others related to discussion in the minutes that seemed confusing.

He noted the following:

- Page 3, re: Tico Airport, Discussion of options: Option 2 and 3 are reversed.

Discussion ensued that clarified that no priority had been assigned to the land swap choices that had been discussed during the March meeting.

Ross made the following suggestion:

- Change the word "options" to "considerations".

Paul offered additional comments related to corrections:

- Page 7, paragraph beginning: "Paul said that if you narrow the trail...": The last sentence should be clarified as "He added that if the trail was not going to go around the outparcel but come out to Marie Street at the north end of the outparcel, which was discussed at the REAC site visit, that would also reduce the amount of linear impact and the number of acres that would have a non-pervious surface."
- Page 8, re: Jordan Scrub Management Plan: Clarification should be provided that the language in the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan allows the temporary use of an existing trail and a planned trail (not road) on a temporary basis. No paved trails are authorized for the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary.
- Page 10, beginning of Ross's Proposal: The line is marked as deleted, it but still shows up.
- Page 15, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sentences: Insert comma before "for informational purposes".
- Page 16, paragraph beginning "Dave stated that if he was going to...": Insert "it" after restoring and change "affective" to "affecting".
- Page 8, acronym incomplete: "FNA" should be "FNAI"

Paul said he also had a few comments on the discussion from the March meeting:

- Page 2, TNC Report Ag Ventures - "did not know what would be acceptable to the Board". Paul stated that the price paid for EEL Program acquisitions is supposed to be based on independent appraisals by qualified professionals and he asked if there had been a change in the process for determining value.

Keith Fountain confirmed the same parameters still apply.

- Inconsistencies in width regarding the discussion of the proposed paved trail.  
Paul stated that on several pages there was discussion of the proposed paved trail within different contexts, and there seemed to be some inconsistencies of what constitutes a minimum width. Paul stated that on Page 4 in public comments related to the ARC meeting, it was listed as 12 feet; on Page 5 Mike and Barbara had mentioned options for making it more narrow in sensitive areas; page 7 mentioned a minimum of 8 feet due to the requirement of fire vehicle access; page 9 mentioned 10 feet as paved and also 10 feet with a 2 foot buffer on each side. Paul said that Ross's proposal read the trail will be as narrow as possible, but there seems to be some inconsistency as to what "as narrow as possible" means.

Mike Knight confirmed that what is proposed is 10 feet for paved width, with 2 feet of stabilization on each side, to protect the edge, so they were really talking about a 14 foot footprint. He said we presumed that what we would do, based on Ross's comments, is that during the design process, figure out how narrow we could get it. Mike said that it may even be more narrow than 8 feet if we can figure out how to make it work, and accommodate the needs of the users, and also allow for a fire line access next to it. He stated that if we were to say, no more than 8 feet, so that we can make it like the North Boundary Canal trail, because we know we can drive trucks on it, that would be another way to say it. Mike said that he thinks we're all geared towards trying to make it as narrow as possible, and hopefully we can just have the latitude of trying to do that in the design process.

Ross said that was one of the reasons his proposal said "as narrow a possible, rather than put a specific footage on it, because in some places it might have to be a little more, and in some places it would be a lot less, so the design should break that out.

Paul asked if perhaps there shouldn't be some guidance in this proposal to REAC, of setting a maximum or not to exceed width.

Ross clarified that would be discussion outside of the March minutes, and that it would be best to clarify the minutes first.

Paul agreed. He continued with his comments on the discussion from the March meeting.

- Procedural questions regarding the process for the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan.
  - Paul said that on Page 7 where Mike was speaking the minutes indicated "Mike clarified the requested paved linear trail would not come back to the SMC for reconsideration without the requested information and that the SMC would not see it until they reviewed the revised Management Plan." Paul stated that he felt that as new information becomes available, it should be provided to the SMC.

Mike clarified that the information would be provide as it was received, but that the revised Management Plan would not come back to the SMC for approval until all the information was received. Mike also confirmed that the entire management plan would be brought back to the SMC because they had to adjust the location of the South Region's facilities and a variety of other items.

Paul asked for clarification of whether or not the Management Plan would go back to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) once it goes through the Committee process again.

Mike stated it was his understanding that the Management Plan would be reviewed by REAC, the SMC, and the Board of County Commissioners, and then be resubmitted to the ARC Council.

- Clarification was provided that the last line in Ross's proposal would need to be revised to include adding the Board's review to reflect the process as Mike had just stated it. The line will be revised to read "...take the EEL SMC reconsideration to the BOCC and the ARC for their consideration."

- Ross's Proposal

Paul stated that he wanted to be sure that support for Ross's Proposal was not considered to be a final endorsement of a paved linear trail at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary when information on the Proposal was forwarded to the REAC Committee. Mike confirmed that was correct.

Paul stated that Ross's proposal did not contain the information that had been requested by ARC.

Clarification was provided that since the revised proposal had not been distributed to the SMC for final review, approval of the April 8, 2008 minutes would be considered formal approval of the proposal.

Paul stated the topic of proposals for paved linear trails on other sanctuaries in the South Regions has been listed on previous meeting agendas, but tabled during the meetings due to time constraints, and that in March the Committee was told the topic would probably be on the April agenda, and that since it wasn't, was there a schedule for moving that discussion forward?

Mike replied that he had been holding off further discussion until this particular issue was resolved because it had been important to address it first. He said he wanted to make a point that the other one was not a proposal and that no one had formally requested to have paved trails on other sanctuaries, staff had just seen what was drawn on the maps and felt the SMC should have a discussion early on about how to deal with it.

- Revisions to Sanctuary Management Manual

Paul stated that the revisions to the Sanctuary Management Manual had been approved in March and asked when it was expected that they would go to the Board.

Mike confirmed it was anticipated that the item would be presented during June.

Ross asked for additional comments. There were none.

**MOTION ONE:**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the March 11, 2008 minutes as amended.**

**Randy Parkinson seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

The Administrative Review was discussed.

FCT Grant for Thousand Islands: Reynolds and Crawford Properties

Mike informed the group that final Florida Communities Trust approval for the grant on the Thousand Islands properties was scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. This approval is contingent on both the Crawford and Reynolds properties being acquired. The Crawford property has already closed and the Reynolds property is scheduled to close on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Tony Sasso, formally a City of Cocoa Beach Council person, has recently been elected to the State Legislature. Tony and Mike have confirmed they will be available by phone for the meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

It is anticipated that the County will receive approximately \$800,000 in grant funding partnership for these acquisitions if final approval is received.

### Florida Today Newspaper Article.

Mike spoke briefly about a Florida Today Newspaper Article that had come out in the previous Sunday's paper. He explained to the SMC that he was now communicating strictly via e-mail with this particular reporter due to inaccuracies in previous articles, and he wanted to clarify two points where the reporter received correct information from him, but for whatever reason, the information was not contained in the article.

The newspaper article implied that the EEL Program was buying lands at waterfront values when the land was next to a marsh. Mike explained that this aspect of the information in the appraisal had been identified during the appraisal review process; it was also addressed in the Negotiation Summary, but that information was not included in the article.

In addition, the article implied that there had been an overpayment to The Nature Conservancy for services to the EEL Program. The issue in question was reviewed by the County Attorney who determined that no overpayment had occurred. Changes in the proposed contract with TNC have been made to address the issue in question.

### Thousand Islands Mangrove Trimming

Paul said he was pleased to see that the Department of Environmental Protection had concluded that the trimming by the surveyors at the Thousand Islands had been determined justified and within the scope allowed under the rules.

## **SMC REPORTS**

Paul informed the group that he had received a newsletter from the Conridina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and they are planning to feature a special DVD regarding a walk through the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary with Margaret Hames at their next meeting. Discussion confirmed the recording was probably done during the 1990s.

Mike stated that he would like to obtain a copy of the recording for the EEL Program.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **Education – Katrina Morrell**

Katrina Morrell, Education Coordinator for the EEL Program provided information on Education activities since the joint meeting including:

- Teaching of Certified Interpretive Guide Course at Tibet-Butler Preserve, Orlando
- North Region Draft Interpretive Plan
  - Updating Exhibits at Enchanted Forest
  - Summarizes current media (exhibits, trail signs, etc.)
  - Works with land Management Plans
  - Identified what needs to be done
  - Action Plan for completion of Tasks
- No Child Left Inside Program
  - Working with Brevard Zoo on web based program to get families outside
- Participation in *Research Rules!*
- Community Outreach Programs

### **Annual Report – Sandy Carnival**

Sandy Carnival, EEL Program Support Service Manager, provided copies of the final EEL Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2006/2007. She thanked the SMC for their input and stated that although the majority of suggestions that had been received were included in the final report, some of the ideas would

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be used in future issues. She said that anyone who had suggestions for future issues should send them in. The Annual Report will be available in PDF format.

### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:**

Keith Fountain reviewed The Nature Conservancy's April 8, 2008 Report to the SMC.

- Ag Ventures /Honeywell property: New negotiations are underway as the previous contracts expired after BOCC review. Also working on clarification of PUD requirements.
- Honey Hole Ranch Conservation Easement: Appraisal site visit last week. Appraisal process ongoing.
- NIRL Bohne/Coleman, Cherven, Maggio, Reichman property owners have all been contacted recently and have expressed an interest in selling.
- NIRL Xynidis landowner contacted recently and remains interested in sale or conservation easement.
- Hunter's Brooke Inholdings - RJM Investments and Wasileski/Woodland Ranch: Getting close to the appraisal process.
- BLWY The Nature Conservancy / fka St. Lucie Consulting: Appraisal complete. TNC to draft agreement.
- BLWY Sykes Creek Properties Boyd and DiChristopher: New negotiations are in process as the previous contracts expired after BOCC review. Appraisals have been updated.
- BCSE Hossain (fka Albury): New negotiations are in process as the previous contracts expired after BOCC review. Appraisals to be updated.
- BCSE Jordan Inholding Balkany: Landowner accepted last offer. TNC negotiating contract terms.
- FIND Swap: discussions continuing

### Additional Discussion

Mike informed the SMC that the Town of Grant/Valkaria has asked the EEL Program to provide information on our plans for acquisition in that area in order to better understand the benefits and potential impacts to the future growth of the Town. Additional information on this topic will be provided in the future.

Ross said that he and Mike had attended a meeting with folks from the City of Titusville at the request of District 1 Commissioner Truman Scarborough. A group of citizens who are interested in a project on 94 acres (North west corner of Garden Street and I-95), where there were previous plans to build a Wal-mart, have submitted this property to ARC for their consideration as a new Florida Forever Project. The SMC reviewed a previous request regarding a project on this location on April 6, 2007. At that time, the SMC tabled consideration of participating in what was then known as Tortoise Ridge, due to funding constraints and concerns that the plans for the project might not be compatible with EEL Program management goals. Additional information will be provided on this topic in the future.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **Lake Poinsett Regional Offsite Mitigation Area - ROMA**

Mike explained that Ernie Brown, Director of Natural Resources Management Office (NRMO) had come to the EEL Program in June 2005 to discuss the possibility of the EEL Program accepting donations of small parcels of mitigation properties from a Regional Offsite Mitigation Area (ROMA) off Lake Poinsett Road, in Cocoa.

During the June 2005 meeting, the SMC agreed with the idea conceptually, and clarification was provided that the following information would need to be addressed before further consideration:

- Does the land meet criteria for acquisition by the EEL Program?
- What are the details of the contract?
- Would a per acre management fee be appropriate?
- How does fire management fit into the plan?

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An SMC site visit was held on July 27, 2005 and staff also visited the site. The following items were noted in those reports:

- The site appears appropriate for a ROMA.
- There is no direct access to the south side of the property except by crossing a large canal.
- Who will be responsible for the initial restoration of the site?
- Will resources for long-term management come with the donation of the land?
- What level of public access is appropriate and how can it be managed?
- Access for exotic plant control would be easiest via airboat during high-water periods.
- Giant reed (*Phragmites*) could be sprayed from watercraft along the open water areas.
- A grove de-watering pump is located along the north property line about 150 m from the north east corner. This pump discharges directly into the wetlands of the subject property.
- In addition, some debris was noted dumped along the northern property boundary, apparently in association with grove operations.

Ernie stated that Brevard County and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) attorneys have been working on this item since the last meeting. He clarified that the County's wetlands mitigation guidelines require "no net loss" and that single family homeowners needed a place where they can purchase mitigation credits in small increments. He said a ROMA is seen as a win-win in this type situation because the impact and mitigation areas were local.

Ernie stated that there was a current landowner who was ready to purchase and donate mitigation property, but that NRMO is not currently authorized to accept donations of property.

Mike clarified that the EEL Program has blanket authority to accept property donations that have been approved by the SMC.

Ernie said that they were still working out the details of the Lake Poinsett ROMA, and he said that he could go to the Board on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to request that Natural Resources be permitted to accept this one donation. He asked the SMC if they would like to accept the donation from the current landowner, with the understanding that the rest of the details on the ROMA would be worked out.

Discussion ensued. The following was noted:

- Information requested previously has not yet been received.
- A conservation easement over the entire property would be required.
- Several items, including clarification of who would manage the property and how were they going to pay for it still needed to be worked out.
- Management fees required clarification.
- Would it be possible to transfer the property back to SJRWMD when the smaller lots could be bundled into a larger adjacent piece?
- Although Scott Taylor, the Central Region Land Manager has a strong background in salt water marsh management, the EEL Program does not have a great deal of expertise in managing fresh water marsh, which requires regular prescribed fire.
- The EEL Program does not presently own a lot of the equipment required for fresh water marsh management.
- The SJRWMD owns and manages most of the property in this area.
- The site has an urban interface which makes management more difficult.
- The site is distant from other EEL Program conservation lands.

Clarification was provided that it would be best to receive additional information before a final motion was submitted.

Additional information will be provided in the future.

## **Hossain Property**

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Mike stated that the Hossain property acquisition is under new negotiations as the previous option agreement has expired since it was submitted to the BOCC.

He explained that the Town of Malabar has requested that the portion of this property that sits south of Malabar Road on Glatter Road be given to the Town for their use as a public utility easement and right-of-way.

Staff's opinion is that the sliver of land that the Town of Malabar has interest in does not have any conservation value and that if the option agreement goes back to the BOCC, staff wants to have SMC input on the Town's request.

Kim Zarillo asked if the property would be transferred to the Town at the appraised value.

Mike said that it was his perspective that if the BOCC was supportive of the transfer, the details would need to be worked out between the BOCC and the County Attorney. He said that compensation would be pursued at some level.

Paul said that because the County would be using bond funds, specified for the purposed of buying land for conservation, compensation of some sort would need to be worked out if part of that land was turned over to another entity.

Mike stated that it was his hope that the SMC would confirm that the property the Town of Malabar has an interest in does not have any conservation value, and that the details would be worked out during the transfer.

Ross asked if all Mike was asking for was a motion that the SMC agreed to transfer the property within the context of what was legal and for the County to negotiate.

Mike said yes.

Ross clarified the question for the SMC is: "Would removing that sliver of land damage the conservation value of the surrounding property?" and he stated that the County would work within the bonding constraints.

Ron Hight asked if it would be possible for the Town to purchase the property separately.

Kim Zarillo stated she would like to have that question answered, as well.

Mike stated that it was his understanding that there was no motivation for the owner to split the property up.

Ross stated that if the property was split up, it would also require an additional appraisal.

#### Public Comment

Bonilyn Wilbanks-Free, Town Administrator from the Town of Malabar stated that she felt that the property was not really big enough to do anything with from the owner's perspective but that it would be a perk for the Town because of drainage issues on Malabar and Glatter Roads.

#### Additional Discussion

##### **MOTION TWO**

**Mark Bush made a motion for staff to separate out the sub-parcel within the Hossain property and transfer it to the Malabar Town Council.**

**Ron Hight seconded the motion.**

Ross asked if there was additional discussion.

Kim mentioned that Mark's motion did not include any reference to compensation.

Randy Parkinson said that he understood the motion to mean that staff would work out the details of the transfer.

Mark suggested that the compensation could be a land swap.

Kim expressed her concern that it could be nothing.

Randy, Mark and Ross agreed that it could be nothing.

Ross asked if there was additional discussion, questions, or public comment.

There was none.

Ross called for a vote.

(Motion Two – con't)

**Ross Hinkle, Mark Bush, Ron Hight, Randy Parkinson, Paul Schmalzer, and Dave Breininger voted affirmative.**

**Kim Zarillo voted in opposition.**

**The motion passed.**

### **Honey Hole Ranch Conservation Easement**

Mike explained that the purpose of this discussion was to consider a 2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Vote on the Honey Hole Ranch Conservation easement in order to authorize negotiations with the owner. This property has been discussed at length during previous SMC meetings. The property received a Priority 2 vote on September 8, 2007. Appraisals are underway.

#### Public Comment

None

#### Additional Discussion

Ross asked for discussion or a motion.

#### **MOTION THREE**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Vote on the Honey Hole Ranch Conservation Easement to authorize negotiations with the owner.**

**Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.**

Ross asked if there was any additional discussion. There was none.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **DiChristopher Property**

This property is under new negotiations as the option agreement expired since the property was reviewed by the BOCC. There has been significant discussion on this property at previous meetings.

Ross explained that the owner has removed 15 acres from the north east portion of the property from his willing seller application and staff is requesting confirmation that the SMC would still like to pursue negotiations with the landowner.

Mike reviewed a map showing the location of the 15 acres.

#### **MOTION FOUR**

**Paul moved to approve continued negotiations of the DiChristopher property, minus the 15 acres removed by the owner.**

**Dave seconded the motion.**

Ross asked for additional comment.

Mark Bush said that he had never really been excited about this acquisition and expressed his concerns related to the acquisition history because it had been a Priority 2, but was raised to a Priority 1 at the regroup in an effort to be fair to the owner because the contract had been submitted to the BOCC, then the BOCC declined the contract and now the owner was changing his mind about what was being offered.

Paul said that the acquisition of the Boyd and DiChristopher acquisitions would link up the 400+ acres in the Ulumay Sanctuary which is in conservation, to several hundred acres of publicly owned property to the north. He reminded the group that when only one of the properties was presented to the SMC, acquisition was not pursued, but when the second property was added, it provided the opportunity to connect the two

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pieces of conservation land, and enhance the value of those wetlands, even impounded wetlands, to the Indian River Lagoon system.

Ross said that the committee had already approved the acquisition to move forward, the questions was "Does the removal of 15 acres reduce the conservation value enough to step away from the deal, or try to step away from the deal?"

Clarification was provided that acquisition of the Boyd and DiChristopher properties was contingent on both properties being acquired.

Dave said that he understood that we were trying to build a connection to existing ecosystems, but what was unclear to him was how to proceed with others.

Paul said that Blueways was a State approved project with the possibility of matching funds, when they became available. He reminded the group that the SMC agreed to take on management of areas within the Blueways that were being acquired in order to help the State move forward with acquisition in that project. He mentioned that no requests to take on management of other properties had been received, that he was aware of, but the agreement had been made.

Randy stated his understanding that at this stage the SMC was being asked to determine if the removal of 15 acres constituted a large impact to the conservation value of the property, not to determine if the area as a whole was viable.

Mike said that he felt that it would not be a good idea to step away at this time.

Keith said that he believes that it is possible that Mr. DiChristopher wants to sell the 15 acres for mitigation, and perhaps TNC can build protection of the landscape into the contract.

Paul said that meant that the EEL Program might get those 15 acres as a mitigation donation, for free.

Mike clarified that what was driving this was that the most recent appraisals had come in with lower values, and that it was possible that the property might be purchased at a lower price than what had already been approved by the SMC.

Dave asked if this was the last set of impoundments that had any priority.

Paul confirmed that there are other properties in the North Indian River Lagoon which were considered a priority.

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Additional discussion

Ron said that he felt wetlands like this could have greater value than folks were aware of, and that consolidated ownership of the area would be beneficial in the long run.

Clarification was provided that the motion on the table did not include any contingency regarding TNC including protection of the 15 acres in the contract.

Discussion ensued about the possibilities associated with sea level rise. Ross explained that not all marshes would flood at the same time, and transitional refugia was needed.

Ross called for a motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Moorehead Property**

Mike explained that Mr. Moorehead has an interest in an even exchange for a piece of his property, which is located east of the rail road tracks and south of the Storey and Parrish properties in the Indian River Lagoon, with part of the groves acquired as part of the Nevins Fruit parcel.

Clarification was provided that it is staff's opinion that the proposed exchange would not constitute a net conservation benefit to the EEL Program, but staff desires confirmation from the SMC regarding their preference.

Ross stated that, in his opinion, we needed the upland on the Nevis Fruit parcel to protect the watershed along the Lagoon, and that since the other property would most likely not be developed, the Program would be exchanging property that we needed for property that's probably going to be protected anyway. Ross said he thought it was appropriate to say that the Program was not interested in an exchange of this type.

Mark and Paul voiced their support for declining the exchange of properties proposed by Mr. Moorehead.

Clarification was provided that Mr. Moorehead has not yet completed a willing seller application.

Ross suggested to Mike that he could indicate that the SMC had discussed the exchange and was not supportive of a transfer of properties, and if Mr. Moorehead wants to fill out an application, he has the right to do that.

Ross asked for additional discussion or public comment.

There was none.

### **Jordan Scrub Sanctuary Site Review / Discussion**

The SMC is doing a review of each sanctuary to discuss current and future management needs. The sanctuary is 352 acres and is comprised mostly of scrubby flatwoods. It is located directly west of US 1, south of Malabar Road, on Jordan Blvd.

Chris O'Hara provided information on recently completed prescribed fires on most of the sanctuary. He reported that the installation of fencing has reduced a lot of the illegal ATV activity that was occurring on the site and that native vegetation is coming back nicely.

A preliminary gopher tortoise survey on 17 acres found a large number of burrows.

There are plans for more surveys after the prescribed fire.

Chris confirmed that the Balkany property is in negotiation.

Dave asked about the status of the Cochran donation.

Mike replied the County Attorney is working with the file.

Dave asked if Chris was aware of the plans for the 20± acres that is being subtracted from the mitigation donation which has been pending for several years.

Chris confirmed he did not know what was planned for the area.

Dave expressed his concerns regarding the effect that in holdings would have on the Florida Scrub-Jays in that area, because an area that is developed, or forested, would negatively impact the Jays ability to travel freely over the large area that they require.

Dave explained that if everything was restored optimally, there could be 9 Jay family groups at the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary. The extinction threshold is considered to be 10 family groups. He explained that while there used to be 12 Jay families around the Valkaria Airport property which is located to the south of the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary, there are now only two, and he clarified the need for connected, large, open scrub landscapes to protect the current population's viability. He explained that it was very important that additional land management activity was completed as soon as possible on the east side of the sanctuary next to the rail road tracks and that the protected area be enlarged to help ensure the existing populations do not become extinct in this area.

Chris explained that the area on the eastern side has not been a top priority, as it is a challenging place to burn.

Dave re-emphasized the importance of maintaining as much quality habitat in this area as possible.

Mike explained that it is possible that the owners of the Coastal Jewell (previously known as Skora) property may become willing sellers. The Coastal Jewell property is approximately 200 acres and it is adjacent to the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary on the North.

Paul reviewed his report, which provided information on rare plants at the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary. The report was also distributed to the SMC prior to the meeting. Several rare plants occur at the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary including *Lechea cernua* (nodding pinweed), *Lechea divaricata* (drysand pinweed), *Nolina atopocarpa* (Florida beargrass), and *Pinguicula lutea* (yellow-flowered butterwort). Both species of *Lechea* are scrub plants that occur primarily in openings. Their populations in the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary are small. *Nolina* and *Pinguicula* are primarily mesic flatwoods species. In Brevard County, *Nolina* appears to occur only in the southern part of the county with small populations known from Malabar East, Jordan and Valkaria Sanctuaries. *Pinguicula* occurs in small numbers at the Jordan and Valkaria Sanctuaries in the southern part of the county and at Buck Lake in the north. Prescribed fire is important to maintaining the habitat for all these plants.

Mark Bush suggested a cooperative effort with the Town of Malabar to ensure that any property that was donated for mitigation be continuous, if possible.

Ross suggested consideration of working with the Town of Malabar in a cooperative effort to purchase the Coastal Jewell property as an extension of the Jordan Scrub Sanctuary and using a small portion of the property on the northern end as a location for the Malabar Town Hall. He reminded the group that the Coastal Jewell property is currently not in conservation, and a cooperative effort of this type would provide the Town of Malabar with a new Town Hall location, which they need, and increase land under protection, without compromising the quality of any lands currently in conservation.

Mike suggested the consideration of all options.

#### Public Comment

Bonnie Wilbanks-Free said that the Town of Malabar has also received options from citizens offering to assist with the possible location of a new Town Hall.

#### Additional Discussion

Ross asked if there has been any hydrological management.

Chris explained that there has been some hydrological management in small sections, but it has not been a priority as the wetlands were rebounding well after reduction of ATV activity. He explained that there was still some ATV use on the weekends and that a trash clean up day is planned in the future.

Dave expressed his support for a cooperative effort with the Town of Grant/Valkaria to help provide continuity of conservation lands.

Discussion ensued regarding the best way to document the Sanctuary reviews.

Mike explained he had considered having the information in the minutes, or for the land manager to generate a report on each sanctuary. He asked the SMC if there was any particular outcome that they wanted.

Ross suggested the information be included in the minutes, and kept in a separate file for easy reference, so the group could look back later and review the big picture.

Randy suggested the use of a template for this report.

Ron said that he thought the easiest way was to document the most important aspects of the discussion, perhaps with bullets.

Consideration was given to including the bulleted items as a summary within the Sanctuary Matrix maintained by Sandy Carnival.

Additional sanctuary discussions will be scheduled.

Public Comment

None.

**Fulcher Property**

Ross explained that the purpose of this discuss was to review the April 3, 2008 Site Visit Report and consider a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote.

Paul reviewed the site visit report. The property is 158.6 acres directly north of CIDCO Industrial Park. It includes a scrub ridge and wetlands to the north and east, with some wetter areas to the west.

Dave asked about available funding.

Clarification was provided that if the Ag Ventures and Scottsmoor property acquisitions are completed, it will use most of the available funding, unless the Program can bond the remaining capacity in the referendum.

The group concurred that acquisition of large landscapes which have already been identified as highest priority should remain the focus of acquisition efforts.

Ross said that the question on the table was whether or not to approve a 1<sup>st</sup> Majority vote, and that for him, the property would be a low priority.

Paul stated that the property wasn't in bad shape, but that it was important not to dilute acquisition efforts that were already under way. He mentioned that perhaps the property could be reevaluated some time in the future if the funding situation changes. The group agreed.

Rebecca Perry with The Nature Conservancy mentioned that public access to this site would be difficult.

**MOTION FIVE**

**Kim Zarillo moved to decline the Fulcher Property 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote.**

**Ron Hight seconded the motion.**

Additional discussion ensued clarifying the reasons why the SMC declined the property:

- Existing efforts for lands with higher priorities will take up the available funding
- Not in close proximity to existing conservation lands
- Difficulty for public access
- Contingency in management efforts

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Staff will contact the landowner.

**NEXT MEETING:**

It was determined that the next meeting will be held on May 13, 2008.

**ADJOURNED:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:**

- Motion to approve the March 8, 2008 SMC minutes as presented.
- Motion for staff to separate out the sub-parcel within the Hossain property and transfer it to the Malabar Town Council.
- Motion to approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Vote on the Honey Hole Ranch Conservation Easement to authorize negotiations with the owner.
- Motion to approve continued negotiations on the DiChristopher property, minus the 15 acres removed by the owner.
- Motion to decline the Fulcher Property 1<sup>st</sup> Majority Vote.