



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

**March 27, 2009
Attendance List**

SELECTION & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Bush
Ross Hinkle
Randy Parkinson
Paul Schmalzer
Kim Zarillo

EEL PROGRAM STAFF

Sandy Carnival
Laura Clark
Mike Knight
Nichole Perna
Chris O'Hara
Michael Wielenga

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Keith Fountain
Anne Mayer

GUESTS

Lisa Smith, Titusville resident
Vince Lamb, Citizen
Suzanne Valencia
Bonnie Wilbanks-Free, Administrator, Town of Malabar
Eric Munzenmayer Special Assistant, District 3 Office

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

*March 27, 2009
Approved May 28 2009*



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

March 27, 2009
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Ross Hinkle, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lisa Smith, Titusville resident informed the group that the City of Titusville and the owner of the Falcon Woods (*aka Tortoise Ridge*) property have worked together to split the cost of an appraisal. The appraisal value was determined to be \$3.5 million for the entire 95± acres, which is significantly below the owner's original asking price of \$10 million. She requested that re-consideration of some type of EEL Program partnership funding come back before the SMC for additional consideration at their next meeting in April.

Ross stated that he recalled that the SMC had requested that this item be brought back at a future date so that it could be re-considered based on the current financial situation at that time.

Mike confirmed that any arrangements that might be worked out would need to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for final approval.

This item will be placed on the April agenda.

MINUTES:

No minutes were presented for review. The February 27, 2009 minutes are incomplete.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

The Administrative Review was reviewed.

Report on scrub-mitigation near Malabar

This topic was discussed later in the meeting, after the TNC report.

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plan

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management plan on March 24, 2009. The next step will be to submit the plan to the Acquisition and Restoration Council in Tallahassee.

Mike also explained that Doug Sphar spoke under Public Comment during the March 24, 2009 meeting regarding his concerns that compensatory mitigation should be considered associated with impacts to the Sanctuary from the proposed paved linear trail. The BOCC has requested that staff work with the Town of Malabar to research a possible cooperative effort for management of conservation lands within the Town.

Air Force Funding

The BOCC unanimously approved a partnership between the 45th Space Wing and the EEL Program to cost share on scrub acquisitions. The Air Force has allocated \$900,000 for this purpose this year.

Mike explained that the Air Force had expressed some interest in transferring the funds prior to a contract closing date and that staff is working to determine the mechanism to accomplish this, as it will require another approval by the BOCC.

Paul stated he felt the partnership was an innovative use of the funding mechanism and that there is potential for monies to be received in additional years.

Ross stated that he wanted to express appreciation to the Air Force for their contribution. He clarified that the Federal Fiscal Year runs from the end of September to October 1, so that timeframe should be kept in mind.

CELP Grant

The BOCC approved the EEL Program's participation in the Department of Environmental Protection Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program grant which was resubmitted with fewer properties on March 24, 2009 because the first grant request was not funded.

First Time Management Costs

During the March 24, 2009 BOCC meeting, staff was directed to report back to the Board with a list of outstanding "initial" exotic plant management costs associated with currently acquired sanctuaries. During that meeting, the Johnson property was used as an example of the high cost of initial exotic plant management actions.

SMC members confirmed they understood that the Johnson property would have a much higher than average cost for initial management than most properties when they made their recommendation for acquisition of the site.

Ross commented that it is important that the Board understands that the SMC considers initial management and weighs that against the total conservation value when making decisions about which lands to acquire.

Paul added that it was important to note that the Program has received significant grant funding for the removal and control of invasive exotic plant species, and that the larger properties purchased recently, were already in pretty good shape and would not require the same intensive level of initial management as the Johnson property.

Ross stated it might be of value to pass the information to the SMC for prioritization before it is submitted to the Board.

Mike confirmed the information would be submitted to the SMC for comment prior to submittal.

Additional Discussion – Windover Preserve Property

Mike reminded the group that during October 2008, Carol Pope, from the Preservation Education Trust, Inc., asked the SMC to consider acquisition of the 8.54± Windover Preserve property in Titusville. The SMC reviewed and considered the information presented during that meeting.

Although the site is a very important archeological site, the SMC declined consideration of acquisition, because the property did not meet the EEL Program's criteria for acquisition based on the habitat within the property being offered. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the possible purchase of a site that had been donated to another organization for preservation. Clarification was provided at the October 2008 meeting that the SMC did have an interest in participating as an educational outreach partner, if the property could be purchased by another group, or donated to the Program.

Mike explained that Ms. Pope has submitted an application on the Windover Preserve Property to the State's Florida Forever Program, and they have asked for input on the EEL Program's willingness to provide management, and education outreach, if the acquisition is funded by the State. He stated that he did not feel that the site would require a great deal of management effort, because of the small size, and asked the SMC if they would be supportive of accepting management responsibility for the site, either through a Management Lease, or if the property is donated to the Program.

Ross stated that he wanted to make it clear, up front, that he lived in the Windover area. He stated that the Windover Preserve is a very important archeological site due to the 8,000 year old human remains that were found in the bog during site preparation for the development. He confirmed there is a large museum exhibit in Tallahassee about the Windover Dig. Ross stated that the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary provides information on impacts to the natural areas by humans in the display on the Addison Canal and that he felt that it might be appropriate to include information on the Windover Preserve in a kiosk at the Sanctuary and to manage the site as a satellite to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, which is nearby.

Clarification was provided that if responsibility for management and educational outreach is accepted by the Program, consideration will need to be given to ensuring that the privacy of the neighbors near the site is protected.

Mark Bush stated it might be possible for his group, at the Florida Institute of Technology, to do a paleoecological study of the marsh and include the information in a display.

Ross suggested that staff prepare a proposal for potential management and educational plans for the Windover Preserve based on the discussion at the meeting, by compiling what could be done and explaining what the impact would be on the Program, and then bring the proposal to the SMC for consideration.

Clarification was requested to determine if the entire 8.54± acres that had been offered for purchase was still included in what was being discussed.

Staff will research and provide clarification.

Kim Zarillo suggested consideration of including St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) folks in the discussions and plans, as the site is adjacent to the 600± acre Bird Lake Marsh which is managed by SJRWMD.

Public Comment

Eric Munsenmeyer, Representative from District 3, asked who maintained the Indian burial mounds and other archeologically important areas located in Brevard County. Clarification was provided that most have been cataloged by the State, and that many are in private ownership. The EEL Program does own part of a mound at the Pine Island Conservation Area on Merritt Island,

and there is another mound within the Indian Mound Sanctuary near Titusville, but that these areas were purchased as part of larger natural areas, for their conservation value, and they are managed primarily for biodiversity.

Eric mentioned it might be possible that some groups might try to shuffle ownership of these type properties to step away from management responsibilities and he mentioned the Program might want to watch for that.

Bonnie Wilbanks-Free, Administrator for the Town of Malabar, asked if there was some way that people in the Town of Malabar could find out if representatives from the Acquisition and Restoration (ARC) Council in Tallahassee would be coming to their area so they could participate in the site visits. Clarification was provided that the Falcon Woods and Windover Preserve trips were part of funding applications submitted to the State by citizens. Clarification was also provided that Department of Environmental Protection inspections occur in Brevard County, but they are requested from a different organization.

SMC REPORTS

Paul said he recently led a Florida Native Plant Society Field Trip to Cruickshank Sanctuary, and while there, he found nodding pinweed which is a State Listed Threatened Species not previously reported at that site. He added that the site looks great and agreed that land management activities have been quite successful.

Ross informed the group that he would be speaking at the Florida Tech auditorium on April 30, 2009 in a presentation sponsored by the Space Coast Science Educators Alliance. The topic of the presentation is *"Why Conservation Lands Matter"*.

Ross also informed the group that Dave Breininger, an SMC member who was not in attendance at the meeting, recently passed his dissertation defense and will shortly receive his Ph.D.

Kim Zarillo explained that she took a group of folks from different countries to the Barrier Island Center recently and they had enjoyed the visit.

STAFF REPORTS:

South Region

Chris O'Hara, South Region Land Manager gave an overview of recent events in the South Region.

South Beach Region

Nichole Perna, South Beach Region Assistant Land Manager gave an overview of recent events in the South Beach Region.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY:

Keith Fountain reviewed The Nature Conservancy's Report to the SMC including:

- Maytown Flatwoods
 - Honey Hole Ranch, LLC – 2 of the 3 appraisals are in
- Fox Lake
 - RJM Land, LLC – This is the second of the two small in holdings. Owner unresponsive to offer.

- Note: Owners of the two in holdings are working with County staff to try to obtain legal access into these two tracts
- East Merritt Island Impoundments
 - McLaney – willing seller application signed March 13, 2009. Near 528 Cswy.
- Jordan Blvd
 - Coastal Jewell – still focusing on contract terms.
 - Data Marketing Management – TNC contacted owner March 17, 2009 at suggestion of Land Manager. Owners considering submitting willing seller application.

Public Comment

None.

Additional Discussion - Report on scrub-mitigation near Malabar (from Admin. Rvw.)

Mike explained that at the last meeting, a request was received regarding the status of the pending donation of approximately 30 acre of property near the Coastal Jewell property. He explained that staff has been in contact with Lisa Toland to determine if the mitigation donation was ever completed, and if so, whether the Homeowners Association, of the County received the donation. Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Indian River Sanctuary (aka Nevins Fruit Property) Interim Management Plan

Public Comment

None.

Additional Discussion

Paul and Ross stated they had provided comments to previous draft versions of the Interim Management Plan, and confirmed their comments have been incorporated into the version dated March 16, 2009.

Mike Knight introduced Michael Wielenga, the Assistant Land Manager from the EEL Program's North Region who provided an overview of the draft interim plan including:

- Indian River Lagoon Sanctuary (IRS) includes 43± acres in Mims, east of US 1, south of Orlando Avenue, north of Grantline Road, and west of the Florida East Coast Railroad. Borders IRL to the east along IRL shoreline.
- Purchased from Nevins Fruit Company in 2007 as part of a larger conservation objective under the Brevard County's portion of the Indian River Lagoon Blueway Florida Forever Project to help protect the Lagoon.
- Will require significant management and restoration, as part of the property includes an abandoned orange grove.
- It is anticipated that grant funding will be used in restoration and management activities.
- Immediate Management Needs
 - Boundary Signs
 - Site is not currently fenced which allows illegal ATV access and trash dumping.
 - A portion of the salt marsh located in the south west corner of the marsh area has been heavily impacted by illegal activities and a section is bared of any vegetation.
 - Clarification of trails
- Public Access Potential
 - Category II site

- Passive recreation opportunities include hiking, wildlife viewing, canoe and kayaking opportunities, along with environmental education.
- Only site managed by EEL Program in North region that includes a salt marsh ecosystem.
- Existing trail system and proposed reclaimed trail will allow the public through most of the Sanctuary habitat.
- Guided canoe and kayak trips as well as hikes could also be scheduled for this property.

Kim mentioned that on page 5, in the 5th paragraph, the section regarding the need for grant funding for management states *“control of invasive species cannot solely be assumed by EEL Program staff and volunteers”*. She suggested that it might be better stated as something similar to *“achieving restoration and maintenance goals will be a matter of resource availability and will be scheduled according to resources”* to clarify that the timeframe may shift, but it is work that we acknowledge needs to be done, even though it may not happen right away.

Clarification was provided that this was an Interim Management Plan and that this change could be incorporated into the final plan.

Motion One

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the Indian River Lagoon Sanctuary Interim Management Plan as presented.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Acosta Groves Property - Option 1 and Option 2 (fka part of First Equity)

Ross asked if the two items for Acosta Groves could be discussed together.

Mike said that would be fine.

Mike also explained that historical information on this property which was included in the Summary of Agenda Items, contains information that may not be accurate and that staff would research this and provided clarification.

These properties are located in Scottsmoor, west of I-95 and south of Huntington Avenue. The areas were previously considered by the SMC for acquisition as parts of a 218+ property known as First Equity which was considered as a potential east-west connection between the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Johns River, before the Scottsmoor Partners, LLC. property willing seller application was received. The properties listed in the options are not adjacent.

An SMC site visit occurred on the First Equity property on May 24, 2006. The First Equity property was declined as the landscape was primarily pasture and watermelon fields, and the SMC felt that existing funding should be geared towards properties with a higher conservation value.

Acosta Groves-Option 1 represents 22+ acres on the eastern most section of the property formerly known as First Equity. Acosta Groves-Option 2 represents 14.6+ acres of the western most section. A large pasture exists between these sites. Both sites are primarily pasture.

Ross stated that the original land acquisition strategy for north Brevard included two objectives: protection of the lagoon, and building an east-west conservation land corridor. He stated that in

his opinion, when you consider the larger landscape perspective, a connection in the northern part of the County, near Turnbull Creek, that would enhance work being done by Volusia County would be more beneficial than a connection in the First Equity area due to the habitat quality, and the benefits that would be gained by being able to expand the conservation landscape that Volusia County was working on.

Mark Bush asked about plans for the large area between the two Acosta Grove sites. Clarification was provided that ownership and plans for the area are unknown.

Paul asked if the little piece on the west which adjoins the Scottsmoor Sanctuary site was all pasture, because if it was intact natural habitat it might be something to consider.

Mike confirmed that the western most piece known as Option 2 is primarily pasture.

MOTION TWO

Paul Schmalzer moved to decline a 1st Majority Vote for the Acosta Groves-Option 1 property.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

Additional Discussion

Ross asked if there was any Public Comment. No comments were received.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION THREE

Paul Schmalzer moved to decline a 1st Majority Vote for the Acosta Groves-Option 2 property.

Mark Bush seconded the motion.

Additional Discussion

Ross asked if there was any Public Comment. No comments were received.

The motion carried unanimously.

South Carpenter Estates Property

The 72± acre South Carpenter Estates Property is adjacent to I-95 on the west and north of Fox Lake Road in Titusville. It is within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project boundary, but there has been substantial development in the general area.

Mike stated he had driven by the property recently and it appeared to be scrubby flatwoods in some areas, and that it appeared to be generally wet.

Ross stated that he was familiar with the property, and a significant portion of it appeared to be wet. He stated that since the EEL Program has been able to acquire the Hunters Brooke property to the west, which is adjacent to the Fox Lake Park, he did not feel that acquisition of the South Carpenter Estates Property would add much conservation value to the area, and that it was isolated and would be difficult to manage.

MOTION FOUR

Paul Schmalzer moved to decline a 1st Majority Vote on the South Carpenter Estates Property.

Mark Bush seconded the motion.

Additional Discussion

Ross asked if there was any Public Comment. No comments were received.

The motion carried unanimously.

Atlantic Coast Paladin Property

The 19.09+ acre Atlantic Coast Paladin property is located within the Town of Malabar, north of the EEL Program's Jordan Scrub Sanctuary. It is east of the Coastal Jewell property which is under negotiation at this time. The property starts at the Florida East Coast Railroad, crosses US1, and extends east in a narrow strip, to the Indian River Lagoon.

Paul reviewed the report from the March 4, 2009 Site Visit. Much of the site burned in the May 2008 wildfires. Before the fires, the site had been unburned for a long time, as indicated by the size of the scrub oaks top-killed by the fire. Flora of the site is primarily native. Most of the exotic species present are in the strip of land east of US 1, or near the roadside west of US 1. No rare plants were observed on the site. Gopher tortoise burrows are present, but all those seen appeared abandoned. The site visit did not examine the entire site. No Florida Scrub-Jays were observed on the site. The scrub vegetation is potential Scrub-Jay habitat. Before the 2008 wildfires, habitat conditions were poor because of fire exclusion. That is still the case in the unburned scrub.

Most of the Atlantic Coast Paladin property supports intact scrub vegetation characteristic of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. Currently, the site is not contiguous with a larger conservation area, which together with its relatively small size, limits its conservation value. If the Coastal Jewell property acquisition is successful, then other conservation lands would be much closer, separated only by the FEC railroad. However, the property is located directly along US 1, and it is effectively waterfront property to the Indian River Lagoon. These factors might increase its economic value to the point that makes it less cost effective for conservation.

Ross stated that if the Coastal Jewell property was able to be acquired, the Atlantic Coast Paladin property might make a good addition, because it might provide a connection to the Indian River Lagoon, but he did not feel it should be considered until the Coastal Jewell negotiations were resolved.

Paul stated that he did not feel acquisition of the site as a stand alone property made sense at this time, and he asked for clarification of the owner's timeframe.

Mark suggested that rather than bringing it to a vote at this time and decline it, consideration should be given to explaining to the owner that the SMC was grateful that the property was brought to the attention of the Program, but that we needed to see how things play out with the Coastal Jewell property.

MOTION FIVE

Kim Zarillo moved to table consideration of the Atlantic Coast Paladin Property until the negotiations for the Coastal Jewell property have been resolved.

Paul Schmalzer seconded the motion.

Additional Discussion

Randy Parkinson stated it was his understanding that negotiations for the Coastal Jewell property were moving slowly.

Clarification was provided that the entire real estate marked is moving slowly at this time. No other comments were received.

The motion carried unanimously.

Viera Property (Barnes Blvd.)

Public Comment

None.

Mike explained that this property had been discussed briefly at the last meeting, as a result of the owner's request, but that the Program did not have a willing seller application at that time. A willing seller application has now been received.

Keith Fountain provided background information from when this property was considered previously by the SMC. He stated that once TNC established a dialog with the Viera Company, the Viera folks went back to their attorneys and asked if they could release liability for the assessment. The answer was no. What then transpired was a discussion about whether, at closing, a lump sum present value payment could be made to the Association, as consideration for the future income stream. It was agreed that that could be done. Also, conversations occurred at the time with the City of Rockledge, who wanted to see this property purchased, and there were discussions about the City possibly providing money for the assessment. There was an assumption that EEL Program funds could not be used to pay for the assessment. All this was left hanging because a purchase price could not be reached.

Mike stated he has had several discussions with Steve Johnson about this recently, and they have put in writing to him, via e-mail, that they believe that if the Viera Co. property on Barnes Blvd. came into the ownership of the County, the annual assessment would not apply.

Keith suggested that this confirmation be obtained in writing from their attorneys.

Mike agreed that would be beneficial. He said that if the Committee was considering a 1st Majority Vote, he would suggest that the vote be contingent upon getting confirmation that the assessment would be removed, clearly stated in writing, so that the EEL Program would not be spending money on appraisals until that was confirmed. He also informed the group that while the willing seller application identifies the property as a little over 12 acres, the Viera Co. intends to donate part of that to the Junior League for a foster care home. He suggested that a site visit might be beneficial.

Additional Discussion

Paul asked about the status of the Viera Community Development District Conservation Easement donation.

Mike explained that as he understood it, under the blanket approval the EEL Program has with the Commission at this time, we have the ability to accept the property as a mitigation donation, because it's in a project area. He stated that the County Attorney's office has raised some concerns, that because the property has already been mitigated, and this is a transfer after mitigation, that technically it's not the same as accepting mitigation, and they are also concerned at the structuring of the management fee. What also complicates this is the Viera Company did not have a formal survey done on the Conservation Easement property, and a formal survey is usually required with this type of donation. The Viera Co. has indicated they are unwilling to absorb the approximately \$36,000 cost of a survey of this size.

Paul mentioned that he thought that the donation could just be considered a regular donation, which the SMC has the authority to recommend accepting.

Mike stated he thought the Program would need to receive final approval from the Board.

Ross stated that there may be a concern with the possible perception that this could be viewed as an organization transferring property to the EEL Program for management so that they didn't have to do it themselves.

Paul stated that it was possible that's how it might be perceived, but that this was an extraordinarily important conservation area for Scrub-Jays and for plants, and that depending on what amounts to a homeowner's association for long term management is flawed conceptually, and flawed in operation.

Mike said that a meeting has been scheduled with Natural Resources, to discuss the issues because when this was set aside, it was done under a binding development agreement which means that Natural Resources is the agency in line to monitor the requirement to manage the property as Scrub-Jay habitat.

Ross stated that he agreed with Paul and that the donation was very important. He also stated that we should exhaust any possibility for mitigation dollars coming in to assist with management.

Paul explained that the Viera Co. had done a lot of work on the site, and that it was in much better shape than when they started. He confirmed that the property has been timbered, chopped, and burned, and that it wasn't all overgrown scrub that needed the same sort of initial management effort as areas that haven't been burned in 40 years. He added that management activities have slowed since the property was transferred to the Viera East Community Development District.

Mike said he felt it was key to have Natural Resources support on the issue, if and when it goes to the Board, because as he understood it, they are the monitoring agency.

Ross asked what would happen if Natural Resources was confirmed as the monitoring agency and the property habitat quality continues to decline.

Mike explained that clarification of accountability is what they are hoping to find out.

Ross stated that if accountability can be established, the organization that is responsible for management needs to understand the responsibilities, and possible consequences of inaction.

Kim stated she thought that perhaps the City of Rockledge might still be interested in the area as part of a greenway, and if so, they should be a partner in educating the Board on that idea.

Mike will check with the City of Rockledge.

Ross emphasized that he felt that establishing accountability for failure of management was very important.

Mike stated that another possibility might be to establish a cooperative management agreement between the EEL Program and the Viera CDD, as they were a governmental agency.

Additional information will be provided in the future.

Viera Property, Barnes Blvd. con't

Ross asked if there were any additional questions or comments related to consideration of the Viera Co. property on Barnes Blvd. No questions or comments were received.

MOTION SIX

Paul Schmalzer moved to approve a 1st Majority Vote on the Viera Co. property on Barnes Blvd., contingent on the determination that the Community Development District annual assessment does not apply.

Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.

Public Comment

None.

The motion carried unanimously.

Central Region Management Update

Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager provided an overview of land management efforts in the Central Region including:

- Capron Ridge - Melbourne
 - Two parcels, totaling approximately 22+ acres.
 - Mitigation donation.
 - Both units were chopped and timbered by the developer prior to donation.
 - North unit burned in 2006.
 - South unit prescribed fire problematic. Homeowner screens located very close to property boundary.
 - Immediately south of the Viera Conservation District Conservation Easement.
 - Would not be a viable site without the connection to a larger conservation area.
 - Gopher tortoises, Florida Scrub-Jays and Scrub lizards on site
 - Minimal exotic plant issues
 - Primary management activity now is trash pick up, including construction trash.
 - Two rare plants
- Cruickshank Sanctuary – Barnes Blvd., Rockledge
 - 5 burn units designated (Unit 5 property recently acquired)
 - Units 1-4 timbered in 2003
 - Units 1-4 each burned once between 2004-2008
 - New outparcel along Barnes (Unit 5) timbered, chopped, and burned
 - Outstanding Florida Scrub-Jay habitat 30 individuals (5-6 families)
 - There were no Scrub-Jays on site before the restoration
 - New, un-banded Jays are showing up
 - Many Gopher tortoises on site
 - Storm water project on ditch still pending
 - Now has only minimal invasive exotic plant issues
 - New parking area = increase in visitation
 - Low lying developed properties in the surrounding area flooded after Tropical Storm Fay.
 - Possible consideration of acquisition of adjacent FPL outparcel
 - Rare plants on site
 - Very successful restoration effort
- Boyd and DiChristopher – Sykes Creek, Merritt Island
 - Part of large managed mosquito impoundment
 - Cooperative management effort necessary

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

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- Tremendous passive recreation and volunteer potential
- *Friends of Ulumay* group
- Clearing of north/south dike will make a superb hiking/biking trail
- Plans to place entire site under EEL Program management cooperating with mosquito control
- Invasive exotics exist on the dikes and in ditches
- Considering Prescribed Fire
- Considering back filling cross ditches
- Paddle potential
- Kabboord Sanctuary- North of Barge Canal, Merritt Island
 - East Hammock / West Hammock
 - Impoundment management cooperative effort with Mosquito Control
 - Entire impoundment was treated for invasive exotic plants with a Bureau of Invasive Plant (BIPM) Management Grant during 1999-2002
 - BIPM grant funds used for maintenance and will be required in future
 - Both Hammock treated for invasive exotic plants under mitigation projects
 - Considering prescribed fire in the marsh area
 - Lead tree is a concern in this area
 - Scrub area chopped and burned in 2006. No recruitment of Scrub-Jays from nearby areas yet.
 - North parcel County owned. Include with EEL Program.
 - Paddle potential
- Johnson Property – Hall Road, Merritt Island
 - Required significant management effort to remove large amounts of invasive exotic Australian Pines and some Brazilian pepper.
 - Pine pile burns pending
 - Site very wet, will need ongoing contractor/BIPM for exotics control.
 - There is an out parcel between the Johnson property and Kings Park.
 - Hidden artesian well flow influences site.
 - Potential for planting / re-vegetation.
 - Kings Park: Pending Project
 - Similar exotic issues as Kabboord.
 - Will propose BIPM funding this year.
 - Cooperative management with Parks & Rec. Include with EEL Program.
 - Great passive recreation potential.
- Thousand Islands - Cocoa Beach
 - Phased approach for removal of Australian Pines, Brazilian pepper and other invasive exotic plant species.
 - Work is continuing on mainland portion.
 - Public Access input regarding passive recreation opportunities is expected to be extensive.
- Pine Island Conservation Area - Merritt Island
 - New acquisitions are rounding out Sanctuary boundary
 - Multiple BIPM Grants obtained since 2002
 - Wetland restoration area functioning well

- Flatwoods received prescribed fire in 2007
- Considering prescribed fire in marsh/shrubs
- Vandalism and ATV trespass are still an issue
- Storm water project pending and complicating
 - Two lakes will be retrofitted to receive overflow from the Pine Island Canal
 - Arrangements were made for Brazilian pepper to be treated as mitigation for the storm water project, but the project hasn't been completed and the pepper is expanding.
- Approx. 15 acres of spoil/overburden remain west of North Lake
- Sams House and Cabin Restoration going well

Additional Discussion

- Future mitigation donations to the EEL Program will have stronger requirements in order to accomplish prescribed fire as homeowners are building very close to the property lines.
- Clarification was requested regarding the status of the pending donation on the Boeing property, east of the Enchanted Forest. Mike confirmed that the donation has not been completed, presumably because they have held off on development at this time.
- Ross commented that the Cruickshank restoration effort would be great for a press release.
- Paul commented that the FPL property adjacent to the Cruickshank Sanctuary would be a good addition to the property.
- Parking will be an issue at the Boyd and DiChristopher / Ulumay Sanctuary.
- Ross asked for clarification of the settlement for the FPL easement at Kabboord Sanctuary.
- Ross commented that management of properties as large landscape unit will assist with protection of biodiversity.
- Mike confirmed that even though the EEL Program will be designated as custodian for management of the Kings Park/Kabboord Sanctuary area, the EEL Program will have a management agreement with Parks & Rec. and they would handle the recreational resource component of the trail. The EEL Program's function will be to deal with the ecological issues, similar to the way things work with Mosquito Control, because they don't do that as part of their function.
- Paul commented that it was good to have different agencies involved in agreements of this type.
- Consideration of treating the Brazilian pepper, and not waiting for the mitigation action related to the pending storm water project at PICA was suggested. Staff will arrange a meeting with the new Director.
- Clarification was provided that a citizen's group plans to form as a non-profit *Friends Group* for the Thousand Islands.

Public Comment

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was scheduled for April 29, 2009.

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

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ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS:

- Motion to approve the Indian River Lagoon Sanctuary Interim Management Plan as presented.
- Motion to decline a 1st Majority Vote on Acosta Groves-Option 1 property.
- Motion to decline a 1st Majority Vote on Acosta Groves-Option 2 property.
- Motion to decline a 1st Majority Vote the South Carpenter Estates property.
- Motion to table consideration of the Atlantic Coast Paladin Property until the negotiations for the Coastal Jewell property have been resolved.
- Motion to approve a 1st Majority Vote on the Viera Co. property on Barnes Blvd., contingent on the determination that the Community Development District annual assessment does not apply.