# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Procedures Committee Meeting

# November 14, 2019

## *Attendance*

### PROCEDURES COMMITTEE MINUTES

* Linda Behret
* Sil Crespo
* Rick Follet
* Bo Platt
* Kim Zarillo

### ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM STAFF

* Laura Clark
* Mike Knight

### GUESTS

* Paul Schmalzer

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

## *Meeting Minutes*

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Linda Behret, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:18 PM.

Clarification was provided that Diane Stees and Leesa Souto had provided advance notice they would not be able to attend.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### MINUTES

Clarification was provided that draft minutes for the following Procedures Committee (PC) meetings are incomplete: March 29, 2019, May 2, 2019, August 1, 2019, plus August 23, 2019 Selection and Management Committee/Procedures Committee (SMC/PC).

**September 20, 2019 SMC/PC minutes.**

The September 20, 2019 SMC/PC minutes were presented for approval.

Linda Behret noted these minutes were approved as amended by the SMC as amended on October 15, 2019. Clarification of those changes was provided to the PC prior to the meeting.

**MOTION ONE**

**Bo Platt moved to approve the September 20, 2019 SMC/PC minutes, as amended by the SMC on October 15, 2019.**

**Sil Crespo seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Quarterly Update**

Mike Knight, EEL Program Manager, provided an EEL Program Quarterly Update.

**Brevard County**

**Environmentally Endangered Lands Program**

**Program Update**

**Procedures Committee November 14, 2019**

Staffing

* Bob Giesey (Geese) passed away.
* Planning to reclassify the “Storekeeper” position to include both warehouse, equipment maintenance and burn day participation.
* Currently working on filling two Land Management Technician openings in South Beaches (Part Time) and North Region (Full Time).

Public Lands Acquisition and Management (PLAM) Conference

* Mike was able to attend the PLAM Conference in Saint Augustine in September.
* Annual conference hosted by the Division of State Lands.

Chamber of Commerce

* Mike presented at the Titusville Chamber of Commerce luncheon on November 13.
* Presentation was well-received. Support for the Program appears to be commonly shared.

Economic Benefit Analysis

* Contractor (Closewaters Limited Liability Corporation) began work in late September.
* Intended to be a 4-month project, but due to holiday season, we anticipate completion in January or February.

Land Acquisition

* The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) land exchange in Grant/Valkaria is still progressing.
* Currently waiting on FIND to add some language to the agreement related to clean up of any potential spills.
* Proposed lands Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefile is being updated and assessed values are being added. SMC will be using information to evaluate and prioritize remaining lands on acquisition strategy list. Information has also been requested by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to assist with evaluating remaining acquisition needs in Brevard.

Land Exchanges

* The State of Florida has declined consideration of the proposed land exchange in the south mega parcel area of Brevard.
* The State prefers to continue with acquisition efforts in the future but no timeframe is being provided.

Volunteers

* July through September 2019:
  + Total Volunteers: 95
  + Total Hours: 2,765

Public Access / Eagle Scout Projects

* Fox Lake canoe / kayak rack (Done)
* Crane Creek Paddling Trailhead (in planning)
* Fox Lake plank-walk replacement (in planning)
* Enchanted Forest plank-walk (in planning)

Drone Use

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Items

* Scottsmoor Cattle Lease renewal (Date To Be Determined)
* Access License Agreement - Briel (Approved October 22)
* Florida Forest Service Timbering Agreement (Approved July 23)

EEL Manual Revisions

* Staff submitted a resolution for the revisions to the EEL Land Acquisition Manual and the Sanctuary Management Manual to the Parks Director and County Manager’s office on October 3.
* Revisions related to the changes to EEL advisory committees.
* Staff was informed that the revisions were under review by the County Attorney’s Office.

Questions?

**Discussion**

**Public Lands Acquisition and Management Conference:** Mike noted that when he recently attended the Public Lands Acquisition and Management Conference he was pleased to learn that several counties have active land acquisition programs.

**Land Acquisition:** The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) land exchange continues to move forward. FIND has transferred the funding to cover their mitigation for the project to The Nature Conservancy. Mike noted that when he saw Angela Klug, from TNC, at the PLAM conference, she confirmed they are ready for EEL to reach out to them for some of the funding. It is anticipated staff’s proposal will be ready for SMC review soon.

**Land Exchange:** A formal request for a citizen requested property exchange was submitted to the State and declined.

**Drone:** Drone footage taken at Fox Lake Sanctuary, in Titusville, was reviewed.

**EEL Manual Revisions:** Mike explained that when the BOCC directed revisions to the Land Acquisition Manual and the Sanctuary Management Manual were sent to the Parks and Recreation Department Director and the County Manager on October 3, 2019, they included a draft resolution, which is the normal process. It was noted that in this case, the revisions do not have to go back to the entire BOCC and will be approved by the BOCC Chair. It is Mike’s understanding that the documents have been forwarded to the County Attorney’s Office for review. It is anticipated that the current terms for the PC and REAC will continue until December 31, 2019.

Kim Zarillo noted her concern regarding discussion related to the possibility of rescinding previous resolutions. Mike stated that the resolution submitted by staff references amending previous resolutions, not rescinding them. It was noted that it is not common practice to rescind historical resolutions – generally a new resolution is created which references an update to specific resolutions which have been created in the past. Mike noted that when he receives updated information, he will pass it along to the committees.

**EEL Program Operations and Funding Status Report**

Mike noted he is in the process of updating the Operations and Funding Status Report and he reviewed a few of the suggestions for changes received from committee members.

Clarification was provided that Kim Zarillo had forwarded the most recent version of the document to MJ Waters, Communications Director for the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, and MJ had also submitted suggestions. Discussion ensued. The following suggestions were noted:

* Begin the document with clarification of what the Program has accomplished and the importance of protecting that investment.
* Include some of the many benefits protecting natural areas brings to communities.
* Use pictures, graphs, maps and charts to explain as much information as possible.
* How is Brevard County different from other Florida counties which have built out to the point there are only a few natural areas remaining?
* Consider placing funding information in an appendix or as a companion document.
* Remember that Brevard is not a one-size-fits-all audience.
* Include information on the Economic Benefit Analysis.
* What are the two most important take-aways for this document?

Mike will incorporate the changes which have been received and the document will be re-distributed to both the PC and SMC in time for the December 5, 2019 meeting. He added that once the information is finalized, he would like to prepare a follow up presentation based on the report as it would be good to have a consistent message. Paul Schmalzer noted that the Brevard Nature Alliance is highlighting the EEL Program as part of their focus on environmental matters within the County and Bo Platt mentioned that consideration is being given to including the Program within the Lagoon Minutes program aired by the Florida Institute of Technology.

Additional Discussion

Clarification was provided that the Procedures Committee and Recreation and Education Advisory Committee will not need to identify their appointments to the SMC until the revisions to the Land Acquisition Manual and the Sanctuary Management Manual are signed by the Chair of the BOCC.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### NEXT MEETING

It is anticipated that the next Procedures Committee meeting will be scheduled for February 7, 2019.

### ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

### SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS

1. Motion to approve the September 20, 2019 Selection and Management Committee/  
   Procedures Committee meeting minutes, as amended by the Selection and Management Committee. APPROVED

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff to incorporated suggestions for revisions to the Funding and Operations Status Report and distribute to the Selection and Management Committee and Procedures Committee in time for the December 5, 2019 Selection and Management Committee meeting.