# Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Selection and Management Committee (SMC) Meeting Minutes

**June 13, 2019**

## *Attendance*

### Selection and Management Committee Members

* Elizabeth Becker
* Dave Breininger
* Tamy Dabu
* Tammy Foster
* Oli Johnson
* Paul Schmalzer
* Lisa Toland
* Kim Zarillo

### EEL PROGRAM STAFF

* Laura Clark
* David DeMeyer
* Damien Keene
* Ray Mojica

### GUESTS

* Rocky Randals, Procedures Committee

*Protecting and Preserving Biological Diversity*

*Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County’s Natural Resources*

## *Meeting Minutes*

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Oli Johnson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM.

It was noted that Tamy Dabu was participating via phone line. All other members of the Selection and Management Committee were in attendance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

**Additional Discussion – May 29, 2019 Draft Minutes – Selection and Management Committee Motion**

Clarification was provided that although the draft May 29, 2019 Selection and Management Committee (SMC) meeting minutes were incomplete, a few pages were distributed at the beginning of the meeting which included information on 1) the SMC’s motion to send a formal inquiry to the State, 2) the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Advisory Boards Workshop previously scheduled for May 16, 2019, and 3) the Pinkerton land exchange. Discussion ensued.

It was noted that Mike Knight, Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Manager, was unable to attend the meeting and he had requested that the SMC review the information related to their May 29th motion to confirm the information was captured correctly. The motion read:

**“Dave Breininger proposed a motion to send a communication to the State requesting clarification of their strategy for moving forward with land acquisition and management of the mega-parcel areas due to the following concerns:**

* **Lack of acquisition means land management cannot be accomplished in a State approved conservation project area which provides habitat for multiple endangered species, one of which (Florida Scrub-Jay), is endemic to our state and is threatened with extinction.**
* **High fuel loads in these urban interface areas are also a significant wildfire risk.**
* **Many of these parcels are within Lease number 4263 with the State of Florida and the County is unable to perform the required management unless acquisition is consolidated into a manageable area.**

**The communication should also include a request for clarification of requirements for property exchanges.**

**A short summary providing additional information on difficulties in managing the mega-parcel will be included in the communication to the State.”**

Discussion ensued. Paul Schmalzer asked the group if the motion had explicitly included references to State Lease number 4263. Dave Breininger noted he did not believe that reference had been made. Dave noted his feeling that information earlier in the motion had covered the same basics and suggested that the last bullet be removed from the motion. Paul agreed with deleting the last bullet as he felt information in the first and second bullets conveyed the concern. No concerns were received regarding the suggestion.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

**Florida Inland Navigation District Property Exchange**

Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) has indicated that their Board is scheduled to approve their mitigation plan on June 14, 2019. Once this happens, they want to begin the process of finalizing the transfer of the deeds for the exchange. FIND has expressed an interest in finalizing the exchange within the next few months.

Jenny Warner, Support Specialist, noted that the County Attorney’s Office is reviewing the list of deliverables to make sure all requirements for exchange are completed including title commitment, survey, and environmental assessment.

Dave and Paul noted this exchange has been a high priority for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program since the early1990s.

**Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Mitigation**

Staff is in the process of developing a scope of work for tree density reduction on a number of different sites for a formal bid request. It is currently planned to do the work in phases with each phase to include as many sites as possible while staying below a maximum cost of $100,000 per phase. The work will include tree thinning, pile burning to create openings where appropriate, roller chopping and tree removal where needed.

**Board of County Commissioner Items**

**Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Pending: Florida Forest Service Memo of Agreement**

County Attorney review is complete and staff is in the process of preparing the BOCC agenda package.

**BOCC Pending: Town of Malabar Cooperative Agreement**

The agreement for a potential future cooperative effort on construction of an EEL Program Management and Education Center at the same time that the Town of Malabar may choose to build a new Town Hall will expire in October. Additional information will be planned for the next SMC meeting.

BOCC Pending: Florida Native Plant Society Agreement at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Due for renewal.

**Action Items**

**10/15/2018 – Timber removal north border Micco Scrub Sanctuary**

Most trees are down and in 30 to 50 piles. A few trees remain on ditch bank that require excavator.

**5/29/2019 – SMC Request to State regarding Pinkerton Exchange**

Staff should be able to send the request this week.

**5/29/2019 – Locate lagoon living shoreline value and consider application to EEL managed lands.**

In progress.

**5/29/2019 – Bat monitoring results.**

In progress.

**Summary of Agenda Items**

**Tourism Development Council Fall 2019 Tourism Journal**

Information related to ecotourism from the Tourism Development Council’s (TDC) Fall Tourism Journal was distributed for review.

**Habitat Conditions Report**

At the May 29, 2019 SMC meeting, the committee expressed an interest in discussing the definition of “desired condition” as it relates to EEL managed lands. Staff has added a new column, “Acres under Active Management”, to the Habitat Conditions Spreadsheet.

**Rare Scrub Plant List for Firelines and Trails**

Staff is requesting input on the current list of scrub plants that are likely to take advantage of disturbed areas such as fire lines and trails.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None.

### STAFF REPORTS

None.

### LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

**North –** Fox Lake Sanctuary: New patches of *Lygodium* located using drone. Moving section of trail near lake to higher ground.

**Central –** It is expected that the Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) and Thousand Islands Conservation Area (TICA) Public Access Plans will be presented to the Selection and Management Committee in the near future. The TICA Public Access Plan Public Meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2019.

**South –** Crane Creek, Jordan Scrub, and Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Management Plans – No movement.

**South Beach** – It is anticipated that the Ocean Ridge, Coconut Point, Hog Point, Hog Point Cove, Washburn, Maritime Hammock, Barrier Island Sanctuary, and Hardwood Hammock Sanctuary public access plans will be presented to the public at a single public meeting early in July.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Tourism Development Council Fall 2018 Tourism Journal**

The group reviewed the information which was handed out at the meeting. Clarification was provided that Mike had noted he felt this would be good information to have for the Economic Benefit Report. Paul noted that Table 5 did not follow up nature-based tourism.

**Habitat Conditions Report**

Ray Mojica, South Beach Land Management Superintendent, explained that an additional column “Acres Under Active Management” has been added to the report and he suggested use of the term “in rotation”. Ray noted that in some areas, the Program has stopped the decline of biodiversity and have increased biodiversity in others. Discussion occurred regarding the differences between “under active management” and “in optimal condition” and the need for greater clarification of habitat status and progress towards goals. The following was noted:

* Break down information for each sanctuary.
* Acres being managed is a good first step.
* Define ‘optimal habitats” or “desired condition” (Future discussion).
* Define management milestones needed to get to “optimal habitat” (Future discussion).
* Include goals for monitoring.
* Dave will provide information on optimal scrub habitat.
* Clarify percentage of sanctuary where habitat is in optimal condition.
* Representing that status of Environmentally Endangered Lands Program’s land management is in good shape would not be accurate at this time.
* Identify problem areas.
* Include monitoring for biodiversity.
* The spreadsheet will be useful in estimating costs for the annual budget planning.
* There are significant contiguous holdings in the Grissom and South mega-parcel areas which should be added to the spreadsheet.
* Some members of the public may not understand that management efforts will be required in perpetuity.

Rare Plant List for Firelines and Trails

The group reviewed a draft listing of Protected Plant Species of Disturbed Sites which is being prepared by staff to provide awareness of threatened and endangered plant species which occur in disturbed areas like firelines and trails. Comments received will be incorporated and additional information will be provided in the future.

### LAND ACQUISITION REPORT

Jenny Warner noted that a mitigation for wetland development in the Palm Bay area which has been in the works for two years is moving forward. It is anticipated that mitigation for the scrub habitat in this project will be addressed next.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### NEXT MEETING

It is anticipated that the next Selection and Management Committee meeting will be held on July 17, 2019.

### ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

### SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS

No motions.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff to incorporate suggestions into Rare Plant list for Firelines and Trails.
2. Staff to incorporate suggestions into Habitat Conditions Report.