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# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

# Selection and Management Committee Zoom Meeting

## August 19, 2020 Minutes

## Attendance

### SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

### ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM STAFF

* Mike Knight
* Jenny Warner
* Steve McGuffey
* David DeMeyer

Ray Mojica

### GUESTS

Mark Van Dyke

Rick (No last name provided)

*Protecting and Preserving Biological Diversity*

Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County’s Natural Resources

## Meeting Minutes

## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Oli Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### MINUTES

June 19, 2020, SMC minutes were approved with changes.

Paul Schmalzer noted the following revisions.

Italicize *Dicerandra thinicola* in the survey under committee report.

Under Agenda Item 1, the Emerald Lakes mitigation proposal is not attached. Mike Knight stated the Emerald Lakes Mitigation Report has been changed to available upon request.

On page 2, the minutes approved during the June 19th meeting does not state who made the motions. On page 3, Motion 2, the second line should read rehabilitated otters.

The revisions to the minutes from February 24th on page 11 regarding who made the motions should be stated. Mike Knight stated those changes have been made.

**MOTION 1**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the June 19, 2020, minutes with these changes.**

**Lisa Toland seconded.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Oli Johnston asked if the minutes from the June 19, 2020, SMC/PC Joint meeting were incomplete and should be bypassed. Mike Knight confirmed the minutes from the June 19, 2020, meeting and the PVA workshop will be available soon.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

Mike Knight reported the low hydrology score received from the state review for Lease 4263 was due to a flaw in the State’s formula. This has been corrected resulting in a positive score.

Mike Knight provided an update on staffing. The Administrative Secretary position has been advertised, interviews will be conducted this week, and the department recommendation will be sent to Human Resources next week. We are close to filling the part-time land technician position in the South Beaches. The Naturalist position for Sam’s House is being advertised. Mike Knight asked twice if the Fire Coordinator position can be advertised before the Naturalist position. This request has not been accommodated at this time but he will ask again.

Mike Knight referred to the Economic Benefit Analysis and stated the Tourism Office and contractor discussed the tourism numbers and visitation. These numbers have been modified and included some of our camera data information. The tourism visitation value increased significantly.

Oli Johnson asked about the FIND Exchange. Mike Knight stated the FIND Exchange has been postponed to September 15, 2020, due to COVID and public concern.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

### AGENDA ITEM 1

### Mike Knight mentioned the election of the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Oli Johnson asked the Committee if anyone is interested in serving as Chair. Tamy Dabu asked about the responsibilities and term of the Chair position. Mike Knight confirmed the term of the Chair and Vice Chair positions are customarily one year. Paul Schmalzer clarified the election occurs annually, but the Chair may remain the same. Oli Johnson asked the Committee if there are any nominations.

### MOTION 2

### Lisa Toland nominated Tamy Dabu for Chair.

### Elizabeth Becker seconded the nomination.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Oli Johnson asked if anyone is interested in the Vice Chair position. Paul Schmalzer agreed to remain as Vice Chair.

**MOTION 3**

**Lisa Toland nominated Paul Schmalzer for Vice Chair.**

**Tamy Dabu seconded the nomination.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

Mike Knight mentioned Ray Mojica will deliver a presentation on the Oyster Reef Installation and Monitoring project in the South Beaches region. The entire power point presentation is available upon request.

-Update on installation and monitoring of the reefs in the south beaches.

-Oyster reefs were installed in three sanctuaries.

Coconut Point Sanctuary (400 linear feet)

Hog Point Cove Sanctuary (160 linear feet)

Maritime Hammack Sanctuary (240 linear feet)

-COVID and social distancing complicated the installation.

-The University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Brevard Zoo wanted to proceed in March and April since it is ideal for spat.

-The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program utilizes drones to map and monitor the oyster reefs.

Tamy Dabu asked if the concrete modules were included in the permit. Ray Mojica confirmed.

Tamy Dabu asked how the concrete modules are anchored. Ray Mojica stated he believes the modules were placed on the bottom, and will verify. He offered to provide the July report from UCF and the Brevard Zoo on their monitoring to the committee. Lisa Toland would like a copy of the report.

Lisa Toland asked about the depth of the reef. Ray Mojica replied it depends on the distance from shore, but the reef was placed just under knee high water.

Paul Schmalzer commented the work Ray Mojica is doing is filling a gap in the monitoring conducted by the University of Central Florida and the Brevard Zoo. From an Environmentally Endangered Lands Program prospective, the question becomes does this project demonstrate the shoreline is being protected and erosion reduced. Ray Mojica added drones are a useful tool to visually document this dynamic system over time. Several committee members thanked Ray Mojica for the informative presentation.

### AGENDA ITEM 3

Oli Johnson transitioned the conversation to tree density reduction strategy. Mike Knight referred to the document sent to the committee. He stated he worked with Dave Breininger on the tree density reduction strategy and provided this document to Todd Mecklenborg for his review.

Todd Mecklenborg stated this document would be beneficial for site specific grant proposals. Mike Knight commented the intention is to use this document for this purpose. Mike Knight added a timbering sale proposal has been received from the Florida Forest Service. Mike Knight further stated Steve McGuffey initiated contact with the Florida Forest Service to ensure the project in Micco can be accomplished as proposed. At that time, it can be determined if this document can be expanded to include other sites or if other projects need to be treated as separate potential timber sales. If this cannot be accomplished quickly we can fine tune specifications, obtain quotes, and submit site specific proposals to The Nature Conservancy to utilize funds for contractors.

Mike Knight asked Steve McGuffey for an update on the tree density reduction project. Steve McGuffey stated the focus is on tree density reduction and scrub restoration concurrently utilizing the roller chopper in Jordan and cutting by hand with Environmentally Endangered Lands staff. He will meet David Breininger to conduct site visits at Malabar and possibly Micco to determine if the scope of work needs modification for forestry or contractors.

Mike Knight asked the committee for input on the tree density reduction document. Paul Schmalzer stated the document looked good, asked if Dave Breininger reviewed the document, and asked Dave Breininger if he had any feedback. Dave Breininger noted since Steve McGuffey has taken over as the Land Management Superintendent in the South Region the amount of progress is tremendous at Jordan. Paul Schmalzer stated he agrees with Steve McGuffey’s approach and he is pleased to hear of the progress.

### AGENDA ITEM 4

Mike Knight moved the conversation to the Colonial Coast Crossing parcel in Titusville. Paul Schmalzer provided an overview of the site visit report including species, exotics, habitat value and passive recreation potential.

Mike Knight reviewed the permits and determined the program was under no obligation regarding maintenance other than maintaining the site under the conservation easement. Mike Knight stated this parcel was originally intended as a donation to the City of Titusville as a passive park that included trails and boardwalks. He communicated with the City of Titusville and they are agreeable with the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program managing this parcel.

Mike Knight’s concern is the retention / borrow area may require labor intensive maintenance such as mowing. He stated Tamy Dabuinquired about potential cultural resources on the site and it is necessary to determine where they are located and if there are any potential impacts. Mike Knight stated public access and parking will require consideration.

Mike Knight mentioned smoke management referencing Dicerandra and asked Steve McGuffey to comment. Steve McGuffey stated he expects burning to be similar to sites such as South Lake that are located in an urban interface: however, this burn may be a bit more difficult because of the proximity of the homes. Steve McGuffey will factor in wind direction and suggested conducting two burns to mitigate risk. Paul Schmalzer identified the scrub area and noted much of the other property is wet. Mike Knight mentioned a potential parking space to accommodate five or six vehicles at the end of Katherine Court.

Tamy Dabu reviewed the permit and mentioned the borrow area may have been created as floodplain compensation and this area would not be suitable for parking. She suggested utilizing the Publix parking lot to access the trail head. Lisa Toland asked Tamy Dabu if the program would be responsible for the compensating storage area. Tamy Dabu confirmed and stated the program would not want to be responsible for managing that area. Lisa Toland agreed and stated it will be a significant financial issue and some type of endowment would be necessary for management.

Mark Van Dyke, the owner’s representative, stated he will look into it but he does not think there is a mowing requirement. As he recalls, they are mowing to be a good neighbor. Lisa Toland asked if the committee may have a copy of the permit. Lisa Toland wants to be certain the committee does not move forward with a project that will have a negative long-term financial implication. Mike Knight recommended moving forward with a caveat in an effort to get this to the commission for consideration.

Paul Schmalzer suggested a two-part majority vote to move forward with this donation. Tamy Dabu summarized her understanding of the location of dry treatment and compensating storage areas. Mark Van Dyke stated the compensation storage area is outside of the parcel that is being considered for donation. Tamy Dabu stated this resolves the compensation storage issue and referenced exhibit 21 of 29.

Mike Knight confirmed gifts and donations have the same planning requirements as purchases. Paul Schmalzer stated there are some issues such as cultural resources that require some additional work. He recommends the committee exercise a first majority vote today to allow time for staff to obtain some additional information.

Lisa Toland asked for clarification on the compensation storage area before the second majority vote. Mike Knight noted the large amount of program land that requires burning and mentioned the difficulty in in terms of staffing resources required to mow another large area. Tamy Dabu agreed and added exhibit 16 of 29 is another flood plain compensation area. Lisa Toland mentioned the Water Management Permit sheet C100. Mike Knight stated we will look into these concerns. Mark Van Dyke stated he will further research these areas.

**MOTION 4  
Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the first majority vote to accept the donation of the Colonial Coast Crossing in Titusville.**

**Lisa Toland seconded.**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

### OTHER DISCUSSION

Paul Schmalzer asked for a management plan status update.

Mike Knight mentioned the drone footage that is available on the Brevard County Parks and Recreation You Tube channel. There are short, promotional videos with footage of fires, Sam’s House, and the Cruikshank Sanctuary. He will send links to the committee.

Mike Knight revealed the commemorative coin for the 30-Year Anniversary. Lisa Toland liked the coin and mentioned using a few for geocaching.

### NEXT MEETING

The staff will poll the committee for the next meeting.

### ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Confirm flood plain compensation area for maintenance for Colonial Coastal Crossing property.
2. Review cultural resources for Colonial Coastal Crossing property.
3. Develop language to modify the permit to include Brevard County as an owner / manager of the conservation easement excluding other obligatory sections for Colonial Coastal Crossing property.