# Environmentally Endangered Lands ProgramSelection and Management Committee Meeting

## October 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance

### SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT (SMC) MEMBERS

Tamy Dabu, Oli Johnson, Jim Burney, Doug Sphar (Recreation and Education Advisory Committee), Jennifer Thompson, Mac McLouth (Tourism Development Council), Liz Becker, Mark Bush attended in-person. Kim Zarillo attended via Zoom.

### ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM STAFF

Mike Knight attended in person. Ray Mojica, David DeMeyer, Jenny Warner, Damien Keene, and Amy Rivera attended via Zoom.

### GUESTS

Monty Montgomery (Procedures Committee), Jerinae Speed and Tim.

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

## Meeting Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Tamy Dabu called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### MINUTES

The SMC September 17, 2021 minutes were presented for approval.

### MOTION 1

**Mac McLouth moved to approve the SMC September 17, 2021 minutes as presented.**

**Jennifer Thompson seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### ADMINISTATIVE REVIEW

Mike Knight stated he contacted David Breininger regarding the impact of delaying management at the proposed Colonial Crossing donation site on scrub-jays. Dr. Breininger stated Colonial Crossing is a stepping stone and a few years delay in management is not a huge concern to the scrub-jays. He wanted to emphasize the importance of this parcel in terms of scrub habitat as well as other scrub species. Mike added he contacted the land owner’s representative and provided him with a link to Zoom recording of the meeting for his review.

Mike mentioned the MARXAN software and stated this software seems to require an additional interface which we do not have the resources to support. He added this software may be more than is needed for this project, but he is willing to explore this option. Doug asked about GIS. Mike responded staff has access to GIS, but not the bandwidth at the EEL off-site locations to support this application. He added Information Technology (IT) is working on a solution for this problem. Tamy noted the process the Program has in place now seems to be adequate for this project and enhancements can be considered later if needed.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

### AGENDA ITEM 1

**Gauging Commissioner Support – Discussion (Lisa Toland)**

Tamy introduced this agenda item, but mentioned we may want to wait on this discussion since Lisa is out of town. Mike added Vince Lamb indicated he has been in contact with Commissioners and expects this dialogue to continue. Mike noted these meetings may be the best indicator of individual Commissioner support. Mac stated the Board of County Commissioners (Board) has been very supportive of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and approved the recent thirteen IRL initiatives. Doug mentioned there are two ways to get a referendum on the ballet and inquired about these conversations. Mike stated he is not aware of the particulars of these conversations, but they seem encouraging.

Jim asked if non-profits will become more active in the process. Mike replied the Board approved the request for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to proceed with a feasibility study last year; however, because of COVID the Board was not supportive of placing this on ballet at that time. He added at the request of the TNC, Vince Lamb has been meeting with Commissioners to discuss this process and gauge support for the feasibility study. Mac stated there is a great deal of Commissioner support for the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and other programs which support the IRL. Mike agreed that seems to be the case. Jennifer asked for clarification on the Colonial Crossing proposed donation and Board support for the Program. Mike stated from the limited information he has, he believes that decision was a staff decision and not a discussion with the Board. Jim expressed a concern of associating the Program too much with the IRL. Mike added the Indian River Coalition has made EEL a part of their push and will be using the EEL tabletop display to promote both programs.

Tamy asked if the Committee wanted to table this discussion until the next meeting when Lisa is here. She added she prefers to let the process continue. Jim and Doug agreed.

### MOTION 2

**Mark Bush moved to table this discussion until the next meeting.**

**Doug Sphar seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### AGENDA ITEM 2

**Proposed Lands Review**

Mike presented a Power Point presentation on the Land Prioritization Process, the rationale of the scoring, the usefulness of this acquisition list as tool as outlined in the Land Acquisition Manual, and if some properties should be removed from the list. Mac asked why parcels would be removed from the list. Tamy explained this list was created over 20 years ago, some of the parcels have been developed or protected under a conservation easement, and this is a way to focus on more pristine properties for future acquisitions.

Mike reviewed ten examples of properties that the SMC may choose to remove from the proposed lands list. Mike added a column of tax assessed values from the Brevard County Property Appraiser website to the draft Prioritization Matrix. He explained this number is approximately one-quarter to one-half of market value. Doug suggested inserting a blank line and adding the word total to the draft Prioritization Matrix. Mike replied he can make this edit. Mike displayed each of these maps prepared on Google Earth and reviewed scoring, the color-coding system, and staff’s justification for removing these parcels from the proposed lands list.

Mac is impressed with the maps Mike presented, but is not certain he supports removing properties from the list. Doug mentioned these lands are lower priority. Mike added these do not have to be removed from the list. Jennifer agrees with removing conservation lands and properties that are very obvious that the Program won’t be doing anything with to unclutter the list. Mike added it would be an easy task to remove parcels that are owned by a homeowner’s association (HOA) or protected under a conservation easement.

Doug moved to remove the properties from the list that are owned by a HOA for preservation or under a conservation easement. Kim asked if the Committee would set this idea aside as we further discuss each area because there are different kinds of conservation and many of these properties are not managed to the prescription that overlays them. Additionally, there may be potential for cooperative agreements between the Program and these conservation areas where they intersect. She asked that the Committee refrain from making this decision today. Mike agrees and understands. Doug withdrew the motion. Mark asked if a second list could be created. Tamy suggested keeping them on the list with a different color code. Mike replied we can do that. Kim suggested proceeding with caution because removing properties may requiring amending a boundary. She added amending boundaries requires going to the Board. Several SMC members agreed with this point. Mike stated he will work on these revisions.

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**Emeritus / Honorary Committee Member**

Mike mentioned Tamy’s questions regarding the number of Emeritus / Honorary members, term-limits, and the system of voting in members. Kim added there is not an attendance requirement. Tamy suggested participation may be topic related. Doug asked if these members could participate via Zoom. Mike stated this is an available option. Mark suggested making the term-limit renewable. Mac mentioned these people are busy and may not want to be on a Board if they cannot vote. Doug noted voting members are Board appointed. Tamy stated the intent is to retain this scientific expertise as technical advisors. Kim stated she supports what Tamy said and some of these members did not want to leave the SMC and the Program lost valuable institutional knowledge. Kim added we value their input and will vote after hearing their input. Mike agreed.

Tamy mentioned an edit to the third paragraph. Mike asked how the SMC feels about including honorary members in addition to past SMC members. Liz suggested referring to them as technical advisory instead of honorary. Tamy agreed. Mark advised against having the language too broad. Tamy agreed and wants to ensure this does not water down the SMC. Mac added this title would help members justify time away from work. Mike asked the preferred system for selecting these members. Tamy suggested staff present a list to the SMC for a vote and to remove term-limits from the document. Doug wants to make sure there is a mechanism to revise this policy. Mike replied the SMC can change this policy at any time. Mike asked if the SMC wants him to reach out to Dave Breininger, Paul Schmalzer, and Ross Hinkle. Kim suggested adding Tammy Foster to the list. Mike replied he will contact them.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### NEXT MEETING

November 19, 2021

### MOTION 3

**Doug Sphar moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Liz Becker seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### ADJORNED

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. SMC Site Visit to Grant/Valkaria