



# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

March 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance

### SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT (SMC) MEMBERS

Tamy Dabu, Oli Johnson, Jim Burney, Mac McLouth (Tourism Development Council) (TDC), and Jennifer Thompson attended in person. Kim Zarillo and Doug Sphar attended via Zoom.

### SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT (SMC) EMERITUS MEMBERS

Dr. Paul Schmalzer and Dr. Ross Hinkle attended via Zoom.

### ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM STAFF

Mike Knight and David DeMeyer attended in-person. Nick Eder, Steve McGuffey, Damien Keene, Jenny Warner, Brad Manley, Evan Hall, and Amy Rivera attended via Zoom.

### GUESTS

Christine Bambujer attended in-person. Rick Follett (Recreation Education Advisory Committee) (REAC) (Procedures Committee) PC and Monty Montgomery (PC) attended via Zoom.

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 9:32 a.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

### MINUTES

The SMC February 18, 2022 meeting minutes were presented for approval.

### MOTION 1

**Mac McLouth moved to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Jennifer Thompson seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Mike referenced request to find out the sample size from the Florida Atlantic University poll for the Indian River Lagoon. Twenty-two hundred people were surveyed and this sample was an accurate demographic representation of Brevard County voters.

Mike mentioned he was contacted by Vince Lamb yesterday and he was struggling obtaining a millage rate that would support ongoing operations in a future referendum so this can be included in future polling. He worked with the Trust for Public Land and they completed that calculation. Vince added the Nature Conservancy may need to raise some funds locally and thinks can be achieved.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

### AGENDA ITEM 1

Central Region Land Management Update

The Central Region Land Management Superintendent, David DeMeyer provided a presentation on the current status of several EEL managed areas in the Central Region. Several committee members made comments or asked questions. Mike Knight and David DeMeyer provided additional information on these sites in the Central Region. Mac McLouth stated the TDC has funding available for projects for public access. Mike Knight responded he would be happy to discuss this further with Mac.

Christine asked where these properties are located. Mike Knight responded each of these properties are in North Merritt Island. This presentation is available upon request.

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Approved by SMC on July 15, 2022

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## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Malabar Scrub Restoration Update

Mike shared staff has been working closely with the Town Administrator in an attempt to obtain the necessary permits that will allow the restoration project to move forward. This work has included mapping the trees previously proposed for preservation along the trails that are consistent with the current restoration objectives, creating more detailed estimates of the trees needing to be removed, and a field visit to review the proposed trail relocations.

Mike added currently it appears the Town Council is unwilling to allow tree removal within the Town-owned Briar Creek Blvd. Right-of-Way (ROW) at Malabar West. Staff was directed not attend the Town Council Meeting on Monday (March 21<sup>st</sup>) to request the waiver of the \$40 per-tree removal fee and continued Town support for prescribed burning operations within the Briar Creek Blvd. ROW. Matt Stinnett will be facilitating this communication.

He stated currently, the most expeditious approach for moving the restoration project forward is to pursue a reasonable fee waiver and permit under the current Town code. Even if this approach is successful, the Program will need to continue to advocate for a revision to the Town code to address the issues of general restrictions on land management activities.

Christine asked why Staff will not attend this meeting. Mike explained the Board directed Staff to discontinue public meeting, gave the Town a 30-day deadline, and closed the sanctuary.

Christine stated she is concerned the site use will be changed. Mike stated this is unlikely because it is owned by the State, managed by the Program, and any changes would be the exact opposite of the voter intent.

Doug asked when will the site reopen and does this required Board approval. Mike replied we do not know when the site will reopen and reopening this site will require Board action.

Paul asked the status of the other restoration in the South Region. Mike stated details are being worked out before work can begin. Dr. Schmalzer asked if the rainy season will affect this logging project. Mike replied its possible. Dr. Schmalzer added time is not on our side for the Florida Scrub-jay.



## NEXT MEETING

April 15, 2022

## FIELD TRIP

Tamy inquired a field trip. Mike responded we will reach out and poll for dates to visit Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary.

## ADJOURNED

Tamy asked if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

## MOTION 2

**Mac moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Jennifer Thompson seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

## ACTION ITEMS