



Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

October 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes Final

Attendance

SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT (SMC) MEMBERS

Oli Johnson, Tamy Dabu, Jennifer Thompson, Liz Becker, Rick Follet, Lisa Toland, Kim Zarillo and Doug Sphar attended in-person. Mark Bush, and James Burney joined the meeting via Zoom.

ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM STAFF

Mike Knight, Petra Geretz.

GUESTS

Vince Lamb, Paul Schmalzer and Ross Hinkle.

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

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

October 21, 2022

Approved by SMC on January 20, 2023

Page 1 of 7



Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Tamy Dabu called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Tamy Dabu pointed out a misspelling of her name on the minutes. The SMC July 15, 2022 revised minutes were presented for approval with correct spelling of Tamy Dabu name.

MOTION 1

Kim Zarillo moved to accept the July 15, 2022 minutes with correct name spelling. Jennifer Thomson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Mike Knight informed the committee members about sending email to him regarding their interest in being re-appointed. Re-appointments will be presented to the County Commissioners' meeting in December.

Mike Knight informed the committee Petra Geretz has been hired as the new EEL Administrative Secretary. Petra has been in the position since August, 2022 and since the committee's meetings are scheduled quarterly instead of monthly, Petra is expanding the EEL's program social media presence in addition to her administrative secretary duties. Before Petra started expanding social media presence, the EEL's program Facebook page had about 90 likes, 1,000-page visits and 2,200 page reaches. Following Petra's changes, the Facebook page now has 424 likes, 7000-page visits and 41,000 page reaches.

Mike provided an update on South Region Scrub Management. The court hearing for the Malabar Scrub Restoration Project is scheduled for November 21st 2022 and staff will be attending. The TNC grant funding that was allocated for a portion of the Malabar Scrub Restoration Project is being re-assigned to the scrub restoration efforts in Grant / Valkaria. Once the legal issues are resolved, staff will be able to reapply for grant funding for Malabar Scrub. If approved the TNC grant will provide about \$37,000 which will be used to cover the equipment rental associated with the tree removal.

Mike informed the committee about the 2022 Treasure Coin Hunt. The Treasure Coin Hunt will be concluding in next couple of weeks. Over 100 coins have been found, over

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

October 21, 2022

Approved by SMC on January 20, 2023

Page 2 of 7



400 clues were sent out and 950 people have registered for the Treasure Coin Hunt notification newsletter. Mike concluded the event became very popular.

Mike mentioned EEL properties and facilities experienced minimal impacts from Hurricane Ian. Minor damage occurred to a couple of kiosks due to falling limbs and some trees fell on trails. The most significant impact was trail flooding due to the heavy rains. Most cleanup is complete but some trails remain flooded.

Mike mentioned that on August 2nd, the County Commissioners approved a resolution to place an EEL referendum question for future funding on the ballot for November 8, 2022. Mike mentioned the language on the ballot.

Vince Lamb informed the committee members of all the grassroots efforts to inform the voters about the referendum. He also mentioned the polls were showing about 80% support of the referendum.

Mike pointed out the current millage rate is significantly below the maximum approved. The current Fiscal Year total millage rate is 0.1018 generates approximately \$5.53 in property tax revenue which covers debt payments and operational costs. The proposed millage rate of .1465 would generate approximately \$7.9 million.

Tamy Dabu asked if the committee members can advocate to collect the maximum rate at County Commission? Vince Lamb answered that we have to wait and see what the results will be after the elections.

Doug Sphar asked when the new referendum will be in effect meaning when the millage collection on past referendum ends and the new millage collection begins? Mike mentioned it takes about a year for the bond to go into effect.

Lisa Toland asked a question when the new millage rate gets included in the budget? Mike answered it will go into effect in 2024. Lisa Toland also asked if the new millage rate goes into effect mid-year? Mike answered he does not think so.

Tamy Dabu asked to clarify the reason for the South Region Scrub Restoration lawsuit? Mike answered the lawsuit is about whether development rules for land clearing permits apply to habitat management projects on conservation lands.



COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Doug Sphar mentioned a member of a REAC committee passed away and the committee discussed what the members should do to remember the deceased member.

LAND ACQUISITION REPORT

Mike talked about two small donation lots – Canaveral Landings and Harbor Bluffs. Both part of the Grant / Valkaria.

Chamberlain Donation 10-acre lot was approved by the County Commissioners and the lot will become part of Fox Lake Sanctuary.

Emerald Lakes Mitigation is in the final stages. The land is approximately 300 acres. Also, management fees will be received along with the land.

Lisa Toland asked what is the impact of the project on the land and if monetary value will be enough to cover the management expenses especially if the program is tight on the management expenses? Mike agreed that it would be effective to run the numbers and compared them to a private sale and said he will look into it for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Central Region Management Plans

The central region consists of Johnson Property 99 acres, Kabboord Wildlife Sanctuary 797 acres, Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary 1,227 acres, Cruickshank Scrub Sanctuary 168 acres, Capron Ridge Sanctuary 20 acres, Pine Island Conservation Area 880 acres and 1000 Island Conservation Area 338 acres.

Mike gave an update on the Trail Systems. They have been all redone for the most part due to numerous environmental restoration projects and the historical house and cabin renovation that is now the central Region Maintenance and Education Center.

Mike presented Sykes Creek Management Area properties. The Kabboord Wildlife Sanctuary's northern half of the parcel was transferred to EEL from P&R to be combined with the Sanctuary. Mike mentioned that a kayak trail is proposed through the middle of the Sanctuary. A launch location still needs to be determined.

Mike mentioned that EEL took over management of Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary from Parks and Recreation and Natural Resources Office. Sites were combined with EEL acquisitions. Prior to the transfer Parks and Recreation was able to install several large overlooks and a primitive kayak launch.

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

October 21, 2022

Approved by SMC on January 20, 2023

Page 4 of 7



Doug Sphar asked if EEL will install a kayak launch? Mike answered the EEL program is planning to do something similar to Fox Lake floating kayak launch.

Lisa Toland asked how much it is to install a kayak launch similar to Fox Lake? Mike answered the basic one is about \$15,000 and the ADA approved would cost about \$30,000. Mike mentioned the director of the Parks and Recreation would prefer all kayak launches to be ADA approved.

Mike presented 1000 Island Conservation Area overview map. Mike mentioned all trails are new to the updated plan. There are no new proposed additions to trails, landings, or overlooks. All recreational activity opportunities in the original plan/agreement have been completed. Habitat restoration phases have been completed.

Paul Schmalzer provided comments on the Pine Island Conservation Area plan which included some spelling issues page 2, 25, 27 and Appendix D. Sykes Creek Management Plan rewording page 25. Italicizing scientific names pages 29-31, 37-38, 43-44 and page 53 and addition of species page 77. Thousand Island Conservation Area Management Plan pages should be numbered throughout and minor revisions page 13, 16, 24, 27.

Lisa Toland mentioned on page 6 Pine Island. She would like to modify the paragraph where the paragraph would say that nature habitat will always prevail.

Tamy Dabu agreed that there should be an addition to the paragraph. The sentence should emphasize in situations where conflict arises between a human access and the habitat preservation, the habitat preservation always prevails.

MOTION 2

Lisa Toland moved to approve the Pine Island Conservation Area Plan with additional sentence that emphasizes in situations where conflict arises between human access and the habitat preservation, the habitat preservation always prevails.

Doug Sphar seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Toland carried a discussion about climate change effecting Pine island – water quality changes etc. She asked if there are some data to back up the statements about water quality changes.

Kim suggested to look into St. Johns River Water Management District for the data.

Mike said they would look for the data and if available include it in the plan.

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

October 21, 2022

Approved by SMC on January 20, 2023

Page 5 of 7



Jennifer offered to look for data through NRMO.

Paul Schmalzer emailed Mike an article applicable to water quality data. The article will be circulated with the committee members.

Kim discussed 1000 Islands nesting activities, bird list and plant list to be included in the plan.

MOTION 3

Doug Sphar moved to approve Sykes Creek Conservation Area Management Plan.

Oli Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 4

Lisa Toland moved to approve the Thousand Islands Conservation Area Management Plan with the inclusion of nesting beaches, updating species and plant list.

Jennifer Thomson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

AGENDA ITEM 2

Election of Chair and Vice Chair. Lisa Toland suggested that Tamy Dabu continues as a chair. Discussion was carried about Oli being elected the Vice Chair.

MOTION 5

Doug Sphar moved to approve Tamy Dabu as Chair.

Jennifer Thomson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

MOTION 6

Tamy Dabu moved to approve Oli Johnson as Vice Chair.

Doug Sphar seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Mike emphasized attendance guidelines for any appointee who is absent fifty percent of any the first consecutive advisory board meetings that take place after their appointment

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

October 21, 2022

Approved by SMC on January 20, 2023

Page 6 of 7



shall be dismissed from their appointment to the advisory board unless excused by the Board of County Commissioners. Mike mentioned since there are only quarterly meeting committee members can't miss one meeting.

Doug Shpar asked if the referendum passes could the committee ask for a waiver to meet more than quarterly? Mike answered that if the program starts more land acquisitions then it would make sense to ask for a waiver.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING

January 20, 2023 9:30am – 12:30pm

ADJOURNED

Tamy asked if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25am.

MOTION 6

Doug Shpar moved to adjourn the meeting.

Tamy Dabu seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.