



# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

January 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes Final

## Attendance

### SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT (SMC) MEMBERS

Oli Johnson, Tamy Dabu, Jennifer Thompson, Liz Becker, Lisa Toland, James Burney, Mark Bush, Malcom McLouth and Doug Sphar attended in-person.

### ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM STAFF

Mike Knight, Petra Geretz.

### GUESTS

David Breininger.

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

EEL Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting

January 20, 2023

Approved by SMC on April 21, 2023

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## Meeting Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### MINUTES

Tamy Dabu made following amendments to the draft October 21, 2022 minutes:

Amendment 1. Page 1, Motion 1, 2nd paragraph, last sentence:

Change from: That has changed now....

Change to: Petra's changes to the Facebook page now has....

Amendment 2. Page 1, Motion 1, 3rd paragraph, last sentence:

Change from: The TNC grant...

Change to: If approved, the TNC grant will provide about \$37,000 which will be used to cover the equipment rental associated with the tree removal.

### MOTION 1

**Doug Sphar moved to approve the October 21, 2022 minutes with Tamy Dabu's suggestions.**

**Lisa Toland seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Mike Knight gave an update on EEL program funding status. He informed the members the County Commission will have a Budget Workshop on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. At the Budget workshop, he is planning to give a presentation including a quick history and overview of how the EEL program operates specifically to land acquisition because there is a misunderstanding out there that the EEL staff is doing the land acquisition which is not correct and it is important that the commissioners understand the operation of the land acquisition procedures. Mike mentioned that he will be talking about the land acquisition proposals later in the meeting. Mike also mentioned he will be going over the Conservation Value Matrix later in the meeting. The main focus for the land acquisition



is to not be focusing to purchase big pieces of land rather to focus on filling in gaps in the land the EEL already acquired.

Lisa Toland asked a question, based on communication she had with the decision makers, if there are any properties that EEL program acquired that were rejected by the State of Florida because of no significant environmental value be? Mike Knight answered no there are no properties EEL program owns that were rejected by the State of Florida for no significant environmental value.

Doug Sphar asked when is the Budget meeting? Mike answered it is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Doug asked follow up question about the properties that were donated to the EEL program. Do they meet the requirements of the State of Florida? Mike answered that would not be the case.

Lisa Toland asked if there are any EEL properties that were not submitted to the State of Florida? Mike answered yes but these properties are not in Florida Forever project.

Mike also clarified that EEL program is on the Florida Forever list every year and EEL program is always on the Florida Forever list. Also, EEL program is ranking very high the Florida Forever list.

Mac made a comment that commissioners might be interested to hear about public access. Mike commented that we are addressing that in the presentation ADA trail, observation towers, parking. Mike mentioned that we have identified about 44 projects costing between 5 to 10 million dollars but for all of these projects we would need the bond otherwise it is not possible because the bonds can't be use for operational expenses.

Lisa asked if the commissioners are aware that they can't bond to cover operational expenses? Mike answered he believes it is a common knowledge based on his conversations with the upper management.

James Burney mentioned it is the SMC committee responsibility to investigate into the claims that EEL program acquired lands with no significant environmental value. He suggested that the committee should address the county commissioners and give a formal statement regarding EEL land acquisition and what if the land has a significant environmental value.

Lisa Toland asked a question if the commissioners budget meeting regarding setting up the millage for the EEL program based on the referendum would go through multiple meetings before the final decision on the millage will be set? Mike answered he believe

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so based on previous commissioners' budget meetings regarding setting up the millage for the EEL program but he can't say for sure.

Tamy Dabu asked if the commissioners' budget meeting will be public? Mike answered yes.

Mike Knight asked clarifying question to understand what the committee is discussing. He asked if the committee is asking if the State of Florida made the statement that EEL program acquired lands that have no significant environmental value? Mike addressed the question if EEL program acquired lands that have no significant environmental value the State of Florida would remove the EEL program from the Florida Forever Project. Mike also said that he can make a quick inquire about the allegations of EEL program acquired lands with no significant environmental value.

James Burney asked if it would within the SMC committee authority to investigate with any commissioner that is alleging that EEL program acquired lands with no significant value? He asked if that would be reasonable? Lisa Toland commented she doesn't think it is a good idea to have a one on one conversations with any commissioner rather have the factual evidence ready whenever an allegation is made. She suggested that the SMC committee should do its own due diligence and be ready when the bond funding to acquire land will be rejected.

Tamy Dabu asked if maybe the commissioners might misunderstand the definition of an environmentally endangered land and maybe if it would be a good idea to define the term of environmentally endangered land and educate the commissioners? James Burney agreed it would be a good idea to educate the board of commissioners.

Mike Knight pointed out to the acquisition process chart on the wall.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Doug Sphar mentioned a member of a REAC committee passed away and a discussion was carried 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 is part of Fox Lake.



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

### Pine Island Conservation Area Management Plan

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 norther 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 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 one large overlook and a primitive kayak launch.

Doug Sphar asked if EEL will install a kayak launch? Mike answered the EEL program is planning to do that 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 comments on Pine Island Conservation Area were 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 changes etc. She asked if there are some data to back up the statements about water changes.

Kim suggested to look into water management for the data.

Mike suggested to look for the data and if available included in the plan.

Jennifer offered to look into the data in water management department.

Paul Schmalzer emailed Mike an article applicable to water changes 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 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 meetings, committee members can't miss one meeting.

Doug Sphar 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

April 21, 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.**