# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

# Selection and Management Committee Meeting

## September 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance

### SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT (SMC) MEMBERS

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

### ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM STAFF

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

### GUESTS

Monty Montgomery (Procedures Committee)

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 August 20, 2021 minutes were presented for approval.

### MOTION 1

**Mac McLouth moved to approved the SMC August 20 2021 minutes as presented.**

**Doug Sphar seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

The SMC September 11, 2021, site visit minutes were presented for approval.

The SMC acknowledged the site visit synopsis as part of the record.

### ADMINISTATIVE REVIEW

Mike provided an overview of the Treasure Coin Hunt at Pine Island and revealed the next hide location will be at Cruickshank Sanctuary.

Mike mentioned the Adolph Blazer donation in Valkaria was approved by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on August 14, 2021. Mike added Commissioner Lober intends to send a thank you letter to the donor.

Mike stated the revised Colonial Crossing land donation in Titusville including the retention area was presented to the Parks Director; however, there are concerns that the Program’s future funding is not yet established, the property requires immediate management funding and the owners want to include the dry retention area. For these reasons, the Parks Director does not feel comfortable presenting this item to the Board for consideration.

Since this property is encumbered by a conservation easement, the staff recommendation is to wait. Tamy agrees with this recommendation. Kim stated the property will become more dense and harder to manage if the property just sits. She recommends the owner speak directly to Commissioners. Jim agrees this is a good approach, but is uncertain who would suggest this to the donor. Kim stated EEL staff could explain and speak to the donor. Mac noted the interdependent relationship with the Board and does not want to provoke Commissioners. Doug asked if anyone has approached the City of Titusville. Mike stated the Parks Director suggested the donor contact the City of Titusville; but, he is not aware if this meeting occurred. Staff communicated that information to the donor; however, staff has not be in contact with the City of Titusville. Oli asked if there is a time limit for this donation? Mike responded he is unaware of a time limit. Lisa noted her frustration since the donor is offering management funds. Tamy asked if there is a way for staff to estimate management costs, state the Program does has adequate funding, and staff to manage this property. Mike responded this analysis has been presented. In an abundance of caution, the staff recommendation is to wait since the property is encumbered in easement.

Mac inquired about the estimated cost for management. Mike stated the estimated cost of management including vegetation, signage, fencing, and burning of $12,000 initially and $2,000 annually. Mac expressed his interest is moving forward with this donation. Lisa clarified the SMC approved this donation; however, this donation has not been presented to the Board because it has been blocked. Jim asked who the Parks Director is. Mike responded Mary Ellen Donner is the Parks Director. Lisa stated one downside of waiting is this property has been identified as a possible stepping stone for jays. Mike mentioned the Population Viability Analysis and the potential value for this site; however, there are not currently jays on this property. That being said, it was added to the acquisition list before the property was offered as a donation. Lisa asked if we would have purchased it. Mike responded, the Program would have researched and discovered the land was under a conservation easement. Tamy asked if there is a way for the owner and the Program to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) where the donor funds management and the Program manages this property. Mike responded he is unsure. Tamy stated if the property was managed for five years this is a way to determine if jays would utilize this property as a stepping stone.

### MOTION 2

**Lisa moved to table the question while we ask Dave Breininger to render an opinion based on the current Population Viability Model whether waiting has any serious negative impacts.**

**Kim Zarillo seconded this motion.**

**The motion carried.**

**Mac McLouth voted nay.**

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Doug stated there has not been a REAC meeting. Mike mentioned the memo Doug requested regarding attendance. Mike stated one of the REAC members had to resign because of health issues.

### AGENDA ITEM 1

**Election of Vice Chair**

Tamy noted the previous Vice Chair, Paul Schmalzer, is no longer on the SMC. She asked if anyone was interested. Liz stated her interest.

### MOTION 3

**Doug moved to appoint Liz Becker to the Vice Chair position.**

**Mac seconded this motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Tamy explained her experience on other committees and the utilization of emeritus committee members because of the value of retaining their experience and expertise. She asked if the SMC was interested in extending this invitation to some select members. The Committee discussed and was supportive of this idea. Mike added emeritus committee members would not be a voting member.

### MOTION 4

**Kim moved to consider having select persons on the SMC by establishing an emeritus SMC membership.**

**Lisa seconded.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### AGENDA ITEM 2

**Proposed Lands Review**

Mike provided an overview of the Prioritization Matrix Category Scoring Definitions and the methodology used in scoring of the parcels on the acquisition list. He explained the attempt is to develop a tool to score proposed lands consistently.

Lisa mentioned her concern of using the term secondary to describe water recharge. Mike explained this verbiage is verbatim from the Land Acquisition Manual. She understands and stated using soil maps may be a better way. Mike responded we can look at using those. The committee discussed flood abatement and recharge areas.

Lisa asked, if listing fire as a constraint is double dipping from fire management? Mike responded, this is the first time we’ve compared these criteria. He added, fire as a constraint has more to do with site conditions instead of determining if can the property be burned. Doug asked the difference between roller chopping and burning. Mike explained burning is more cost effective and efficient.

Mark mentioned the free software, Marxan, which can be used to calculate a cost/benefit analysis and proximity to population centers. James suggested using corridor or connectivity as a multiplier at the end of the calculation. Mike responded something like that would work. Kim suggested looking at the software Mark mentioned and investigating other complementary assessment tools.

Oli asked who owns most of the properties on the list. Mike showed ownership and highlighted properties using the EEL Viewer App. Doug asked about the colors. Mike responded the colors were selected arbitrarily and assigned related to scoring. Kim mentioned a legend would be helpful. Mike replied, yes. He asked the Committee for their input on the next steps. He recalled Kim requested maps at the last meeting. Mike proposed working on maps and color coding them consistently.

Kim suggested a good first step is to understand project boundaries and to consider the big picture. Mike explained the data included in the EEL Viewer App and asked if that is sufficient? Kim responded, yes. Lisa mentioned this type of information would be beneficial when answering questions. Tamy asked if the scoring process could be tested on a few sites? Mike stated this is essentially what he did for each property and stated the SMC can select a few properties and go out and score. Lisa stated she would like to test a few in the field. Mike stated that would be a good start.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### NEXT MEETING

October 15th at 9:30 A.M.

### ADJORNED

### MOTION 4

**Liz moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42.**

**Doug seconded.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Add an agenda item to a future agenda to gage the level of Commissioner’s support

2. Mike will contact the Colonial Crossing donor

3. Tamy will speak with the other committee and inquire about the emeritus structure

4. Staff will come up with some ideas and discuss at the next SMC meeting

5. Staff work on better visual of the proposed lands for SMC to work on individually

6. Select a few sites and explore scoring and the use of Marxan software

7. SMC fieldtrip to the FIND Site at Grant/Valkaria