# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2019

Approved January 29, 2020

## *Attendance*

### Selection and Management Committee Members

Elizabeth Becker*,* Tamy Dabu***,*** Oli Johnson, Paul Schmalzer***,*** Kim Zarillo

### Program Staff

Laura Clark, David DeMeyer, Damien Keene, Mike Knight, Steve McGuffey, Brad Manley,

Ray Mojica, Chris O’Hara, Jenny Warner

### Guests

None

*Protecting and Preserving Biological Diversity*

*Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County’s Natural Resources.*

## *Meeting Minutes*

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Oli Johnson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. Clarification was provided that Dave Breininger and Tammy Foster had contacted staff earlier to indicate they were not able to attend due to work conflicts and that Lisa Toland also contacted staff to indicate she was not able to attend the meeting for personal reasons.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### MINUTES

The March 6, 2019 and October 15, 2019 Selection and Management Committee (SMC) minutes were presented for approval. It was noted that the July 17, 2019 and August 23, 2019 SMC draft minutes, and the August 23, 2019 Selection and Management Committee/Procedures Committee (SMC/PC) meeting draft minutes are incomplete.

**March 6, 2019 SMC Minutes**

The March 6, 2019 SMC minutes were presented for approval.

Paul Schmalzer noted: Page 1, bullet number 3 –“along” should be changed to “alone”.

**Motion One**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the March 6, 2019 SMC minutes, as corrected.**

**Tamy Dabu seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**October 15, 2019 SMC Minutes**

The October 15, 2019 SMC minutes were presented for approval.

Paul noted: Page 5, line 3 – The word doctor does not need a period. He also noted the following need for clarification on Page 7 regarding translocations. Add the following words: …*”*release of parasitic fly that it was hoped would attack”… an invasive exotic weevil which has caused significant damage to the *tillansia* population at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

Paul expressed concern that the action items listed at the end of the minutes appeared to not capture all of the action items listed within the minutes. Staff will review and revise.

**Motion Two**

**Paul Schmalzer moved to approve the October 15, 2019 SMC minutes, with corrections as indicated.**

**Kim Zarillo seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

**Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)**

Currently, the County Attorney’s Office is unwilling to recommend any restrictions regarding drones taking off or landing without first seeking an Attorney General Opinion. Staff is working to prepare this request for review and consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) Items**

**Town of Malabar Cooperative Agreement**

Staff has been informed that the agreement will not be renewed at this time. The Town Administrator has been notified.

**Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Native Plant Society Agreement**

Approved by the County Manager.

**Scottsmoor Sanctuary Cattle Lease – Date To Be Determined**

Renewal of existing cattle grazing lease in the Scottsmoor Flatwoods pasture to control exotics until property can be restored.

**Additional Discussion**

**Revisions to Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Manuals**

Clarification was requested regarding the status of the County Manager’s approval of the recent revisions to the Land Acquisition Manual (LAM) and Sanctuary Management Manual (SMM), which were completed by the Selection and Management Committee (approvals for LAM and SMM) and Procedures Committee (approval for LAM) as a result of the August 6, 2019 directive from the Board of County Commissioners.

Mike stated his understanding that staff in the County Manager’s Office are still trying to incorporate the changes they felt were necessary to the resolution that will authorize the finalization of the manual revisions. It was noted that Rocky Randals has resigned from the Procedures Committee, but steps can not be taken to replace him until all the approvals for the manual revisions are completed.

**Boardwalk at Malabar Scrub Sanctuary**

Mike is in the process of gathering historical information in order to prepare for his meeting with Mary Ellen Donner, Director of Parks and Recreation, to discuss the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) October request for him to meet with her regarding options for ensuring the boardwalk is safe. Paul noted the SMC’s multiple statements that agreement for the pilot project was based on the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program not having financial liability for construction or maintenance of the paved trail or the boardwalk.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Paul noted he will be leading a hike to the Cruickshank Sanctuary, in Rockledge, for Florida Native Plant Society members and other interested members of the public on December 7, 2019.

### STAFF REPORTS

None.

### LAND ACQUISITION STATUS UPDATE

**Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Property Exchange**

Mike noted the agreement is in the County Attorney’s Office for review. FIND has provided a new draft of their exchange agreement which includes more information about their easement needs. The information received is consistent with what the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) has already reviewed and FIND has also included a section on clean up for spills. It is anticipated the agreement may be available for review by the SMC at the January meeting. Once the SMC approves the agreement, staff will prepare an agenda report for Board of County Commissioner’s approval to advertise the exchange.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Otter Presentation From Megan Stolen**

A recent, time-sensitive request for the release of rehabilitated otters to the Hog Point Sanctuary could not be accommodated as the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program’s Species Translocation policy currently prohibits the release of rehabilitated animals at EEL sanctuaries. During the consideration of amending the policy to include the release of rehabilitated otters at the last Selection and Management Committee (SMC) meeting, Ray Mojica, South Beach Region Land Management Superintendent, noted it might be possible for Megan Stolen, from Hubbs-Sea World to give a presentation on otters.

Megan provided information on her studies. The following was noted:

* Otters require fresh water source.
* They are social, and move around a lot, but are not territorial.
* Before rehabilitated otters are released, they have been determined to be healthy and have the ability to forage for live food.

It was determined that staff will prepare a draft amendment to the Species Translocation policy for review by the Selection and Management Committee. Megan suggested that staff include suggested locations which may be appropriate for relocations might be included in the amendment. Mike noted that the EEL Program uses wildlife cameras and may be able to assist in compiling data for Megan’s study.

**Living Shoreline Discussion with Randy Parkinson**

Randy Parkinson, coastal geologist and former SMC member, participated in a discussion with the SMC regarding coastal shorelines. It was noted that sea level rise will continue to impact Florida more quickly than other parts of the country. It was also noted that it may be beneficial for the EEL Program to identify a position on naturally eroding shorelines and determine whether there should be plans to protect them, in general, or perhaps at site-specific hot spots. It may be helpful to include these determinations in sanctuary management plans. Requiring partners to compile monitoring information as part of the project would assist in determining whether or not the experiments could be considered successful.

The following questions, which arose during the discussion, were determined to be beneficial when considering living shorelines on EEL Program sanctuaries:

* What is the purpose of the project? Possible examples: shoreline stabilization, shoreline education, improvement of water quality, restoration project, habitat creation.
* What justification exists to support the purpose?
* What is considered success and how would it be determined? Surveys prior to the beginning of projects would be helpful to measure changes.
* How would the placement, or lack of, breakwaters affect survival of native plantings?
* What monitoring methods will be used and will information compiled provide confirmation, or lack of, success? What would be the appropriate timeframe to determine long term results?
* How will the monitoring be accomplished and who will be responsible for doing it?
* Are there guidelines regarding the possible need for materials to be removed? If so, what would those conditions be, and who would be responsible for the removal?
* What possible negative impacts might be associated with the projects and how harmful could they be? Examples: microplastics, portions of project breaking loose and causing entanglements.
* A suggestion was received to consider some projects as experiments.

Staff will gather information on the Maritime Hammock shoreline project for review by the SMC before moving forward on this project. Schedule for future meeting.

**EEL Operations and Funding Status Report Revisions**  
Mike is in the process of incorporating all suggestions for revisions into the document. Once that is complete, the document will be redistributed for additional discussion.

**Use of Herbicide for Trail Maintenance (Firelines and Trails Guidelines)**

Paul noted he had a few minor changes to the most recent version of the guidelines. The information will be incorporated and the report redistributed.

**ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION – EEL Land Acquisition Shape Files**

Mike noted that staff has updated the land acquisition shape files. It is anticipated the information will be brought to the committee in January.

### LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

This item was tabled due to time constraints. The current report’s information will be included in next month’s report.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### NEXT MEETING

The next Selection and Management Committee meeting will be held on January 29, 2020.

### ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

### SUMMARY OF MEETING MOTIONS

1. Motion to approve the March 6, 2019 Selection and Management Committee meeting minutes, as corrected.
2. Motion to approve the October 15, 2019 Selection and Management Committee meeting minutes, with corrections as indicated.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff to compile information for possible Attorney General opinion regarding County authority to regulate drone take-off and landings.
2. Staff to prepare draft amendment to Species Translocation policy to include approval for release of rehabilitated otters.
3. Staff to provide updated agreement for Florida Inland Navigation District’s property exchange to Selection and Management Committee for review, possibly at January meeting.
4. Staff to gather information specific to Maritime Hammock Sanctuary as noted in the current meeting’s discussion.
5. Staff to incorporate suggestions for revisions to Operations and Funding Status Report and redistribute the report.
6. Staff to incorporate changes to Firelines and Trails Guidelines, as noted in discussion, and redistribute the document.