



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Unfinished Business

I.1. 3/11/2025

Subject:

Approval; RE: Final ranking and appointment of EEL Selection and Management Committee (SMC) Members - All Districts.

Fiscal Impact:

There are no fiscal impacts to General Revenue funds. There are no impacts to EEL Program funds.

Dept/Office:

Parks and Recreation/Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners (Board):

1. Review and rank applicants;
2. Appoint the seven highest ranked science applicants;
3. Appoint the two highest ranked business, finance or real estate applicants;
4. Appoint the next highest ranked applicant in the two categories as alternate committee members.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On December 17, 2024, the Board approved staff to publicly advertise to fill all of the open positions on the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC) with qualified applicants and bring the list of qualified applicants back to the Board for final ranking and appointment.

The openings were publicly advertised on January 7, 2025 for two weeks. As per the Board approved EEL Land Acquisition Manual, all submitted science applications were reviewed and initially ranked by the Qualifying Committee on February 7, 2025. The list of qualified science applicants was reviewed and confirmed by the EEL Procedures Committee on February 14, 2025 as defined by the Board Approved Land Acquisition Manual. 11 qualified science applicants and 5 business, finance, real estate applicants are now being presented for consideration to the Board for final ranking and appointment.

The list of qualified science applicants and their initial ranking scores are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. Paul Schmalzer ✓ | 122 points |
| 2. Kathryn Becker ✓ | 117 points |
| 3. James Burney ✓ | 117 points |
| 4. Maryann Civil | 117 points |
| 5. Jon Shepherd ✓ | 117 points |
| 6. Kenneth Snyder ✓ | 117 points |
| 7. Christopher O'Hara ✓ | 112 points |
| 8. Lisa Toland | 112 points |

- 9. Jennifer White 111 points
- 10. Jennifer Thompson 106 points
- 11. Jeff Eble ✓ 105 points

The list of applicants with expertise in business, finance or real estate are as follows:

- 1. Olen W. Burden
- 2. Susan Christman
- 3. Jason P. Miller
- 4. Tara Miller
- 5. Sandra Racicot

It is requested that the Board consider completing the final ranking process as defined in the EEL Land Acquisition Manual, by each Board member assigning a score of 3, 2, or 1 to each of the qualified applicants with 3 being the highest score for preferred applicants. Staff will collect and tabulate the scores. The seven science applicants with the highest scores and the two business, finance, or real estate applicants with the highest scores will be appointed to the SMC committee. The applicants with the next highest score in each of the two categories will be appointed as alternate committee members.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please return Board Memorandum to the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program.



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

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Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

March 12, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Knight, Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Manager

RE: Item I.1., Approval, Final Ranking, and Appointment of Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Selection and Management Committee (SMC) Members

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 11, 2025, reviewed and ranked the qualified applicants for science and expertise in business, finance, or real estate; appointed the following as the seven (7) EEL SMC science members: Christopher O'Hara, Jeff Ebel, Kathryn Becker, James Burney, Jon Shepherd, Kenneth Snyder, and Paul Schmalzer, with Lisa Toland, Jennifer White, Jennifer Thompson, and Maryann Civil as the alternates for science members; and appointed the following as the two (2) EEL SMC business, finance, or real estate members: Jason Miller and Olen Burden, with Tara Miller, Susan Christman, and Sandra Racicot as the alternates for business, finance, and real estate.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: Each Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
County Manager
County Attorney

EEL SMC Science Applicant Ranking

EEL SMC Science Applicant Ranking		Commissioner Name:
Applicant Name	Qualifications Summary	Initial Ranking by Qualifying Committee
Applicant Name	Qualifications Summary	Score
Schmalzer, Paul	Retired. Ph.D.& MS Ecology. BS Biology. 40+ years working professionally in Brevard ecosystems. Native Plant Society Board. Past SMC member 1990-2021. Will require a super majority vote of the Board to appoint due to previous length of time on the committee.	122 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Becker, Kathryn	Ph.D. candidate in Conservation Biology. MS degree in Biology and BS degree in Botany. Current SMC member for 6 years.	117 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Burney, James	MS and BS in Biology. Professional wetland scientist certification. Society of Wetland Scientists. Current SMC member for 3 years.	117 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Civil, Maryann	BS in geology. MS oceanography / geoscience. 30 years as professional geologist. Current SMC member for 2 years.	117 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Shepherd, Jon	MS Ecology, BS biological sciences. 28 years environmental consulting in Brevard. Current SMC member for 2 years.	117 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Snyder, Kenneth	MS Ecology / Conservation Biology, BS Biology/Limnology. Field Program Supervisor for St. Johns River Water Management District.	117 (Circle One): 3 2 1
O'Hara, Christopher	BS in Ecology and Marine biology. Currently works for St. Johns River Water Management District. Previous EEL employee. Current SMC member for 4 months as alternate.	112 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Toland, Lisa	BS Chemistry and extensive work as environmental consultant in Brevard. Current SMC member for 5 years.	112 (Circle One): 3 2 1
White, Jennifer	BS and MS in Environmental Science. Current Ph.D Student.	111 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Thompson, Jennifer	BS biology focus on marine sciences and sustainability. Currently working on MS in Forest Resources and Conservation. Current SMC member for 3 years.	106 (Circle One): 3 2 1
Eble, Jeff	Ph.D. Zoology. 15 years in biological and environmental sciences. Habitat restoration. Works for Hubbs Sea World Research Institute.	105 (Circle One): 3 2 1

BOCC Final Ranking Instructions:
Circle a score of 3, 2, or 1 for each applicant.
3= Most Preferred
1= Least Preferred

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Dr.	Paul	A.	Schmalzer
<small>Prefix</small>	<small>First Name</small>	<small>Middle Initial</small>	<small>Last Name</small>

schmalzp@digital.net
Email Address

2829 Mourning Dove Way	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Titusville	FL	32780
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Home: (321) 446-7580	Home: (321) 268-5473
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

42 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

B.S. Biology, M.S. Ecology, Ph.D. Ecology; 40+ years professional experience; 55 published papers, numerous technical documents and presented papers. See CV for details.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

40 + years of experience working in Brevard County ecosystems. See CV for details.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

Retired. Not serving on any state, regional, or county governmental boards. Member of Board of Directors of the Florida Native Plant Society. President, Sea Rocket Chapter (North Brevard) Florida Native Plant Society

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Extensive experience in Brevard County ecosystems, familiarity with EEL Sanctuaries, understanding of history of the EEL Program

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

Previously served on Selection and Management Committee from 1990-2021

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

NA

[PAS_CV_2025.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

PAUL A. SCHMALZER**EDUCATION**

Western Maryland College, B.A. Biology 1976
 The University of Tennessee, M.S. Ecology 1978
 The University of Tennessee, Ph.D. Ecology 1982

EXPERIENCE

Forty years of experience in the design and implementation of ecological research, environmental impact analysis, and biological surveys. Expertise in terrestrial plant ecology, fire ecology, restoration ecology, vascular flora, vegetation sampling, and vegetation data analysis.

HERNDON SOLUTIONS GROUP

Senior Plant Ecologist, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. October 2020-September 2023
 Conduct studies of Kennedy Space Center vegetation, fire ecology, and restoration of scrub and wetlands vegetation. Conduct studies of rare plant distributions and ecology. Provide technical guidance to the Vegetation Studies Group. Maintain KSC Herbarium.

INTEGRATED MISSION SUPPORT SERVICES

Senior Plant Ecologist, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. November 2015-September 2020
 Conduct studies of Kennedy Space Center vegetation, fire ecology, and restoration of scrub and wetlands vegetation. Conduct studies of rare plant distributions and ecology. Provide technical guidance to the Vegetation Studies Group. Maintain KSC Herbarium.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Courtesy Research Associate, Orlando, Florida. March 2016-2022, 2023-

INNOVATIVE HEALTH APPLICATIONS/INOMEDIC HEALTH APPLICATIONS

Technical Lead, Plant Ecologist, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. October 2009-October 2015
 Conduct studies of Kennedy Space Center vegetation, fire ecology, and restoration of scrub and wetlands vegetation. Conduct studies of rare plant distributions and ecology. Provide technical guidance to the Vegetation Studies Group. Maintain KSC Herbarium.

DYNAMAC CORPORATION

Technical Lead, Plant Ecologist, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. January 1995 - September 2009

Conduct studies of Kennedy Space Center vegetation, fire ecology, and restoration of scrub and wetlands vegetation. Conduct studies of rare plant distributions and ecology. Provide technical guidance to the Vegetation Studies Group. Maintain KSC Herbarium. Monitor scrub restoration efforts on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Directed studies of effects of rocket launches on Cape Canaveral Air Station. Directed study of threatened and endangered species on Patrick Air Force Base. Directed study of historical vegetation of the Indian River Lagoon Basin. Conducted studies of the flora and rare plants of Canaveral National Seashore. Conducted studies of the occurrence and distribution of rare scrub plants in Brevard County.

THE BIONETICS CORPORATION

Technical Lead, Plant Ecologist, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. 1993-1994.

Conducted studies of Kennedy Space Center vegetation, fire ecology, and restoration of scrub and wetlands vegetation. Provided technical guidance to the Vegetation Studies Group.

Plant Ecologist, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. 1982-1993.

Conducted studies of the vegetation of Kennedy Space Center in relation to environmental variables, successional patterns, fire effects, and space center operations. Contributed to studies of animal habitat use. Conducted studies of vegetation, exotic plants, and potential environmental impacts and coordinated studies of fire history and soil erosion on Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Research Scientist, Plant Ecologist (part time). Melbourne, Florida. 1993-1995.

Brevard County Scrub Habitat Conservation Plan. Helped develop proposal to conduct study of scrub habitat in Brevard County in relation to Florida Scrub-Jay habitat requirements and other rare or declining scrub species. Specific duties include plant sampling protocol, scrub plant identification, report preparation, and graduate student training.

BREVARD COUNTY

Member, Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (volunteer). 1990- 2021. Emeritus Member 2022-2025

Helped develop criteria for determination of environmentally endangered lands and priorities for acquisition. Examined numerous sites, prepared reports, and made recommendations regarding acquisition. Helped prepare proposals to State of Florida Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program, Florida Forever Program, and the Florida Community Trust. Helped develop management criteria and reviewed management plans. Conducted numerous site visits to examine management activities and requirements.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Graduate Research Assistant, Ecology Program, Knoxville, Tennessee, 1979-1982.

National Park Service Obed River Vegetation Project. Conducted vegetation survey, prepared vegetation map, conducted survey for endangered and threatened plants and critical plant habitats, prepared floristic list, and prepared report.

National Park Service contract to H.R. DeSelm: Classification of the Vegetation of the Interior Low Plateau. Helped to gather and synthesize literature on vegetation of the Interior Low Plateau and to prepare report.

National Park Service contract to H.R. DeSelm: Evaluation of Five Potential National Natural Landmarks in Tennessee. Helped to gather field data and available information on topography, geology, soils, and vegetation of five proposed National Natural Landmarks in Tennessee.

Hilton Smith Fellowship, 1978-1979.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 1977-1978.

Taught general biology, prepared lectures and conducted labs.

Non-Service Fellowship, 1976-1977.

PROJECT HISTORY:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Kennedy Space Center, 1982-Present. Principal investigator. Designed and implemented vegetation monitoring program for Kennedy Space Center, Florida including long-term studies of changes after fire. Conduct studies of effects of Space Shuttle launches on terrestrial vegetation and soils and help maintain long-term databases of launch deposition patterns.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Kennedy Space Center, 1992-Present. Principal investigator. Collaborate on the design and implementation of a scrub restoration program for Kennedy Space Center. Monitor vegetation changes after combinations of cutting and burning to restore long-unburned scrub habitat. Monitor survival and growth of scrub species planted in former agricultural sites.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Kennedy Space Center, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. 2010-2011. Principal investigator. Design and implement program monitoring vegetation response to restoration of hardwood swales in scrub and flatwoods landscapes on Kennedy Space Center/Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

U.S. Air Force, 45th Space Wing, 2010-2011. Co-investigator. Compile floristic inventory of selected wetlands areas on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station as part of a comprehensive survey of flora and fauna.

National Park Service, Canaveral National Seashore, 2002-2004. Principal investigator. Compile floristic inventory and survey for threatened and endangered plants on Canaveral National Seashore, Florida.

Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office, 2004-2005. Principal investigator. Conduct surveys for threatened and endangered scrub plants in Brevard County, Florida.

Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office, 2003-2004. Principal investigator. Conduct surveys for selected threatened and endangered plants in Brevard County, Florida.

U.S. Air Force, 45th Space Wing, 1998-2003. Principal investigator. Designed and coordinated the implementation of a scrub restoration program for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. Monitored vegetation changes after combinations of cutting and burning to restore long-unburned scrub habitat.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Kennedy Space Center, Remediation Program, 1998-2000. Co-principal investigator. Helped to design and implement baseline chemical characterization study for Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Responsible for technical direction of soil and groundwater sections of the study.

U.S. Air Force, 45th Space Wing, 1995-1998. Principal investigator. Coordinated and helped to design program to monitor effects of Delta, Atlas, and Titan rocket launches on the environment of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

U.S. Air Force, 45th Space Wing, 1995-1997. Principal investigator. Coordinated and helped to design threatened and endangered species survey for Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

St. Johns River Water Management District, 1995-1997. Co-principal investigator. Coordinated and helped to design project to map historical vegetation of the Indian River Lagoon Basin, Florida

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEES:

Shannon Boyle, Florida Institute of Technology, M. S. Biology, December 1996

Theresa K. Burcsu, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, M. A. Geography, July 1998

Lisa Earnest, University of South Florida, M.S. Marine Science, University of South Florida, December 1998

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ecological Society of America: Member Board of Professional Certification, 2020-2024
Florida Native Plant Society: Chair, Science Advisory Committee, 2006-Present
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society: Editor, *Castanea*, 2001-2003
Southeastern Chapter, Ecological Society of America: Vice-Chair, 1993-1995; Secretary-Treasurer, 2000-2002; Chair, 2002-2004

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Institute of Biological Sciences
Association of Southeastern Biologists
Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee.
Ecological Society of America
Florida Academy of Science
Florida Native Plant Society
International Association for Vegetation Science
International Association for Wildland Fire
Natural Areas Association
Society of Wetland Scientists
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society
Tennessee Academy of Science
Torrey Botanical Society

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Senior Ecologist, Ecological Society of America, 1994-Present

HONORS

NASA Kennedy Space Center Engineer/Scientist of the Year, 2018, Contractor Division
Florida Native Plant Society, Silver Palmetto Award, 2018
Florida Native Plant Society, Silver Palmetto Award, 2009
Florida Native Plant Society, Green Palmetto Award, 2005
The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter Conservation Colleague Award, 1995
NASA Manned Flight Awareness Award of Merit, 1989
Phi Kappa Phi, The University of Tennessee, 1982
H.P. Sturdivant Biology Award, Western Maryland College, 1976

PUBLICATIONS/TECHNICAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Published Papers:

- Schmalzer, P.A., C.R. Hinkle, and H.R. DeSelm. 1978. Discriminant analysis of cove forests of the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. p. 62-86. In: P.E. Pope (ed.). Proceedings Central Hardwoods Forest Conference II. Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
- Schmalzer, P.A., C.R. Hinkle, and H.R. DeSelm. 1980. Vegetation patterns in a section of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, Cumberland County, Tennessee. p. 256-272. In: H.E. Garrett and G.E. Cox (eds.). Proceedings Central Hardwood Conference III. University of Missouri, Columbia.

- Schmalzer, P.A., T.S. Patrick, and H.R. DeSelm. 1985. Vascular flora of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, Tennessee. *Castanea* 50:71-88.
- Provancha, M.J., P.A. Schmalzer, and C.R. Hall. 1986. Effects of the December 1983 and January 1985 freezing air temperatures on select aquatic poikilotherms and plant species of Merritt Island, Florida. *Florida Scientist* 49:199-212.
- Hinkle, C.R., C.R. Hall, M.J. Provancha, P.A. Schmalzer, A.M. Koller, Jr., and W.M. Knott, III. 1988. The use of remotely sensed environmental data and geographic referenced data management for environmental impact assessments. Chemical Propulsion Information Agency (CPIA) Publication 485.
- Schmalzer, P.A. 1988. Vegetation of the Obed River gorge system, Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee. *Castanea* 53:1-32.
- Schmalzer, P.A. 1989. Vegetation and flora of the Obed River gorge system, Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 64:161-168.
- Breining, D.R. and P.A. Schmalzer. 1990. Effects of fire and disturbance on plants and birds in a Florida oak/palmetto scrub community. *American Midland Naturalist* 123:64-74.
- Levine, J.S., W.R. Cofer, III, D.I. Sebacher, R.P. Rhinehart, E.L. Winstead, S. Sebacher, C.R. Hinkle, P.A. Schmalzer, and A.M. Koller, Jr. 1990. The effects of fire on biogenic emissions of methane and nitric oxide from wetlands. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 95:1853-1864.
- Breining, D.R., P.A. Schmalzer, and C.R. Hinkle. 1991. Estimating occupancy of gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows in coastal scrub and slash pine. *Journal of Herpetology* 25:317-321.
- Schmalzer, P.A., C.R. Hinkle, and A.M. Koller, Jr. 1991. Changes in marsh soils for six months after a fire. p. 272-286. In: J.S. Levine (ed.). *Global Biomass Burning Atmospheric, Climatic, and Biospheric Implications*. The MIT Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Schmalzer, P.A. C.R. Hinkle, and J.L. Mailander. 1991. Changes in community composition and biomass in *Juncus roemerianus* Scheele and *Spartina bakeri* Merr. marshes one year after a fire. *Wetlands* 11:67-86.
- Duncan, B.W. and P.A. Schmalzer. 1992. Using ARC/INFO to monitor Space Shuttle launch effects and validate a spatial predictive model. p. 499-506. In: *Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual ESRI User Conference, Volume 1*. Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. Redlands, California.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and C.R. Hinkle. 1992. Recovery of oak-saw palmetto scrub after fire. *Castanea* 57:158-173.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and C.R. Hinkle. 1992. Soil dynamics following fire in *Juncus* and *Spartina* marshes. *Wetlands* 12:8-21.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and C.R. Hinkle. 1992. Species composition and structure of oak-saw palmetto scrub vegetation. *Castanea* 57:220-251.
- Hinkle, C.R., W. McComb, J.M. Safley, Jr., and P.A. Schmalzer. 1993. Mixed mesophytic forests. p. 203-253. In: W.H. Martin, S.G. Boyce, and A. C. Echternacht (eds.). *Biodiversity of the*

Southeastern United States: Upland Terrestrial Communities. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

Schmalzer, P.A. and C.R. Hinkle. 1993. Effects of fire on nutrient concentrations and standing crops in biomass of *Juncus roemerianus* and *Spartina bakeri* marshes. *Castanea* 58:90-114.

Schmalzer, P.A., C.R. Hall, C.R. Hinkle, B.W. Duncan, W.M. Knott III, and B.R. Summerfield. 1993. Environmental monitoring of Space Shuttle launches at Kennedy Space Center: the first ten years. American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Conference Paper AIAA93-0303. 16p.

Swain, H., C.R. Hinkle, and P.A. Schmalzer. 1993. Stewardship at the local level: a case study for Brevard County, Florida. p. 452-462. In: W.E. Brown and S.D. Veirs, Jr. (eds.). *Partners in Stewardship: Proceedings of the 7th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands*. George Wright Society. Hancock, Michigan.

Breining, D.R., P.A. Schmalzer, and C.R. Hinkle. 1994. Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) densities in coastal scrub and slash pine flatwoods in Florida. *Journal of Herpetology* 28:60-65.

Duncan, B.W. and P.A. Schmalzer. 1994. Using a geographical information system for monitoring Space Shuttle Launches: determining cumulative distribution of deposition and an empirical test of a spatial model. *Environmental Management* 18:465-474.

Duncan, B.W., D.R. Breining, P.A. Schmalzer, and V.L. Larson. 1995. Validating a Florida Scrub Jay habitat suitability model, using demography data on Kennedy Space Center. *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* 61:1361-1370.

Schmalzer, P.A. 1995. Biodiversity of saline and brackish marshes of the Indian River Lagoon: historic and current patterns. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 57:37-48.

Duncan, B. W., S. Boyle, P. A. Schmalzer and D. R. Breining. 1996. Spatial quantification of historic landscape change within two study sites on John F. Kennedy Space Center. *Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual ESRI User Conference*. Published on CD-ROM and on the World Wide Web at www.esri.com.

Schmalzer, P.A. and C.R. Hinkle. 1996. Biomass and nutrients in aboveground vegetation and soils of Florida oak-saw palmetto scrub. *Castanea* 61:168-193.

Schmalzer, P. A. B. W. Duncan, V. L. Larson, S. Boyle, and M. Gimond. 1996. Reconstructing historic landscapes of the Indian River Lagoon Basin. p. 849-854. In: *Proceedings of Eco-Inforna'96: Global Networks for Environmental Information, Volume 11*. Environmental Research Institute of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Schmalzer, P. A., and S. R. Boyle. 1998. Restoring long-unburned oak-saw palmetto scrub requires mechanical cutting and prescribed burning (Florida). *Restoration & Management Notes* 16(1):96-97.

Duncan, B.W., S. Boyle, D.R. Breining, and P.A. Schmalzer. 1999. Coupling past management practice and historic landscape change on John F. Kennedy Space Center. *Landscape Ecology* 14:291-309.

Schmalzer, P.A., S.R. Boyle, and H.M. Swain. 1999. Scrub ecosystems of Brevard County, Florida: a regional characterization. *Florida Scientist* 62:13-47.

- Duncan, B.W., V.L. Larson, and P.A. Schmalzer. 2000. Modeling historic landcover: an evaluation of two methodologies for producing baseline reference data. *Natural Areas Journal* 20(4):308-316.
- Duncan, B.W. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2001. Modeling past and present fire behavior on Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Proceedings of the Twenty-first Annual ESRI User Conference. Published on CD-ROM and on the World Wide Web at www.esri.com.
- Duncan, B.W. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2001. Spatial fire behavior modeling: simulating past and present fire spread distributions along the east coast of Central Florida. Pp. 8-11 *in* D. Zattau. (ed.). Proceedings of the Florida Scrub Symposium 2001. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jacksonville, Florida. 63 pp.
- Schmalzer, P. A. and F. W. Adrian. 2001. Scrub restoration on Kennedy Space Center/Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, 1992-2000. Pp. 17-20 *in* D. Zattau. (ed.). Proceedings of the Florida Scrub Symposium 2001. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jacksonville, Florida. 63 pp.
- Schmalzer, P. A., M. A. Hensley, and C. A. Dunlevy. 2001. Background characteristics of soils of Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island, Florida: selected elements and physical properties. *Florida Scientist* 64:161-190.
- Schmalzer, P. A. and M. A. Hensley. 2001. Background characteristics of groundwater in the Surficial Aquifer of Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island, Florida. *Florida Scientist* 64: 250-273.
- Duncan, B.W., P.A. Schmalzer, and T.E. Foster. 2002. Mapping shuttle launch clouds at KSC. *GeoSpatial Solutions* 12(11): 32-37.
- Schmalzer, P.A., S.R. Turek, T.E. Foster, C.A. Dunlevy, and F.W. Adrian. 2002. Reestablishing Florida scrub in a former agricultural site: Survival and growth of planted species and changes in community composition. *Castanea* 67:146-160.
- Duncan, B.W. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2003. Anthropogenic fuel alteration and changes in spatial fire behavior in a southeastern pyrogenic ecosystem. In: Proceedings of the Second International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management Congress, American Meteorological Society, Published on CDROM and at <http://www.ametsoc.org>.
- Foster, T.E. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2003. The effect of season of fire on the recovery of Florida scrub. In: Proceedings of the Second International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management Congress, American Meteorological Society, Published on CDROM and at <http://www.ametsoc.org>.
- Schmalzer, P.A. 2003. Growth and recovery of oak-saw palmetto scrub through ten years after fire. *Natural Areas Journal* 23:5-13.
- Schmalzer, P.A. T. E. Foster, and F.W. Adrian. 2003. Responses of long-unburned scrub on the Merritt Island/Cape Canaveral barrier island complex to cutting and burning. In: Proceedings of the Second International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management Congress, American Meteorological Society, Published on CDROM and at <http://www.ametsoc.org>.
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- Schmalzer, P.A., T.E. Foster, and F.W. Adrian. 2002. Restoring long-unburned Florida oak-saw palmetto scrub. Abstract of presented poster in: Ecological Society of America 2002 Annual Meeting Abstracts. p. 421.
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- Schmalzer, P.A. T. E. Foster, and F.W. Adrian. 2003. Responses of long-unburned scrub on the Merritt Island/Cape Canaveral barrier island complex to cutting and burning. Abstract of presented paper in: Program of the Second International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management Congress, American Meteorological Society. p. 63.
- Schmalzer, P.A., T.E. Foster, and B.W. Duncan. 2003. Rare Plants of Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and Canaveral National Seashore. Abstract of presented paper in: Florida Scientist 66 (Supplement 1): 50.

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- Schmalzer, P.A., and T.E. Foster. 2004. Flora and rare plants of Canaveral National Seashore. Abstract of presented paper in: Florida Native Plant Society 24th Annual Conference Program, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. p. 5.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2004. Rare plant diversity and conservation at the local scale: An example from central Florida. Abstract of presented poster in: Ecological Society of America 2004 Annual Meeting Abstracts. p. 454.
- Foster, T.E. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2005. Preliminary characterization of habitat for rare scrub plants in Brevard County, Florida. Abstract of presented poster in: Ecological Society of America 2005 Annual Meeting Abstracts. p. 199.
- Foster, T.E. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2006. The importance of county-acquired lands for the persistence of rare scrub plants in Brevard County, Florida. Abstract of presented paper in: Florida Scientist 69 (Supplement 1): 70-71.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2007. Responses of Florida oak scrub vegetation to multiple cycles of cutting and burning. Abstract of presented poster. Ecological Society of America/Society for Ecological Restoration International Joint Meeting. Published on CD.
- Foster, T.E., G.A. Fox, and P.A. Schmalzer. 2008. Relationships between height growth and climatic variables for three Florida scrub oaks. Abstract of presented paper. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Published on CD.
- Hinkle, C.R. and P.A. Schmalzer. 2008. Acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands to protect biodiversity in Brevard County, Florida. Abstract of presented paper. Southeastern Biology 55(3):249.
- Foster, T.E., P.A. Schmalzer, and G. A. Fox. 2010. Correlation between climate and growth for Florida scrub oaks: A dendroecology study. Poster presented at Ecological Society of America Meeting, August 5, 2010, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Abstract available online at <http://www.esa.org>.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2010. Responses of long-unburned oak-saw palmetto scrub to repeated cutting or burning. Poster presented at Ecological Society of America Meeting, August 5, 2010, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Abstract available online at <http://www.esa.org>.
- Foster, T.E., P.A. Schmalzer, and G.A. Fox. 2011. Site differences in growth response of *Quercus myrtifolia* to climate. Abstract of presented paper. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. August 2011, Austin, Texas. Abstract available online at <http://www.esa.org>.
- Foster, T., P.A. Schmalzer, and G.A. Fox. 2013. Climate-growth relationships for slash pine and two dominant oaks in Florida scrub. Abstract of presented paper in Program of the Florida Native Plant Society 33rd Annual Conference. P. 16.
- Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2016. Development of scrub vegetation in a former agricultural site through 23 years after planting. Paper presented at Ecological Society of America

Meeting, August 9, 2016, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Abstract available online at <http://www.esa.org>.

Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2019. Variation of Florida scrub vegetation along gradients of soil pH and landscape age on a barrier island complex. Paper presented at Ecological Society of America Meeting, August 15, 2019, Louisville, Kentucky. Abstract available online at <http://www.esa.org>.

Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2020. Responses of Florida scrub vegetation to water additions from a groundwater treatment project. Paper presented at Ecological Society of America Virtual Meeting, August 3-6, 2020. Abstract available online at <http://www.esa.org>.

Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2021. Effects of repeated fire on Florida oak-saw palmetto scrub. Abstract of presented paper, Ecological Society of America Virtual Meeting, August 2-6, 2021.

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Kathryn	E	Becker
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

k.elizabeth.becker@gmail.com
Email Address

4085 Old Settlement Rd	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Merritt Island	FL	32952
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Mobile: (321) 431-3886	
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

40 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I have a M.S. in Biology from the University of Central Florida and a B.S. in Botany from the University of Florida.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

As a fourth generation Brevard County native I have had extensive experience in the county's natural areas, I am knowledgeable of the many ecosystem and habitat types the area has to offer, and feel a strong sense of duty to preserve these natural treasures for generations to come. My academic and professional experience as an ecologist has provided me with an in-depth understanding of many restoration and conservation techniques applied across landscapes in the Central Florida region, specifically the management technique of prescribed fire. The research I have conducted has provided me with an understanding of the practicalities of applying such management techniques, as well as a depth of knowledge about ecosystem response to these land management activities.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

Yes. Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

My area of greatest expertise is in carbon sequestration and storage, and the role land management plays in that ecosystem service. I have led and participated in numerous research projects focused on that topic. The most recent project being a collaboration of university and government researchers working towards developing a carbon budget for the Greater Everglades Watershed funded by DOE's Terrestrial Ecosystem Science (TES) program. As a graduate research assistant on this project, I had the opportunity to work with leading scientists in the fields of climate modeling, carbon and water cycling, and carbon storage.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I have a M.S. in Biology from the University of Central Florida and a B.S. in Botany from the University of Florida. I have also completed all of the requirements for doctoral candidacy towards a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology. During my graduate work I completed extensive research focused on the impact of land use, land use change, and land management on the carbon dynamics of Central Florida ecosystems. I believe my academic career as well as my additional research experiences (please see attached CV) qualifies me to serve as a capable and experienced member of the EEL Selection and Management Committee. Further, as a member of the EEL Selection and Management Committee for the last four years, I have had the opportunity to work alongside both scientists and land managers to advise on best practices to restore, maintain, and protect the EEL program's network of environmentally sensitive lands and their natural resources. The skill set I have developed serving in this role will most certainly enhance the committee if I am given the opportunity to continue my position.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

[KEBecker_Curriculum_Vitae.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Kathryn Elizabeth Becker

k.elizabeth.becker@gmail.com
4085 Old Settlement Road
Merritt Island, FL 32952
(321) 431-3886

Education

University of Central Florida

Field of Study: Conservation Biology (in pursuit of PhD)

Completed all coursework, written exams, and oral exams for candidacy

Orlando, FL

August, 2011 – August, 2018

University of Central Florida

Field of Study: Biology (MS)

Thesis: Variability of Carbon Stock in Florida Flatwoods Ecosystems Undergoing Restoration and Management

Major Professor: Dr. C. Ross Hinkle

Orlando, FL

May, 2011

University of Florida

Field of Study: Botany (BS)

Gainesville, FL

December, 2008

Research Experience

University of Central Florida

Graduate Research Assistant

Salary: 22,894.00 USD per year plus tuition

Hours per week: 20

Supervisor: Dr. C. Ross Hinkle

Project title: Carbon Dynamics of the Greater Everglades Watershed and Implications of Climate Change

DOE-TES/OBER Project Number DESC0008310

Task description:

- Collect pre and post prescribed fire CO₂ flux data in a native landscape in Kissimmee, FL using the eddy covariance method
- Collect CO₂ flux data in an urban site near Orlando, FL using the eddy covariance method
- Process flux data in EdiRe
- Organize and analyze flux data in Excel and R
- Estimate carbon stores in biomass and soil pre and post fire using field sampling methods and remotely sensed data in ArcGIS
- Estimate landcover composition for urban sampling area using remotely sensed data in ArcGIS

Orlando, FL

August, 2012 – August, 2018

University of Central Florida

Salary: 19,205.00 USD per year plus tuition

Hours per week: 20

Supervisor: Dr. C. Ross Hinkle

Task description:

- Collect CO₂ flux data in both native and urban ecosystems near Orlando, FL using the eddy covariance method
- Process flux data in EdiRe
- Organize and analyze flux data in Excel and R
- Estimate carbon stores in biomass and soil pre and post fire using field sampling methods and remotely sensed data in ArcGIS

January, 2011 - July, 2012

Graduate Research Assistant

May, 2010 - August, 2010

Salary: 5,910.00 USD per summer term plus tuition

Hours per week: 20

Supervisor: Dr. C. Ross Hinkle

Project title: Urban Forest Effects Model for Orlando, FL

Task description:

- Collect field measurement data in Orlando, FL to estimate ground cover, understory biomass, and canopy biomass required to execute the Urban Forest Effects Model
- Organize data in Excel to meet format required to run the model

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

Research Assistant

July, 2009 - August, 2009

Salary: 9.00 USD Per Hour

Hours per week: 40

Supervisor: Dr. Michelle C. Mack

Task description:

- Prepare pre and post fire Alaskan active layer and permafrost soil samples for elemental analysis
- Analyze soil samples for percent carbon and nitrogen using elemental analyzer
- Enter and organize resulting data in Excel
- General laboratory organization

Research Assistant

January, 2009 - July, 2009

Salary: 9.00 USD Per Hour

Hours per week: 25

Supervisor: Dr. Edward A.G. Schuur

Task description:

- Prepare soil and vegetation samples for elemental analysis
- Analyze soil and vegetation samples for percent carbon and nitrogen using elemental analyzer
- Enter and organize resulting data in Excel
- General laboratory organization

Research Assistant

January, 2009 - July, 2009

Salary: 9.00 USD Per Hour

Hours per week: 15

Supervisors: Dr. Timothy A. Martin, Dr. Eric J. Jokela and Dr. Jason G. Vogel

Project Title: Intensive Management Practices Assessment Center Project

Task description:

- Collect field measurements and samples to estimate soil, ground cover, understory, and canopy carbon and nitrogen content of planted pine forests near Gainesville, FL
- Enter and organize measurements taken in the field in Excel
- Prepare samples for elemental analysis

Undergraduate Independent Study

August, 2008 - April, 2009

Sponsors: Dr. Edward A.G. Schuur and Dr. Hanna Lee

Task description:

- Prepare Alaskan permafrost soils for stable isotope mass spectroscopy and elemental analysis
- Analyze soils for carbon and nitrogen stable isotope profiles using mass spectrometer
- Analyze soils for percent carbon and nitrogen using elemental analyzer
- Enter, organize, and analyze resulting data in Excel

Teaching Experience

University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL

Graduate Teaching Associate, Ecology Laboratory
Salary: 4947.00 USD per term plus tuition
Hours per week: 20

August, 2010 - December, 2010

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Biology Laboratory 1
Salary: 4947.00 USD per term plus tuition
Hours per week: 20

August, 2009 - April, 2010

Grants and Honors

UCF College of Graduate Studies Travel Fellowship

2011, 2012, 2013

Elsie Quarterman-Catherine Keever Award (Best Ecological Poster Presented by a Student)
Ecological Society of America, Southeastern Chapter

2011

National Garden Club Scholarship

2010 - 2011

National SMART Grant

2008

Florida Medallion Scholarship

2002 - 2008

Publications

Peer Reviewed Publications

Articles

Ekpe, E.K., **K.E. Becker**, J. Lab, C.R. Hinkle, and F. Escobedo. 2012. Orlando, Florida's Urban and Community Forests and Their Ecosystem Services. University of Florida- IFAS, EDIS FR290.

Conference Proceedings

Becker, K.E. and C.R. Hinkle. 2017. Urban NEE Drivers and Patterns in the Headwaters of the Everglades. *Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) Meeting*. Coral Springs, FL.

Becker, K.E. and C.R. Hinkle. 2016. Carbon dynamics of a longleaf pine flatwoods ecosystem managed with prescribed fire. *Florida Native Plant Society 36th Annual Conference*. Daytona Beach, FL.

C.R. Hinkle, **K.E. Becker**, B. Benschoter, X. Comas, M. McClellan, M. Budny, D. Harshbarger, S. Graham. 2016. Carbon Dynamics of the Greater Everglades Watershed and Implications of Climate Change. *2016 Environmental System Science (ESS) PI Meeting*. Potomac, MD.

Becker, K.E. and C.R. Hinkle. 2013. Assessing the impact of urban land cover composition on CO₂ flux. *American Geophysical Union 45th annual Fall Meeting*. San Francisco, CA.

Becker, K.E. and C.R. Hinkle. 2012. Measuring the impact of prescribed fire management on the carbon balance of a flatwoods ecosystem in Kissimmee, Florida. *American Geophysical Union 45th annual Fall Meeting*. San Francisco, CA.

Ekpe, E.K., **K.E. Becker**, J. Lab, C.R. Hinkle and F. Escabedo. 2011. An Assessment of the Structure and Environmental Benefits of Urban Forests in Orlando, Florida. *Florida Academy of Sciences 75th Annual Meeting*. Melbourne, FL

Becker, K.E., J.M. Anderson and C.R. Hinkle. 2011. Variability of Aboveground and Belowground Carbon Stocks in Florida Flatwoods Ecosystems Undergoing Restoration and Management. *Ecological Society of America 96th Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX. Poster also presented to *Association of Southeastern Biologists 2011*. Huntsville, AL.

Becker, K.E., E.A.G. Schuur and H. Lee. 2009. Carbon and Nitrogen Isotope Distribution and Abundance in Alaskan Permafrost Soils. *Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Technical Reports

Sumner, D.M., C.R. Hinkle and **K.E. Becker**. 2017. Evapotranspiration (ET) at University of Central Florida urban site, daily data, Orange County, Florida, January 29, 2009 - September 27, 2012: U. S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/F7JS9NZB>.

Becker, K.E. and C.R. Hinkle. 2014. Assessing the Carbon Flux Dynamics of a Central Florida Longleaf Pine Flatwoods Landscape Undergoing Prescribed Fire Management. Technical report to: The Nature Conservancy.

Hinkle, C.R., D. Sumner and **K.E. Becker**. 2012. Measurement and Modeling of Evapotranspiration in a Central Florida Urban Setting. Technical report to: Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Ekpe, E.K., **K.E. Becker**, J. Lab, C.R. Hinkle and F. Escabedo. 2010. An Assessment of the Structure and Environmental Benefits of Urban Forests in Orlando, Florida. Technical report to: Orlando Parks Division, Families, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Orlando, Florida.

Other Presentations

Becker, K.E. 2013. Carbon Flux Dynamics of a Subtropical Landscape: The Impact of Land Use, Land Use Change, and Land Management. *Invited Speaker*. University of Central Florida Department of Biology.

Becker, K.E. 2013. Effects of Florida Flatwoods Restoration and Management on Ecosystem Carbon Storage and Sequestration. *Invited Speaker*. The Nature Conservancy, Kissimmee, FL.

Professional Development

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Richland, WA
Training on Community Earth System Model (CESM): Community Land Model February, 2014

University of Central Florida Orlando, FL
Ethics/Responsible Conduct of Research Workshops October, 2011

University of Colorado Mountain Research Station Nederland, CO
Summer Course in Flux Measurements and Advanced Modeling July, 2011

Florida Atlantic University Davie, FL
Collaborative Workshop: Developing a Carbon Budget for the Greater Everglades Ecosystem July, 2011
(FAU, US Geological Survey, UCF, FSU, FIU, South Florida Water Management District, and Everglades National Park)

Service

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

Selection and Management Committee

Task description: Scientific advisory committee member appointed by the county commission to select lands for the program to acquire for conservation and to advise on management of conservation lands currently in the program.

Melbourne, FL

August, 2018 - Present

The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve

Women in Environmental Careers Luncheon

Task description: Invited speaker and mentor to LEAF program volunteers.

Kissimmee, FL

July 13, 2016

University of Central Florida

University of Central Florida Biology Graduate Student Association

Faculty Liaison May, 2010 – May, 2012

Orlando, FL

August, 2009 - August, 2018

University of Central Florida

Mentor to Undergraduate Research Volunteers

Orlando, FL

May, 2010 - August, 2012

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	<u>Jim</u>	Middle Initial	<u>Burney</u>
	First Name		Last Name

jburney@avcaquatic.com
 Email Address

<u>871 Yorktowne Drive</u>	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

<u>Rockledge</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>32955</u>
City	State	Postal Code

<u>Mobile: (561) 719-9484</u>	
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

18 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

None Selected

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

Current EEL SMC Committee Member. BS Biological Sciences 1987 UCF; MS Biological Sciences 1995 UCF, Professional Wetland Scientist Certification 1995 Society of Wetland Scientists. EEL is in possession of Experience and Background.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Current EEL SMC Committee Member. 38 years as an environmental consultant and land manager for projects within all ecosystem types found in Brevard County. EEL is in possession of Brevard Ecosystem Knowledge Overview.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

Current EEL Selection and Management Committee Member.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Current EEL SMC Committee Member. Outdoor activities. EEL is in possession of interests and experience.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

Current EEL SMC Committee Member. EEL is in possession of this information.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

None requested.

[BurneyResume2024.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

James L. Burney, Jr., PWS
Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.
BOD Chairman

EDUCATION

1981-1987. University of Central Florida. B.S. Biological Sciences.
1989-1995. University of Central Florida. M.S. Biological Sciences.
1997. Society of Wetland Scientists. Professional Wetland Scientist, Cert #0001095.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1985-1986. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Biological Technician. Duties comprised of studying protected wildlife species in central and coastal Maine.

1986-1987. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.
Biological Technician. Wildlife Management Area Field Check Station duties included collecting samples and measurements of game species (gray squirrel, whitetail deer, feral hog, and migratory birds), hunter education, and law enforcement support in central Florida.

1987-1993. Post, Buckley, Schuh, & Jernigan, Inc. Environmental Engineering.
Senior Scientist. Duties included: T&E plant and wildlife species field surveys and report preparation, vegetation monitoring and reporting, water quality investigations, seagrass and coral mapping, landfill siting studies, and ecological restoration planning and implementation.

1993-1995. Ecotech Consultants, Inc.
Senior Scientist and Project Manager. Duties included: created wetlands design for wastewater treatment, T&E plant and wildlife species surveys and reporting, water quality investigations, vegetation community mapping, seagrass and coral mapping, TNC prescribed fire burn crew, and ecological restoration planning and implementation.

1995-2018. Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.
President and Senior Scientist. Responsibilities comprised of managing company Administration, Operations, Marketing, and Research and Development departments. Company services included: upland, aquatic, and coastal invasive plant management; utilities and ROW vegetation management; native plant nursery operations and native plant installations; biological control cooperation, bacterial augmentation organic sediment reduction programs, research and development of herbicides and selective application methods, and general environmental consulting.

2019-Present. Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.

Chairman, Board of Directors. Responsibilities comprised of providing company oversight to current President, involvement with research and development programs, AVC marketing involvement, professional organization participation, and public outreach regarding invasive plant species awareness and safe herbicide use as an IPM option.

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

36 years of experience as an Environmental Consultant and Invasive Plant Management Contractor encompassing upland and aquatic wildlife and vegetation management, water quality enhancement programs, native plant propagation and installation, resource mapping, and ecological restoration planning and implementation.

LICENSES and CERTIFICATIONS

FDACS Core, Aquatic, and Natural Areas Pesticide Applicator.
FGFWFC Wildlife Collection Permit. (past).
FGFWFC License to Possess Venomous Reptiles. (past)
PADI Open Water Diver.
SWS Professional Wetland Scientist.

CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

Florida Invasive Species Council (formerly Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council); 3-Term Past Chairman and current Nominations Committee Chair.
Florida Invasive Plant Management Association; current President.
Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society.
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, Central Florida Chapter.
National Association of Environmental Professionals.
Society of Ecological Restoration.
Society of Wetland Scientists.

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Maryann	Middle Initial	Civil	Last Name
	First Name			

mcivil10@gmail.com
Email Address

1301 Lichty St. NE	Palm Bay FL 32905
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Palm Bay	FL	32905
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Home: (321) 725-6926	Mobile: (321) 417-2783
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

30+ years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 3

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

B.S. Geology - University of Rhode Island M.S. Oceanography & Geoscience - Florida Institute of Technology Prior to my retirement in 2022, I worked 30+ years as a Professional Geologist licensed in the State of Florida for State and County agencies and for private environmental consulting businesses. My professional expertise includes soil and water assessment and remediation, hazardous waste risk management/pollution prevention and water quality management/regulation issues. I was also a Adjunct Professor at FIT for several semesters teaching undergraduate Geology and visiting instructor (FIT) in environmental regulatory issues.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Having lived and worked professionally in Brevard County for 30+ years, I have a great understanding of Brevard's ecosystems, concentrating on coastal habitats, water quality issues, and subsurface soil geological assessment and remediation. My passion has centered on the Turkey Creek restoration efforts currently underway with the City of Palm Bay, MTWCD and MRC. I have participated in numerous studies, including the recently concluded (December 2022) Turkey Creek Feasibility Study conducted through a State of Florida grant to the City of Palm Bay, completed by Geosyntec and Applied Ecology. I have also volunteered my expertise to the City of Palm Bay on water quality issues and habitat restoration of the Turkey Creek watershed.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No - Retired from Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department, January 2022.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

As previously stated, my interests and experiences have been shaped by living on Turkey Creek for 30+ years, volunteering with the MRC for 20+ years and my professional career as an environmental geologist. I have led over 100+ assessments projects in Florida for groundwater and soil remediation. I led a team with development of internal Brevard County employee training of NPDES and hazardous waste protocols. I am also a former business co-owner of Crane Creek Fisheries, which specialized in wholesale and retail seafood. My family has stayed involved in the commercial fishing industry and currently holds a retail / wholesale license with FWCC for blue crabs and restricted species fisheries.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I have been an environmental professional in the State since graduating with my M.S. degree from F.I.T. Following my graduation, I also was an adjunct professor at F.I.T. teaching undergraduate General Geology. More recently, I was a guest lecturer at F.I.T. for Dr. Listopad's class in environmental regulations. I have volunteered for various boards and associations over the years, concentrating on the Turkey Creek watershed restoration efforts conducted by State agencies and local municipalities. For instance, as a Board member of the Friends of Turkey Creek, we were instrumental in development with the City and MTWCD on refitting the SJRWMD top-down MS-1 control structure, obtaining funding from Florida City Gas for the picnic shelter on Turkey Creek and grant funding for the afore mentioned recent Turkey Creek Feasibility Study.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

NA

[MCivil_resume_23.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

MARYANN CIVIL, P.G.

1301 Lichty Street, NE, Palm Bay

Mcivil10@gmail.com

(321) 417-2783

EXPERIENCE

- 30+ years of environmental project management and regulatory oversight of Florida commercial land/properties. Specific project management includes but not limited to: Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments and active remediation strategy evaluations and remediation.
- Prepared / implemented request for proposals, State contracts, project budgets, schedules for 100+ remediation, assessment and environmental monitoring projects.
- Extensive management oversight of operation and management (O&M) of remediation projects including but not limited to: air sparge / vacuum extraction systems; bio-generated remediation; and proprietary injection remediation products. Supervised, developed and implemented O&M procedures for soil/groundwater systems and QA/QC of staff.
- Lead Professional Geologist overseeing the Brevard County hazardous waste Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program. The SQG Program is mandated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to inspect and audit the business community under RCRA Federal and State regulations.
- Lead coordinator of team developing pollution prevention policies, Spill Control and Countermeasure Plans (SPCC) and waste minimization policies and procedures for Brevard County.
- Management / regulatory oversight of multiple environmental consulting firms for technical, regulatory and contractual conformance.
- Former coordinator for environmental education programs and training workshops with the UCF Stormwater Management Academy.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2005 - 2022: Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department. Lead Geologist for FDEP Petroleum Restoration Program contract and Hazardous Waste Program.
- 1998-2005: Self Employed Environmental Professional. Project management / technical report development for hundreds of projects throughout Florida. Coordinator for educational programs and Stormwater trainings for University of Central Florida, Stormwater Management Academy.
- 1996 - 2002: Business co-owner / operator - Crane Creek Fisheries, Melbourne

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science, Geology, University of Rhode Island
- Master of Science, Oceanography/Geoscience, Florida Institute of Technology

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Licensed Professional Geologist in five States
- OSHA HAZWOPER certified
- McCoy RCRA Hazardous Waste Seminar, 2020
- Volunteer for MRC Water Quality Program
- Founding Board member, Friends of Turkey Creek and Turkey Creek Advocates
- US Citizen

References provided upon request

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Not Submitted

Prefix **Jon** _____ **Shepherd** _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

jshep@cfl.rr.com _____
Email Address

657 Montreal Ave _____
Home Address Suite or Apt

Melbourne _____ **FL** **32935**
City State Postal Code

Mobile: _____
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

48 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

28 years of environmental consulting in Brevard County. MS - Ecology (Florida Tech) BS - Biological Sciences (FSU)

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Resume on file with EEL

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

EEL SMC

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

We do environmental consulting for the County at times.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

On file with EEL

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

On File with EEL

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

N/A

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Years in the
Industry: 26

CERTIFICATIONS:

*Professional
Wetland Scientist
(PWS 00001400)*

*FWC Authorized
Gopher Tortoise
Agent (GTA-09-
00138A)*

EDUCATION:

*Florida State
University - B.S. in
Biological Sciences,
1996*

*Florida Institute of
Technology – M.S. in
Ecology, 2002*

APPOINTMENTS:

*Brevard County
Flood Hazard Areas
-Wetlands Working
Group*

*City of Melbourne
Beautification and
Energy Efficiency
Board*

*Brevard County
Blue Ribbon
Advisory Board for
Transportation
Infrastructure*

*Olde Eau Gallie
Riverfront
Community
Redevelopment
Committee*

Jon H. Shepherd, M.S., P.W.S.
PRESIDENT:ECOLOGIST



Jon H. Shepherd has been a practicing ecologist in the State of Florida since 1996 and has owned and operated Atlantic Environmental since 2003. His experience includes project coordination, environmental planning and design, wetland mitigation bank design and permitting, wetland delineation, wetland monitoring and maintenance, wetland mitigation design and planting, submerged aquatic vegetation surveying, plant taxonomy and ecology, aerial photointerpretation, land management, fire management, Habitat Conservation Plans, endangered species evaluation, relocation, and mitigation, as well as Phase I hazardous waste assessments. This experience has given him the opportunity to form close working relationship with local, state, and federal agencies. He strives to develop effective permitting and mitigation solutions that successfully address the concerns and responsibilities of both developers and environmental regulators.

PROJECTS

Emerald Lakes – Palm Bay

Atlantic Environmental completed wetland studies, wetland delineations, listed species surveys, and all environmental aspects of the ERP permitting through SJRWMD, USACE, FWC, FDEP, and USFWS to allowing the development of this 1,573-acre project site. Included in this endeavor was the completion of Florida scrub-jay surveys and the coordination with the regulatory agencies to acquire appropriate mitigation. The environmental permitting of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway from Babcock Street to Micco Road that bisects this site was also completed for the City of Palm Bay.

Liberty Park – Vero Beach

Atlantic Environmental completed the wetland delineations and listed species surveying on this 483-acre project site in Vero Beach. The SJRWMD conceptual permit was obtained each phase is now being processed.

City of Sebastian Public Works Facility

Atlantic Environmental completed the wetland delineation, Florida scrub-jay surveys, gopher tortoise surveys and relocation on the City's new Public Works Facility. Permits were acquired through SJRWMD, FDEP, and FWC.

Northrop Grumman Campus Expansion

Atlantic Environmental completed wetland studies, wetland delineations, listed species surveys, and all environmental aspects of the ERP permitting for the recent Northrop Grumman campus expansion at the Orlando Melbourne International Airport. Atlantic Environmental interfaced with SJRWMD, USACE, FWC, and USFWS to acquire permits allowing the construction of all desired structures.

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Kenneth	L	Snyder
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

upperbasin@gmail.com
Email Address

2335 Brandon Ave	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Melbourne	FL	32904
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Home: (321) 317-6065	
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

32 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 5

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

See resume. I am a semi-retired biologist with forty-five years of environmental experience in Florida. My primary strengths would lie in wetland restoration and science communication. Very familiar with the major flora and fauna of the area, both upland and wetland species.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

See resume. I have lived in Brevard county for 32 years and the bulk of my environmental experiences have been in this general area. Also, having lived as far south as Boca Raton and as far north as Flagler county I feel comfortable with saying I am knowledgeable in all the dominate habitats within the county.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

My primary interest is promoting the beauty and importance of Florida's natural systems.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

See resume. The resume is old, but I believe still relevant.

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N/A

[Snyder_resume.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Kenneth L. Snyder

2335 Brandon Av, Melbourne, FL 32904

Phone: 321-317-6065 E-Mail: upperbasin@gmail.com

Personal Statement

"I have been employed for the last forty years promoting and protecting the natural resources and environment of Florida. I bring with me a broad base of knowledge relating to the ecology, biology and natural history of our freshwater ecosystems, particularly the marshes of the St. Johns River and the Everglades."

Experience

St. Johns River Water Management District, Field Program Supervisor **1992 - 2018**

- Supervise and manage a staff of nine environmental professionals responsible for data collection across 2.1 million acres of floodplain and watershed properties of the St. Johns River and Indian River Lagoon, from Vero Beach to Lake Ashby. Includes Florida Department of Environmental Protection Status and Trends network.
- Field managed District Environmental Sciences restoration activities within the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project (USJRBP); including the Moccasin Island (Duda) Restoration Area, Broadmoor Marsh Restoration Area (TM Goodwin), Sixmile Marsh Restoration Area, Fellsmere Water Management Area, Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Jane Green Swamp Restoration.
- Field managed scientific research efforts for the USJRBP within the Fort Drum, Blue Cypress and St. Johns Marsh Conservation Areas.
- Responsible for USJRBP tours (airboat and off-road vehicles) given to other agencies, groups and various officials.

Airboat Rides at Midway, Captain **Part-time as needed, 2012 - Present**

- Provide interpretive airboat tours on the St. Johns River.
- United States Coast Guard Merchant Marine Credential Masters license.
- Developing an informational video for patrons to watch. This video is comprised of almost 5 TB of drone video and photographs taken almost every other day over one complete floodplain wet/dry season.

Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Environmental Specialist **1977- 1992**

- Flagler county Onsite Sewage Disposal System Coordinator.
- Responsible for wetlands determination as applicable to Chapter 10-D6 Florida Administrative Code.

Hampton Pines Park, Assistant Park Manager/Naturalist **1984 - 1986**

- Responsible for day to day operation of 33 acre city park and nursery. Supervised 5 employees and converted city nursery to concentrate on native plants. Planned and executed the establishment of a small, <1 acre, hardwood hammock. Organized and conducted beginning and advanced canoe classes. Also housed and rehabilitated non-releasable raptors for use in educational presentations.

Naturally Florida, Inc., Owner **1984 - 1986**

- Canoe rental and guide service. Provided select clients with all equipment, suggestions and guidance needed (Old Town canoes, roof racks, maps, camping equipment, binoculars, safety equipment, dry bags...) for excursions ranging from single day trips to week long Everglades wilderness tours.

Loxahatchee Recreation Inc., Interpretive Naturalist

1980 - 1986

- Provide guided airboat tours in the Loxahatchee National Refuge (northeast Everglades).
- Develop presentations and talks for local environmental groups.

Education

Florida Institute of Technology

1996 - 2002

- Ecology/Conservation Biology, graduate

United States Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School

1976 – 1977

- Commissioned February 1977

Florida Atlantic University

1977 - 1980

- Ocean Engineering, undergraduate
- Limnology, undergraduate and graduate

Fairmont State University

1969 - 1975

- Biology/Limnology, undergraduate

Skills

- Well over 9,000 hours of airboat experience as PIC.
- USCG MMC 25 ton Masters license.
- Federal Aviation Administration Remote Pilot Certificate 4081834
- Experienced single engine private pilot.
- Good working knowledgeable of Adobe Photoshop and Premiere Pro
- Excellent knowledge of Florida freshwater ecosystems, natural history, flora and fauna.
- Very experienced with group presentations and communicating the importance of sustaining our remaining natural habitats.

Annexes

- Served as Audubon representative on the Flagler County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee.
- Competed Basic Florida Wildland Fire Training.

Publications

- Available upon request

Brevard County, FL

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

 Prefix Christopher _____
 First Name Middle Initial O'hara Last Name

cohara@sjrwmd.com
 Email Address

4505 Lake Waterford Way Apt 5
 Home Address Suite or Apt

Melbourne FL 32901
 City State Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 794-9643
 Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

28 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 3

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I have a four year degree from Florida Tech in Ecology and Marine Biology. I have worked in conservation land management for almost 22 years. Mostly in Brevard County and some in little while in Central Florida. I worked for the EEL program for over 15 years, so I am very familiar with the EEL Program.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

I am very knowledgeable in Brevard county ecosystem having work in the EEL Program. I am also very familiar with management techniques having used several over my years in conservation.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

I was an alternate to replace an SMC member.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

I am not sure if SJRWMD qualifies for this question. I am not involved with the regulator aspects of the water management district.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I worked for the program and understand the importance of having knowledgeable committee members on the SMC. I feel that my previous experience with the EEL Program along with my experience since leaving work with the county makes me a good candidate for the SMC

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I have previous served on the governing board at Turkey Creek Sanctuary. I also served on the CSO board at St Sebastian River State Park, including president of the board. I have covered the rest this question above and have attached my resume. I

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

No

[Chris J O resume_SMC_.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

CHRISTOPHER J O'HARA

1512 Palm Place Drive
Palm Bay, FL 32905
321-794-9643
Cohara@sjrwmd.com

To find a position that will allow me to grow professionally, while helping the organization grow as well.

7/2022- PRESENT

LAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, ST JOHN'S RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Assist with land management of over 200,000 acres of conservation land in the southern district of SJRWMD. Includes prescribed fire, recreation control and trail maintenance.

1/2021- 7/2022

LANDSCAPER 2, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Perform duties with the Urban Forestry Tree Team within the Landscaping and Natural Resources Dept. Duties including; planting, removing, pruning and inspecting trees within the University of Central Florida. Assist with aspects of the University's Land Management Program including being a member of the Fire Team. Additionally, the use of heavy equipment to complete tasks.

11/2020- 1/2021

GROUNDSKEEPER 2, FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Worked to maintain grounds on the campus of Florida Tech. Duties included all aspects of maintaining assigned zone, including pruning, weeding, line trimming, plant removal, trash removal and monitoring the zone. Worked with lead to complete other tasks including plant removal, spreading rock, filling holes. Also managed exotic plants within the zone.

7/2006 – 12/2019

LAND MANAGEMENT SUPERINTENDENT, BREVARD COUNTY EEL PROGRAM

Managed staff to perform all aspects of conservation land management within the south region of Brevard County's EEL Program. Supervised and assisted with daily activities of staff to monitor listed species, prescribe fire preparation, prescribe fire activities, fence lines, and exotic species control. Created an annual budget, made capital purchases, oversaw contracts with vendors and in-field projects. Managed inventory for the region, maintained storage warehouse. Prepared management plans for each of 6 sites.

EDUCATION

BACHOLORS OF SCIENCE, FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Degrees in Ecology and Marine Biology

SKILLS

- Conducted species surveys and inventories
- Organize and maintain inventory
- Prescribed burn team member
- Create and stay within a budget
- Familiar with GIS and, Microsoft programs
- Write management plans and technical reports.
- Worked and communicated with neighbors and citizens about concerns
- Supervise groups of volunteers
- Treatment of exotic species

ACTIVITIES

I have the ability to organize and maintain staff and inventory. I oversaw several restoration projects and maintained oversight to insure they met success criteria. Part of the prescribed fire burn team (S-130-190, 290, Interagency Burn Course, Southern Engine Academy). I have the ability to learn quickly and adapt to changing conditions.

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Not Submitted

Prefix Lisa Jane Toland
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

billstoland@cfl.rr.com
Email Address

4092 SPARROW HAWK RD
Home Address Suite or Apt

Melbourne FL 32934
City State Postal Code

Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

To which Commissioner are you applying?

None Selected

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

BS Chemistry from Penn State University plus graduate-level work in groundwater hydrology. Over thirty years of experience in Florida ecosystems including natural community identification, land preservation, land management, environmental permitting, groundwater analysis, groundwater cleanup, and air quality analysis. Please see resume.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Please see resume. Over thirty years of direct field experience in wetland delineation, Florida natural community identification, and assessment using FNAI, FLUCCS, and CLC codes including seagrass, and submerged aquatic vegetation assessments, habitat restoration for scrub-jays and gopher tortoises, wetland restoration, enhancement, and creation projects.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

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Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree



4092 Sparrow Hawk Road
Melbourne, FL 32934

321-242-7173, office
teclisa@cfl.rr.com

Lisa Toland is a recognized leader in the environmental field with over 30 years of professional experience.

Currently, Ms. Toland runs her own environmental consulting firm which she founded over 20 years ago to assist her public and private sector clients in evaluating and permitting environmental resources on their properties so they can reliably, and cost effectively manage their projects. Ms. Toland presently serves a scientific advisor to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands secured under Brevard County's voter-approved referendums.

Demonstrated Professional Expertise

- 20 Years, President, Toland Environmental Consulting
- 4 Years, Director, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department
- 6 Years, Assistant Department Head, Brevard County Solid Waste

As the lead ecologist for Toland Environmental Consulting:

- Work within all of Florida's ecosystems and classify wetland, upland, marine and coastal habitats according to Florida Natural Areas Inventory's Guide to Natural Communities of Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System.
- Assess scrub habitat suitability for Florida Scrub-jays, conduct presence/absence surveys for jays, prepare habitat conservation plans, and manage scrub habitat.
- As a permitted Authorized Agent for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) assess habitat suitability for gopher tortoises, conduct population surveys, and relocate tortoises by either hand shoveling, bucket trapping, or backhoe excavation.
- Assess habitat suitability and conduct presence/absence surveys for Florida Grasshopper Sparrows.
- Delineate wetlands and assess wetland functional values according to State and federal rules.
- Design and implement wetland mitigation plans including wetland creation, restoration, enhancement, and long-term exotic species management.
- Conduct seagrass and submerged aquatic vegetation surveys.
- Act as an FWC approved manatee observer for projects involving in-water work in known manatee aggregation areas and travel corridors.
- Conduct biological monitoring programs for bald eagle nesting sites.

- Prepare and obtain environmental permits for local, state, and federal governments including federal NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) permitting and coordination with federally recognized native American Indian tribes.
- Use ArcGis Desktop software and prepare GIS maps.

As the Director of Brevard County Natural Resources

- Prepared, amended, interpreted, and enforced Brevard County's Comprehensive Plan and environmental land development regulations protecting Brevard's natural communities, the Indian River Lagoon Estuary system, the St. Johns River, listed species, wetlands, water supply and air quality.
- Oversaw and provided staff support for Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program including coordinating with the Nature Conservancy and federal and state land conservation programs.
- Oversaw County staff conducting the initial scrub habitat surveys and Florida Scrub-Jay occupancy assessments in Brevard County, obtained full federal funding and local municipalities support to explore the creation of Countywide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Scrub-Jays.
- Coordinated thirteen municipalities to create a countywide manatee protection plan, including overseeing the planning process and adoption.
- Represented all 67 Florida counties for the Florida Local Environmental Regulators Association (FLERA) on the governor's technical advisory committee for the creation of the Florida's single wetland definition and wetland delineation rule.
- Sat on the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council's technical advisory committee for the creation of the Regional Wetland Buffer Rule for Developments with Regional Impacts.
- Oversaw the initial engineering and cost sharing studies to begin Brevard's beach renourishment programs.
- Created Brevard County's Sea turtle lighting ordinance and compliance program.
- Reviewed and approved contamination assessment reports and remedial action plans for petroleum contaminated sites including assessing the local geology, soil profiles, vertical and horizontal permeability rates, and the ponding and drawdown effects of treatment systems on the hydrology of adjacent environmental resources including wetlands.

As the Assistant Department Head of Brevard County Solid Waste:

- Coordinated the construction of more than 20 million dollars in new solid waste facilities including procuring engineers and contractors, acquiring property, obtaining proper zoning, performing public relations, assisting in facility design, obtaining all environmental, building and construction permits, implementing environmental mitigation plans, overseeing project construction and enforcing construction contracts.

Education

- B.S. Chemistry, 1985
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- University of Central Florida, various dates
Coursework in Groundwater Hydrogeology and Business Finance
16-credit hours of Spanish (I-IV).

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Jennifer	D	White
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

jenniferdwhite78@gmail.com
Email Address

230 Greenway Ave.	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Satellite Beach	FL	32937
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Mobile: (352) 601-7313	Business: (321) 428-2546
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

10 yrs

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

BS-Environmental Science MS-Environmental Science PhD student Conservation Biology Graduate Teaching Associate UCF Genetics Lab Volunteering, interning, and working with local environmental organizations such as the Brevard Zoo, HUBBS SeaWorld Research Institute, FWC Marine Mammal Stranding Team, the Florida Wildlife Hospital, Stella Maris Environmental Research Institute, Florida Shorebird Alliance, and Space Coast Audubon Society has helped to be well rounded and versed in Brevard County's environmental projects and programs. I have worked to complete certifications in Florida Master Naturalist, Master Herpetologist, Natural Areas Training Academy, and Gopher Tortoise Agent Training. I am a wildlife rehabilitator specializing in bats as well as a researcher for several local non-profits working with sea turtles, gopher tortoises, shorebirds, manatees, and amphibians in species conservation and habitat restoration.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

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Brevard County's unique systems are home to a plethora of flora and fauna that are in peril. From the dune systems to uplands, to the IRL there is no shortage of areas that need to be considered for ecological management. working for FWC as the IRL regional marine and estuarine habitat restoration biologist I was tasked with the collaboration and coordination of small, mediums, and large scale habitat enhancement and restoration projects. I have worked in the creation and updating of land management plans, rezoning, and conservation easements. As the staff biologist with the City of Satellite Beach I worked with management of greens paces, parks, and preservation areas. From habit enhancement projects within the IRL to dune restoration I am familiar with the conservation needs of diverse landscapes.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

My interests include remaining involved in the local community with wildlife research and rescue. I like to see the bigger picture of adaptive management in natural resources. An example of this is working in collaboration with agencies in large-scale restoration projects in the IRL with a focus on improving manatee forage and loafing habitat, as well as creating water quality improvements and educational content at a local manatee warm water refuge site. Being able to collaborate with stakeholders statewide is something that I enjoy.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

BS Environmental Science minor in biology MS Environmental Science PhD Student Conservation Biology FWC: IRL Marine and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Biologist City of Satellite Beach- Biologist (created my own position, and is the first of its kind at a local municipality in Brevard County) City of Satellite Beach Sustainability Board Board member: Space Coast Audubon Society Board member : Florida Bat Conservancy Certified gopher tortoise training FWC permitted wildlife rehabilitator Florida Master Naturalist Master Herpatologist Certification National Areas Training Academy Cert (natural areas land management) 2022-2023 Lead Brevard Leadership Essentials All of the above have helped me able to look at a diverse group of topics such as development, conservation, prescribed burns, wildlife ecology, emergent pathogens, invasive species, species survival plans, grant funding, and stakeholder engagement.

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none

[Resume_J_White.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

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I Agree

Jennifer D. White

230 Greenway Ave. Satellite Beach, Florida 32937 | 352-601-7313 | jenniferdwhite78@gmail.com
[linkedin.com/in/Jennifer-white-085a18aa](https://www.linkedin.com/in/Jennifer-white-085a18aa) | @spacecoastwildlife

Skills and Qualifications

Environmental Science major with a minor in wildlife conservation biology with extensive knowledge of field and lab work in conservation projects, project management, and document final analysis.

Environmental Compliance / Permitting	Wildlife Chemical Immobilization	Data Collection/Photo ID	Environmental Permitting
Lab Experience	Water Quality Sampling & Testing	Restoration Project Management	Database creation and management
Grant Proposals & Data Analysis	Management Plans	Species Monitoring & Assessment	Sterilization / QAQC
Land Management	GIS / Mapping	Stakeholder Engagement	Calibration
Biodiversity Action Plan	Habitat Restoration	Education / Outreach	Field Work

Education

(2019-Present) University of Idaho

- MS Environmental Science
- Wildlife Conservation Biology

(2010-2015) University of Phoenix

- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
- Minor in Biology

(2020-2023) University of Idaho

- Master of Science in Environmental Science
- Focus area Wildlife Biology

Certifications / Permits

- Florida Master Naturalist 2020
- Florida Restoration Mater Naturalist 2021
- Wildlife Chemical Immobilization and Capture 2021
- Master Herpetologist 2021
- Southeaster Master Herpetologist 2022
- Natural Areas Training Academy 2021-
- Leadership Brevard 2022-2023
- FWC Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit 2019-present
- FWC Class III Permit 2020-present
- FWC Sea Turtle sub permittee (HOI)

Experience

(06/2021-Present) City of Satellite Beach- Biologist

- Grant Writing
- Management Plans
- Species Inventory
- Data Collection / Analysis
- Metrics Management
- Conservation Land Management
- Restoration Project Management
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Community Outreach
- Social Media content creator
- Program Management
- Permitting & Compliance

(01/2016 to 06/2017) Colorado State University-Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands-PAFB Stormwater Compliance-short term contract

- Stormwater Inspections
- Construction Permits-MSGP
- ERP, NPDES, MS(4)
- BMPs
- 332s, Design Reviews, P2

(11/2015 to 2/1/2016) Florida Wildlife Hospital-Internship

- Wildlife Care, Rehabilitation, Rescue, and Release
 - Triage care, nursery care, intake, critical care
 - Rabies Vector qualified/ immunized
- Social Media, Newsletter

(7/2015 to 10/2015) City of Cocoa Beach-Lab Technician Water Reclamation Department

- Sampling
 - YSI, Orion, Spectrophotometer, Influent/Effluent samples
- Testing
 - Fecal Coliform, TSS, E.Coli, Enterococci
- Data Analysis
- Reports
- Inventory
- Quality Control
- Reagent prep

(6/2014 to Present) Academy of Natural History Preparation-Coordinator

- Cataloging, cleaning and prepping fossils (both terrestrial and marine)
- Articulating and repairing skeletons of a variety of animals for educational purposes
- Assisting with non-profit start up
 - Social media
 - Web design

- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Educational workshop preparation

(8/2014 to 4/2015) HUBBS SEAWORLD RESEARCH INSITUTE (paid internship)

- Small water craft driving and trailering
 - Single engine, skiff
- Necropsy
 - Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- Stranding
 - Assisting in retrieval of dead and dying dolphins
- Rescue
 - Assisting in rescue of entangled dolphins (both adult and calves)
- Photo Identification
 - Dorsal fin surveys on the water in Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River Lagoon
 - Sorting, cropping and identification of dorsal fins using Adobe Bridge and Photoshop
- Driving stranding vehicle
- Sorting samples/Lab work

(4/2014 to 4/2015) Brevard Zoo

- **Education Department:**
 - Assist with offsite education programs ages 3yrs thru 6th grade
 - Assist with after school education programs 1st grade thru 6th grade
 - Zoo school: conservation programs (oyster restoration/mangrove restoration)
 - Animal handling for education; such snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs, and small mammals
- **Conservation Intern:**
 - Scrub Jay monitoring offsite field data collection
 - Captive Butterfly Propagation
 - Diamondback Terrapin database collection in the spoil islands
 - Introduction to Species Survival Plans and Stud books for AZA zoos in America
 - Oyster reef restoration
 - Assisting in building oyster reefs in both Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River Lagoon
 - Offsite oyster shell collecting and bag making
 - Oyster mat making & oyster gardening events
 - Public and community outreach through Brevard County
 - Green Team member (sustainable products development)
 - Development of reusable bag sewing project as well as sewing 50 bags
- **Zoo Keeper Intern:**
 - Clean night houses for animals in the La Selva loop such as jaguars, ant eaters, birds of prey, spider monkeys, small primates, and coatamundi
 - Assisted in feeding of animals on loop
 - Made enrichments for animals on loop

(6/2014 to Present) Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

- **Marine Mammal Rescue volunteer-Melbourne, FL**
 - Manatee rescue in Satellite Beach & Blue Springs Florida
 - Swimmer rescue, net experience, boat assistance rescue
 - Manatee transport to rehab facilities

- Necropsy Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*)
- Assisting in manatee tagging and monitoring
- Assisting in manatee photo identification
 - Photography of manatees in canals using Nikon D50 with filters and polarized lens

(6/2014 to 12/2014) St. Johns River Water Management District (internship)

- **Indian River Lagoon Team-Palm Bay, FL**
 - Water quality testing throughout the Indian River and Banana River
 - Calibration and use of YSI, SUNA, and SOND machines
 - Test ODO, Ph, salinity, clarity/turbidity, temp, conductivity,
 - Use of Secchi and PAR (Photosynthetically Active Radiation) measurement devices
 - TMDL
 - Continuous monitoring of water quality stationary sites
 - Sea grass bed monitoring in the Banana River and Indian River Lagoon
 - Snorkeling
 - Making transects
 - Using transects to identify different species of sea grass and quantity of grass
 - Invasive plant identification

Volunteer Positions

- **(4/2013 to 9/2014) Homosassa State Wildlife Park**
 - Wildlife Department
 - Cleaning of enclosures of shore birds, birds of prey, spoonbills, bears, reptiles, foxes
 - Preparing diets for a variety of species
 - Feeding manatees, pelicans, hippo, birds of prey, bears, shore birds, hoof-stock
 - Cleaning boardwalks
- **(05/2018 to Present) Wild Florida Rescue**
 - Wildlife Rescue Lead
 - Grant renewal
 - Talks and Education outreach
 - Hotline Dispatch
 - Data Collection
 - Program management
 - Fundraising
 - Event Coordinating/Media
 - Volunteer coordinator
- **(12/2014 to 08/2015) Sea Turtle Healing Center**
 - Cleaning tanks of loggerheads, olive green Ridley's and Green sea turtles
 - Feeding turtles
 - Water quality of tanks
 - Preparing diets for turtles
 - Separation between contagious disease and non-contagious vs. injury
 - Re-release of turtles
- **(8/2014-Present) HUBBS-SeaWorld Research Institute**
 - Photo Id
 - Marine Mammal stranding, rescue, retrieval, and release
 - Necropsy

- Watercraft operation
- Trailing
- Necropsy
- Research assistance
- Lab assistance
- **(6/2014-Present) FWC Marine Mammal Stranding Team**
 - Manatee Rescue
 - Manatee Photo ID
 - Manatee Field Sampling
 - Manatee Database collection
- **(8/2019-Present) FWC Florida Shorebird Alliance**
 - Shorebird nesting beach surveys
 - Shorebird data collection and database management
 - Public education and outreach
- **1/2019-Present FWC Horseshoe Crab Project**
 - Horseshoe crab surveys
 - Horseshoe crab tagging and monitoring
 - Horseshoe crab database collection
- **06/2019-2021 City of Satellite Beach Sustainability Board Chair**
 - Grant Writing
 - Community Engagement
 - Education and Outreach Events
 - Environmental Projects
- **7/2019-Present Space Coast Audubon Board of Directors**
 - Biodiversity
 - Talks and Presentations
 - Public education and outreach
- **03/2020- Present Stella Maris Environmental Research**
 - Hatchling Orientation Researcher
 - Field Work
 - Data Collection
 - Nest Digs
 - Predation Investigation

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Jennifer	Middle Initial	Thompson
	First Name		Last Name

sharkyjones24@hotmail.com
Email Address

217 Oak Lake Road
Home Address

Suite or Apt

Melbourne
City

FL
State

32901
Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 292-9175
Primary Phone

Business: (321) 350-8394
Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

26

To which Commissioner are you applying?

None Selected

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I have a BS in Marine Biology and a BS in Ecology from Florida Institute of Technology. I have worked testing water quality and educating Brevard County residents about its importance for 23 years. I currently work in Natural Resources Dept. testing water and conducting studies to improve the IRL work quality.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

I have tested drinking water, wastewater, groundwater, and surface water for over 20 years in Brevard County. I have conducted gopher tortoise surveys of burrows, surveyed endangered bird habitats for nests and offspring, and surveyed seagrass beds for seven years. I also conduct stormwater pollution prevention inspections for the County for HOAs, businesses, and County facilities.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

SMC member for EEL

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Love to dive and enjoy the water. I also love to help improve the environment, so I volunteer with Keep Brevard Beautiful often with their cleanups and beautification events.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

President for Keep Brevard Beautiful's South Action Team, HOA President of my subdivision, and Board member for IRL Envirothon.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

None

[Upload a Resume](#)

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Jennifer Thompson
(321) 292-9175
Sharkyjones24@hotmail.com

Objectives

To pursue a career in which I am challenged to utilize my current talents in enhancing and protecting the environment and to further my knowledge and skills through hands-on experience in a positive work environment that rewards motivated, efficient employees.

Experience

5/19 – Current Brevard Co. Natural Resources Melbourne, FL

Environmental Specialist I

- Perform monitoring and sampling on stormwater with automatic samplers, flow meters, rain gages, and HydroLab equipment.
- Perform monitoring and sampling on groundwater with peristaltic pumps and HydroLab equipment
- Collect grab samples and monitor surface water while conducting aquatic vegetation surveys
- Inspect stormwater systems operated by the County for their NPDES requirements
- Conduct NPDES and pollution prevention training for employees across all departments plus the cities of West Melbourne, Malabar and Grant-Valkaria
- Calibrate and maintain monitoring and sampling equipment
- Attend pollution prevention meetings and training
- Maintain, trailer and drive a 19' boat
- Answer and investigate resident inquiries regarding stormwater, including site visits for illicit discharge
- Educate business and homeowners on BMPs to reduce pollutants
- Perform gopher tortoise surveys at the Mims Conservation area
- Help install oyster restoration projects and perform sea grass surveys

1/18 – 5/19 Brevard Co. Natural Resources Melbourne, FL

Associate Environmental Specialist

- Perform monitoring and sampling on stormwater with automatic samplers, flow meters, rain gages, and HydroLab equipment.
- Perform monitoring and sampling on groundwater with peristaltic pumps and HydroLab equipment
- Collect grab samples and monitor surface water while conducting aquatic vegetation surveys
- Inspect stormwater systems throughout the County
- Calibrate and maintain monitoring and sampling equipment
- Attend pollution prevention meetings and training

- Maintain, trailer and drive a 19' boat
- Answer and investigate resident inquiries regarding stormwater, including site visits for illicit discharge
- Educate business and home owners on BMPs to reduce pollutants
- Identify Gopher Tortoise burrows
- Help monitor oyster mats and bags by measuring live oysters, install and remove oyster mats and bags, and create shell bags

3/11 – 1/18

City of Melbourne

Melbourne, FL

Environmental Programs Coordinator

- Plan, develop and present interactive media and PowerPoint presentations
- Continually update and provide education programs for all residents throughout the water distribution area on recycling, stormwater, water conservation and pollution prevention
- Coordinate events such as Trash Bash, adopt-a-road cleanups, IRL Envirothon, IRL Day, Hands Across the Lagoon, Coastal Cleanup, Exemplary Science Teacher Awards, Research Rules (science fair preparation seminar) and Middle School Science Bowl
- Participate in events such as Paws in the Park, Teacher Open House at the Brevard Zoo, Better Living Expos, Youth Environmental Summit, festivals, Earth Day events/festivals, company events (Northrop Grumman, Rockwell Collins, FIT), career days for middle schools, science fairs, Wonders of Water Nights and HOA meetings
- Create boil water notices and FDEP incident reports
- Enforce irrigation, fertilizer and leak ordinances
- Update CUP and NPDES reports
- Obtain quotes, prepare purchase orders and develop art work for ordering promotional items
- Assist with preparation for distribution and editing of the monthly Public Works & Utilities Connection and quarterly Conservation Newsletter
- Manage toilet and rain barrel rebate programs
- Maintain budget, pay roll and inventory records and supplies
- Monitor and enforce the trash hauling contract for the city
- Work with residents that experience problems with Waste Management
- Assemble new customer welcome packets and records for reporting requirements

5/04 – 3/11

City of Melbourne

Melbourne, FL

Laboratory Analyst / Deputy QA/QC Officer

- NELAC certified for fecal coliform, cBOD and TSS
- Traveled to another water reclamation facility to collect samples and verify pH, turbidity and residual chlorine readings daily
- Daily routine consisted of performing cBOD, membrane filtration for fecal coliforms and TSS, along with making media and reagents

- Monthly routine consisted of performing chlorides, TDS, %TS, MPN, ammonia, total phosphorus, HPC, conductivity, pH, sterility, purity and viability checks and calibrating supporting equipment
- Ran a meeting once a week with the supervisor and analysts
- Sampled and analyzed groundwater quarterly
- Calibrated automatic samplers and thermometers biannually
- In 2006 I was upgraded to deputy technical director (DTD) for the quality control aspects of the lab and kept up with all regulation changes from EPA, NELAC, and DEP
- In 2010 I was upgraded to deputy QA/QC officer, which included all the duties of DTD plus conducting internal audits and making revisions to all SOPs and QC manuals

7/02 – 5/04

City of Titusville

Titusville, FL

Environmental Analyst

- Provided the city and contract clients with analytical services such as fecal and total coliforms (using filtration, MPN and Colilert methods), HPC, fecal streptococcus, chlorides, alkalinity, solids (TS, TS, %TS, VS and TDS) and COD for drinking water, reclaimed water, waste water and sludge
- NELAC certified for the above mentioned tests
- Collected samples daily for fecal coliform and solids
- Collected samples quarterly from wells and interconnects with the City of Cocoa

8/00 – 5/01

Florida Institute of Technology

Melbourne, FL

Molluscan Biology Research Assistant

- Entered research data concerning *Callinectes sapidus* for Dr. Rick Tankersley
- Conducted field research for *C. sapidus* and *Limulus sp.*

5/00 – 7/00

FTN Environmental Consultants

Little Rock, AR

Summer Intern

- Researched environmental factors affecting risk assessments for areas in Arkansas and Tennessee
- Collected groundwater samples for analysis
- Conducted fieldwork determining wetland delineation in Mississippi
- Entered MSDS data
- Completed secretarial duties
- Researched other companies in need of FTN's services by looking through compliance reports

Education

1998 – 2002

Florida Institute of Technology

Melbourne, FL

- B.S., Marine Biology
- B.S., Ecology
- 129.5 credit hours acquired

Training

- NAUI Wreck diving and advanced diving certified
- NOAA Project Design and Evaluation certified
- DEP Field Sampling Courses
- Driving Safety training
- CPR certified
- FDEP Sedimentation and Erosion Control Inspector
- FSA Stormwater Operator Level 2
- 24 Hour HAZWOPER
- FWC Boating Safety Course
- Brevard County's EDP Completion of Phase 1 & 2

Special Interests/Awards

- 2004-Became the Advisory Committee Chairperson for Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity, at Florida Institute of Technology
- 2011-Awarded the Meritorious Award for Large Utilities for Environmental Awareness and Conservation Programs by FSAWWA
- 2012-Became a trustee for Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB); 2013-became secretary for the South Action Team (SAT); 2014-became treasurer and We Noticed beautification awards chairperson for SAT
- 2012-2018-Member of the Space Coast Science Education Alliance
- 2014-Awarded the Education Award by KBB
- 2017-Awarded the Volunteer Leadership Award by Eastern Florida State College
- 2019-Awarded for Outstanding Service with the Brevard Regional Science Fair

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Dr	Jeff		Eble
<small>Prefix</small>	<small>First Name</small>	<small>Middle Initial</small>	<small>Last Name</small>

jeble@hswri.org
Email Address

399 Riverview Lane	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Melbourne Beach	FL	32951
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Home: (508) 237-9551	
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

8 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I hold a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Hawaii, with over 15 years of professional experience in biological and environmental sciences. My expertise spans ecosystem management, field ecology, marine biology, and natural resource conservation, with a specific focus on restoring and preserving critical habitats.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

I have extensive knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and habitat types through my leadership in ecological restoration and research projects. My recent work has focused on the Indian River Lagoon where I have led efforts to improve understanding and management of critical habitats and biodiversity. I am collaborating with local stakeholders, including the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, on initiatives such as habitat restoration at the Coconut Point Sanctuary.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

Florida Ocean Alliance: Executive Committee IRL National Estuary Program STEM Advisory Committee: Representative Hubbs Florida Ocean Fund: Board of Directors

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

I am employed by Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, a non-profit organization that recently initiated a collaboration with Brevard County to advance habitat restoration and land-management efforts. More broadly, HSWRI programs and collaborations are focused on regional conservation goals. Some HSWRI programs involve regulatory oversight by county agencies.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I have a long-standing interest in conserving critical habitats and promoting sustainable ecosystem management, which aligns closely with the mission of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. My professional experience includes leading large-scale ecological research and restoration projects which directly support the health and resilience of Brevard County's unique ecosystems. Through my work, I have developed extensive experience collaborating with governmental agencies, academic institutions, and community stakeholders to address environmental challenges and implement conservation solutions. I am particularly interested in serving on the Advisory Committee because I understand the vital role that conserving key habitats plays in ensuring Brevard County's long-term ecological and economic health.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I hold a Ph.D. in Zoology and have over 15 years of experience in habitat restoration, ecosystem management, and conservation planning. My work has involved identifying high-priority areas for restoration and collaborating with stakeholders to secure funding and implement conservation projects. This experience aligns closely with the EELS' mission to identify and manage lands critical to habitat conservation and long-term ecological health.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

No accommodations are requested.

[Resume-Jeff_Eble.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Jeff A. Eble

jeble@hswri.org • (508) 237-9551 • 4020 S. Hwy A1A. • Melbourne FL, 32951

Major Achievements

- \$3.6M in awarded research and program development grants and appropriations
- 27 peer-reviewed journal articles, 2 book chapters, 2531 citations, h-index = 22
- 19 invited and 23 contributing research talks; 48 public science outreach presentations

Education

2010 Ph.D. Zoology. University of Hawaii, Honolulu HI.
2003 B.A. Biology. University of Hawaii, Hilo HI.

Selected Experience

Florida Program Director; *Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. 2023 – Present*

- Established the IRL Restorative Aquaculture Station as a collaborative hub for aquaculture research and production, securing \$659k for phase 1 redevelopment and research.
- Advanced seagrass restoration and coastal sustainability through collaborative studies addressing ecological impacts and restoration strategies.
- Partnering with Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program to mitigate shoreline erosion within the Coconut Point Sanctuary and adjacent HSWRI property.

Research Assistant Professor & Project Coordinator; *Florida Institute of Technology, Ocean Engineering and Marine Sciences. 2018 – 2023*

- Directed planning and coordination for a \$2.5M multi-phase assessment of IRL eutrophication mitigation strategies in close coordination with state and federal agencies.
- Enhanced public awareness and stakeholder engagement through presentations, media outreach, and briefings, building support for regional conservation initiatives.
- Led innovative research in marine biodiversity monitoring, resulting in three peer-reviewed publications and development of major funding proposals.

GIREC Research Coordinator; *University of West Florida, CEDB. 2013 – 2018*

- Secured \$265k in funding to initiate development of the Gulf Islands Research and Education Center through two negotiated, multi-year agreements with the National Park Service.
- Fostered campus-community collaboration via workshops, educational events, and partnership-building with local educators and organizations.
- Delivered hands-on research experiences to more than 1,400 students, promoting STEM education and environmental stewardship.

Selected graduate and post-doctoral accomplishments; *University of Hawaii & University of Arizona, respectively. 2004 – 2012*

- National Institute of Health Research and Teaching Fellowship (2010 – 2012)
- John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (2009; declined award)
- ARCS Foundation Scholar (2009)
- National Science Foundation Teaching Fellowship (2005 – 2006)

Jeff A. Eble

jeble@hswri.org • (508) 237-9551 • 4020 S. Hwy A1A. • Melbourne FL, 32951

Awarded Grants, Contracts & Fellowships

\$99,890	USDA NRCS: Seagrass Restoration Research (PI: 2025-2030)
\$404,000	FY24 Federal Appropriation: IRLRAS Phase I Repairs (PI: 2025-2027)
\$468,000	FDEP: Ecosystem Level Impacts of Hypoxia (co-PI: 2024-2025)
\$925,000	State of Florida: Lagoon Ocean Inflow Research Phase II (PI, 2022-2023)
\$800,000	State of Florida: Lagoon Ocean Inflow Research Phase II (PI, 2020-2021)
\$800,000	State of Florida: Lagoon Ocean Inflow Research Phase I (co-PI, 2019-2020)
\$66,000	NPS Task Agreement: GIREC Student Internship Program (PI, 2015-17)
\$56,600	NPS Task Agreement: Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring (PI, 2014-19)
\$172,000	University of West Florida Pace Academic Development Grant (PI, 2013)
\$4,000	University of Arizona Center for Insect Science Population Dynamics (PI, 2011)
\$142,000	University of Arizona NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship (2010)
\$46,000	John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (declined award, 2010)
\$5,000	ARCS Scholar (2009)
\$30,000	Dingell-Johnson Sportfish Restoration Grant (PI, 2008)
\$59,800	Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative Research Grant (PI, 2005)
\$32,000	National Science Foundation GK-12 Teaching Fellowship (2005)
\$12,200	<i>Combined value of eight graduate student travel and research awards (2005-10)</i>
\$18,000	National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (2003)

Five Recent Publications (out 27 journal articles, two book chapters, and 1988 citations)

1. Kumar, G., Farrell, E., Reaume, A., **Eble**, J., Gaither, M. (2021). One size does not fit all: Tuning eDNA protocols for high and low turbidity water sampling. *Environmental DNA*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/edn3.235> (*cover article*)
2. **Eble**, J.A., J. DiBattista, T. Daly-Engel, M. Gaither (2020). Invited Review: Marine eDNA approaches, applications, and challenges. *Advances in Marine Biology* 86:141-169. <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.amb.2020.01.001>
3. Kumar, G., J.A. **Eble**, M.R. Gaither (2020). Invited Technical Review: A practical guide to sample preservation and pre-PCR processing of aquatic environmental DNA. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 20:29-39. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-0998.13107>
4. Crandall, E., M.R. Gaither, C. Bird, et al. (2019). The molecular biogeography of the Indo-Pacific: Testing hypotheses with multispecies patterns. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.12905>
5. **Eble**, J.A., J. Pecore (2019). "Invasive aliens": A collaborative citizen science activity using DNA barcoding to investigate concepts in ecology and molecular biology. *American Biology Teacher* 81(3): 69-174. DOI: 10.1525/abt.2019.81.3.169

Full CV available upon request

EEL SMC Business, Finance or Real Estate Applicant BOCC Ranking Commissioner Name: _____		BOCC Final Ranking Instructions: Circle a score of 3, 2, or 1 for each applicant. 3= Most Preferred 1= Least Preferred
Applicant Name	Qualifications Summary	District Commissioner Score
Burden, Olen W.	Retired. Information technology specialist with US Fish and Wildlife Service. Also worked with veteran's affairs.	(Circle One): 3 2 1
Christman, Susan	Real estate background.	(Circle One): 3 2 1
Miller, Jason P.	Coast Guard retiree. BS Environmental Science with concentration in fish and wildlife management. Current SMC member business appointee for 2 years.	(Circle One): 3 2 1
Miller, Tara	BS Business administration, MS Management. 37 years at KSC with 15 years managing contracts at KSC.	(Circle One): 3 2 1
Racicot, Sandra	Background and expertise in business and real estate. BS Journalism and communications. Minor in environmental science. Paralegal support. National Assoc. of Realtors.	(Circle One): 3 2 1

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Olen	W	Burden
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

wayne@wburden.com
Email Address

1705 Misty Way	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Titusville	FL	32780
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Home: (321) 269-2880	Mobile: (321) 961-1279
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

20+ years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 1

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

Retired from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013. Retired from U.S. Air Force Reserve as an officer also in 2013. Education includes M.S. degrees in Business Management and also Public Administration from Troy State University. In the Fish and Wildlife Service worked as senior I.T. Specialist supporting a group of approximately 100 environmental scientists and biologists and had daily contact with same. Attended many specialized meetings and discussion groups focused on mid to South Florida eco systems, land conservation and endangered species issues, and coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects. Also attended training focused on land mitigation projects and banks.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

N/A

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No, I am not.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No, I do not.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I am interested in all things pertaining to our natural environment. Air quality, water quality and land usage are all important to a healthy ecosystem. I've always been "nature conscience" but these interests were peaked when I worked for six years with the men and women of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Vero Beach, Florida. I worked daily with the many Biologists/Scientists that are involved deeply with endangered species and endangered habitats. Attended many of the same meetings and training as they did in an Information Technology support role.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I believe I have a unique set of skills and experience that would contribute to the committee for which I am applying. My formal education and work experience has given me a firm business and managerial background. My experience with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the National Park Service in Jacksonville, FL. has given me much formal and informal training in affairs dealing with endangered species and land issues. I'm applying for one of the business openings on the committee, but due to my work and experience background feel I bring more to the table than perhaps some others. Thank you.

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N/A

[Resume_for_EEL_Advisory_Committee.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Resume for Olen Wayne Burden

POSITION DESIRED: Environmentally Endangered Lands Advisory Committee (Volunteer)

PERTINENT INFORMATION: US Citizen. Mailing address: 1705 Misty Way, Titusville, FL 32780. Home phone: 321-269-2880 (Land line). Cell Phone: 321-961-1279. E-mail: wayne@wburden.com. Retired Federal Civil Service @ GS-12. USAFR Retired Medical (Hospital) Administrator @ O-3E (Capt) pay grade. Thirty-eight years combined Federal service. All work experience listed is full time (40 hrs/wk).

EXPERIENCE SUMMARY:

Medical Administration Officer in Air Force. Civil Service: IT Supervisor; IT Lead; Computer Maintenance Technician and Supervisor; Information Technology Specialist; Computer Systems software trainer; Novell Network Administrator; Unix Network Administrator; VMS/VAX Hospital System Administrator; Windows NT and 2000 Network Administrator; Electronic Mail Administrator; Help Desk support; Systems Specialist.

EXPERIENCE:

Jan 2014 – Present – Retired. Independent current affairs and historical researcher/analyst. In free time rebuild/refurbish desktop computer systems and laptop computers to be used by overseas ministries.

Dec 2007 – Dec 2013 – GS-2210-12 Lead IT Specialist with the Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, 1339 20th St., Vero Beach, FL. 32960.

In this position I served as the lead IT specialist, network administrator, and local security contact for a 90-100 person scientific organization. I order, configure, administer, and maintain six enterprise servers, including four Windows 2003 and two Windows 2008 servers. I also order, configure, administer, and maintain all XP and Windows 7 desktop and laptop systems. Was first to recognize need for new telephone system. During 15-month project I assessed organizational needs, compared various Voice over IP (VoIP) phone systems, contracted for best system, and oversaw installation and training of users. As a result, I serve as VoIP telephone system installer and administrator. I am the first responder to any and all computer security issues, including loading and configuring antivirus programs and definition files, scanning systems and reviewing scan logs, reporting verified incidents to higher authority, etc. Monitor and maintain building and computer access systems. Manage active directory accounts to include users, groups, computers, and servers. Order, configure, and maintain all network equipment including routers, switches, hubs, cabling, wall jacks, etc. Order, configure, and maintain all Xerox networked printer/copiers/scanners in organization. Evaluate, order, configure, and maintain new IBM servers. Attended many training sessions with Biologists, Scientists and Endangered Species specialists. Learned much about endangered species, coastal and inland habitats, land mitigation banks, and wildlife preservation.

Jan 2006 – Dec 2007 – GS-2210-12 Lead and Supervisory IT Specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Viera Outpatient Clinic, Viera, FL. 32940.

I served as the section supervisor and lead IT technician for the IT department of a large VA Outpatient Clinic. We actively supported over 250 professional users in a medical environment, supplying all hardware and software support for this organization. I managed the IT network, telephone, help desk, and telecommunications equipment and functions. I furnished second tier user hardware and software support in this position and functioned as source for expert computer advice and training for staff members. I projected clinic IT needs, order and plan for delivery of IT equipment, contract with outside vendors for certain IT projects, configured and installed hardware and software, re-image systems with images I created and keep up to date (using Symantec Ghost), coordinated office moves and equipment/telephone upgrades. I worked in active directory adding and deleted systems and users to the domain and various containers, created and managed user accounts, created and managed groups, created network folders and assigned groups and users rights to the folders, helped users with network passwords, managed print queues on our VMS system, etc. I was the point of contact for all IT issues in the clinic.

Nov 2005 – Jan 2006 – GS-2210-11 IT Specialist at the same clinic as noted above doing basically the same thing except minus the supervisory administrative duties.

May 2004 – Nov 2005: GS-2210-11 with the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Malcom Randall VA Medical Center, 1601 S.W. Archer Rd., Gainesville, FL. 32608. Full time employee. Duty location at Daytona Beach Outpatient Clinic, Daytona Beach, FL.

In this position I was responsible for first tier customer support for approximately 250 users and three hundred pieces of computer hardware at four geographically separated locations. I installed and troubleshoot all networked hardware, including computer systems, monitors, keyboards, mice, networked and slaved laser and inkjet printers, barcode and page scanners, and specialized lab equipment and interfaces. I configured and network such systems as the new veteran ID card (PIC) system, lab and supply label printers, etc. Reimaged systems as necessary; networking and updating same. Made purchase recommendations to management of new equipment and order same. Installed hardware upgrades to computers including new motherboards, memory modules, hard drives, etc. Monitored and serviced voice mail system and maintains all telephones (new installations and moving of phones included). Monitored all networking equipment including routers, hubs, and switches and email systems. Utilized work order system. Maintained spare parts inventory for fast response to work requests.

June 2001 to May 2004

Information Technology Specialist -GS-2210-09, Department of Commerce, NOAA Aircraft Operations Center, P.O. Box 6829, MacDill AFB, Fl. 33608-0829.

I served as the senior NT4.0/Windows 2000 network administrator, email administrator

(Netscape Messenger), and as a PC hardware/software specialist for an approximately 90-user scientific/research organization. Ordered, configured, delivered, and set-up new Dell, Panasonic, Toshiba, and Gateway PC desktop systems and laptops. Loaded and networked Windows operating systems (98SE, ME, 2000, and XP). Loaded and configured all MS Office Professional and other applications, including NOAA specific applications. Loaded and configured email profiles for new personnel. Administered mail accounts via Internet. Created and administered Windows NT network user and computer accounts, added and deleted workstations, and configured and monitored daily tape backups. Served as ADP security officer loading, configuring, monitoring and updating anti-virus software (I set up a Windows 2000 Norton Antivirus corporate server). Made recommendations to superiors concerning present and anticipated ADP hardware and software needs for organization, utilized in five-year plan. Accomplished complete hardware and software inventory of all ADP assets utilizing state-of-the-art third party inventory software (LanAuditor 4.5) and maintains same. Troubleshot and resolved all types of PC hardware and software issues. Trained users in how to most efficiently use their hardware/software resources. Video Teleconferencing coordinator for organization. Also served as interim Webmaster for organization.

October 2000 to June 2001

Computer Specialist, GS-0334-1 1, Department of Veterans Affairs, Bay Pines VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, Fl.

I served as a PC hardware/software specialist and assistant NT 4.0 network administrator in a large government hospital setting. We had over 2,500 computer users which had every imaginable type of computer hardware and software problem which I helped solve on a daily bases. Configured and installed new Dell and Micron PC's (with NT 4.0) throughout the facility. Configured, installed, and troubleshoot all types of printers including dot matrix, HP and Lexmark inkjet and LaserJet printers. Periodically covered help desk on rotational basis assisting users with network login problems, changing passwords, and all types of hardware and software problems. 'Troubleshot network connection problems by examining PC and network card hardware/software, Ethernet cabling, wall jacks, patch cabling, hubs, routers, and finally server malfunctions. Periodically assigned to "repair team" where we completely rehabilitated older PC's by cleaning, upgrading RAM memory, hard drives, replacing bad network (NIC) cards, floppy drives, CD-ROM drives, upgrading with sound card and speakers (for multimedia systems), and re-ghosting software image on hard drive (NT, Microsoft Office package, etc.). Team member on special projects throughout hospital for hardware and software upgrades. Installed and configured Microsoft Exchange mail.

February 2000 to October 2000

Computer Specialist, GS-0334-09, National Park Service, Timucuan Preserve, Jacksonville, Fl.

I served as the first and sole computer PC specialist, Windows NT 4.0 network administrator, Internet site administrator, and Lotus cc:Mail administrator for a federal park headquarters staff and two remote visitor centers and maintenance facilities. As network administrator, I

maintained one NT 4.0 server and a mixture of appr. thirty client workstations and laptops consisting of Windows 95, 98, NT 4.0, and 2000 workstation operating systems. Administering this system consisted of creating and deleting user accounts, running daily and weekly tape backups, cleaning, repairing, upgrading, or replacing component equipment as necessary (such as upgrading memory or replacing a crashed hard drive), monitoring the system for errors and efficient data throughput. I also monitored and maintained networking hardware consisting of one color network laser printer, a networked HP plotter, GIS (global positioning) computer equipment, ParaDyne frame relay equipment, one Cisco router, and 3Com 12-port and 24-port hubs. User support was given on a daily basis consisting of helping office staff with all types of Microsoft office products, including Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. The park now has an wide area network (WAN) which I installed upon first arriving here. This consisted of installing and testing all Cisco routers, hubs, fiber optic cabling, Ethernet cabling, and configuring each system to work on the network. I also daily administered, cleaned, and reclaimed the park cc:Mail e-mail system. Attended Lotus Notes training in Atlanta.

July 1999 to February 2000

Independent computer consultant (contractor) in the Tampa Bay, Fl. area. Used this time to search for another federal position after having to leave Panama (due to base closers).

May 1998 to June 1999

Computer Specialist, NM-0334-11/12 (was a "12" for only one month due to closers)
Department of Defense Education Activity Dependent Schools, Panama/Cuba District, Curundu, Republic of Panama.

Serving twenty-four month tour as an Automation Technician (AT). Released after fourteen months due to drawdown of American presence in Panama. Responsible for administering and maintaining school and computer systems at the District office and seven schools, including one college, one high school, one middle school, and four elementary schools. Analyzed and interpreted computer documentation to determine abnormalities and institute corrective action if warranted. School systems include SIMS (School Information Management System), DSAMIMS (Supply System), and TNA (Payroll System). Worked closely and coordinated with co-workers, teaching staff, principals, and district superintendent on school system issues. Each school, and the District office, had a Novell 4.11 server with a Lotus cc:Mail post office which required periodic maintenance, updating, and account addition/deletion. Administered and maintained numerous Macintosh and IBM compatible computer systems at the schools which run Mac OS, Windows 3.11, and Windows NT 4.0 workstation, depending on platform. Loaded and configure many office and instructional software systems, Internet browsers, and virus protection programs on these systems. Instructed users on use of Internet browser and some Microsoft Office products (such as Word 6.0 and 7.0). Troubleshoot and configured LAN/WAN system components, such as Ethernet cards, Ethernet cabling, hubs and Cisco routers. Assured all software/hardware related problems at the schools are corrected efficiently and in minimal time. Worked closely with WANG contract personnel in reporting and/or correcting problems. Attended formal Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Server and Workstation courses in effort to more

efficiently set-up and maintain systems. Promoted to NM-12 level 9 May 99.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Master of Science, Public Administration, Troy State University, 03/89, 50 QH

Master of Science, Management, Troy State University, 06/85, 50 QH

Bachelors of Applied Science, Electronic Management, Troy State University, 06/83,
190 QH (combined with AAS degree)

Associates Degree, Computer Technology, Community College of the Air Force, 04/80, 65 SH

HS Diploma, Mesquite High School, Mesquite, Texas, June 1972

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Nov 2011 Certified Computer Forensics Examiner boot camp (Orlando)

May 2007 Cisco CCNA boot camp (Miami)

April 2004 Windows 2003 Server Administrator's Course (Tampa)

March 2003 Hands-on Macromedia Dreamweaver Course (Rockville)

April 2002 CIW Site Designer Series / Web Developer. (Tampa)

March 2002 Certified Internet Webmaster (CIW) Foundations Course. (Tampa)

March 2002 Certified Internet Webmaster (CIW) Site Designer Course (Tampa)

March 2001 A+ Certification Course (Tampa)

Oct. 2000 Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional Server Upgrade course (Tampa)

July 2000 Effective Web Site development and design in FrontPage 2000 (Jacksonville)

April 2000 Lotus Notes installation and configuration course. (Atlanta)

July 1998 Administering Windows NT 4.0 and Supporting Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Core
Technology (two courses).

April 1997 Network Administrator Course, SAIC, San Diego, CA. (72 hrs.) September 1996
CHCS Software Specialist course for SAIC in San Diego, CA. Two week course
(72 hrs.)

- April 1996 PC-CHCS System Specialist course for SAIC in San Diego, CA. Three week course (120 hrs.)
- Sep. 1994 Novell 3.12 TCP/IP course in Atlanta, Ga. (Learning Tree International)
- June 1994 Novell 3.12 Configuration, Troubleshooting, and Design course in Washington, D.C. (Learning Tree International)
- April 1994 Novell 3.12 System Administration and Advanced System Administration courses in Washington, D.C. (Learning Tree International)
- Dec. 1978 Electronic Computer Equipment Repair Course, 7 months, Keesler AFB

LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

Numerous course completion certificates from in-resident software and hardware training courses, including Novell, Open VMS, Windows NT, 2000, 2003, Unix, and Lotus Notes. Attended CompTia A+ training and Cisco CCNA training in residence. Have current Certified Computer Forensics Examiner certification issued by the Information Assurance Certification Review Board (IACRB), December 2011.

AWARDS

- Department of the Interior – November 2013 - Performance award. Highest rating.
- Department of the Interior – November 2012 - Performance award. Highest rating.
- Department of the Interior – November 2011 – Performance award. Highest rating.
- Department of the Interior – November 2010 – Cash performance award. Highest rating.
- Department of the Interior – November 2009 – Cash performance award. Highest rating.
- Department of the Interior – November 2008 – Cash performance award. Highest rating.
- Department of Veteran’s Affairs – January 2007 – Cash performance award.
- Department of Veteran’s Affairs – April 2005 – Annual. Highest rating.
- Department of Commerce – May 2004 – Special appraisal. Highest rating.
- Department of Commerce – December 2003 – Time off award (in lieu of cash).

Department of Commerce -September 2003 -Annual. Awarded highest rating.

Department of Commerce -December 2002 -Cash award.

Department of Commerce -September 2002 -Annual. Awarded highest rating.

Department of Commerce -August 2001 .Cash award.

Department of Commerce -September 2001 -Annual. Awarded highest rating.

Department of Veteran's Affairs -June 2001 -Awarded highest annual rating.

National Park Service. October 2000 -Annual. Awarded highest rating.

Department of Defense. May 1999 -Exceptional performance appraisal (highest).

Department of Defense. December 1998 .Exceptional performance appraisal with cash award.

Department of the Army. April 1998 .Commanders Award for Civilian Service.

Department of the Air Force. March 1990 .20th Surveillance Sq. Technical Civilian of the Quarter.

Department of the Air Force. June 1990 .Space Command Technical Civilian of the Quarter.

Department of the Air Force. Feb 88 -Apr 96 .Nine consecutive years of quality performance awards (cash awards).

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Ms Susan K Christman
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name

susan.christman@gmail.com
Email Address

106 Chipola Road Chipola Rd
Home Address Suite or Apt

Cocoa Beach FL 32931
City State Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 684-9085
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

21 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 2

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

My professional background has focused on commercial real estate appraisal in Brevard County and beyond for the past 20 years. This has equipped me with an understanding of land use, market trends and property rights, which could be useful in assessing the economic impact of conservation efforts and the balance between community growth and land preservation. Personally, I am a nature and parks enthusiast, surfer, and native plant gardener.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

From a young age my first visit to the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina sparked great interest in nature, as I noticed the stark difference in the vegetation of the temperate rainforest in contrast to the scrub and pine forests of Central Florida where I grew up. When I turned 16 I bought a car and then a surfboard, and developed one of my greatest personal interests: surfing. After taking my last grad school final exam, I moved to Satellite Beach in 2004 specifically to be near the beach. Since that time, I've visited most every beach in Brevard County and have travelled around the world to seek out waves. This has enhanced my deep appreciation for conservation lands. My career thus far has not focused on conservation, but I am actively seeking ways to refocus my professional efforts to support conservation.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

My Bachelor of Science is from the University of Florida with a major in Travel and Tourism, this was a study of the economic and social factors of tourism. I earned a Masters of Business Administration from Rollins in Finance and Management. Additionally I am a Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI) which is the highest designation which can be earned in the appraisal professional. I served the Roosevelt Elementary Parent Teacher Organization as Treasurer and Playground Champion, a volunteer role in which I spearheaded the fundraising campaign of over \$125k to replace the school's playground equipment via partnerships with Brevard County School Board, the City of Cocoa Beach and private donors. Additionally, I served as a board member for the City of Cocoa Beach's Charter Review Committee.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

None.

[Susan_Kelly_Christman_EEL_Resume_1.23.2025.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

SUSAN KELLY CHRISTMAN

106 Chipola Road
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

+1 321 684 9085
susan.christman@gmail.com

OBJECTIVE

MAI appraiser with extensive experience in property valuation, research, and analysis, seeking to leverage my expertise in property assessment and data-driven decision-making to support sustainable land use and conservation efforts.

EXPERIENCE

CBRE – Valuation & Advisory Services, Florida

Vice President: 6/2012- Present

- Commercial property appraiser including retail, office, industrial, multifamily, vacant land, ground leases and other special use subject property types
- Volume production environment requiring ongoing management of five to 20+ deal transactions simultaneously, as well as nurturing a pipeline and being responsive to appraisal reviews
- Contributed to over 1,800 valuations during my 12-year tenure, assisting clients in purchase, sale, financing, management, or reporting of a wide variety of real estate investment assets
- Originator of single asset and portfolio work from clients including institutional investors, financial institutions, asset managers, developers, municipalities, individual owners, estates and attorneys
- Proficient and prolific technical writer and analyst including financial modeling/underwriting via discounted cash analysis in Excel and Argus Enterprise
- Co-Team Leader and mentor, proven ability to collaborate within an international organization
- Beta-tester and focus group contributor for proprietary software
- Instructor - “The Appraiser’s Tool Kit” (112 students), September 2024
- Top Market Producer - Orlando, 2022
- RISE Award Winner (Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence), 2021

Meridian Appraisal Group, Inc., Winter Springs, Florida

Associate Appraiser: 10/2007- 5/2008

Callaway & Price, Inc., Indialantic, Florida

Appraisal Associate: 5/2005- 10/2007

Costar Group, Inc., Florida

Contract Field Researcher/Photographer: 11/2005- 7/2006

Riverside National Bank, Titusville, Florida

Financial Analyst- Commercial Lending: 5/2004- 5/2005

AFFILIATIONS / ACCREDITATIONS

Appraisal Institute – Designated Member (MAI) #491127

Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, State of Florida, RZ3190

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson, Florida, SL3135721

EDUCATION

Rollins College, Crummer Graduate School of Business

Winter Park, FL

Master of Business Administration, Finance & Management

Honors: Crummer EAMBA Scholar; Internship at CNL Financial Group, Orlando

University of Florida, College of Health & Human Performance

Gainesville, FL

Bachelor of Science, Travel and Tourism

Honors: Florida Academic Scholar; Photojournalist at *The Independent Florida Alligator*

PERSONAL

Kula Yoga Studio

Merritt Island, FL

Volunteer Cleaner

October 2022- October 2024

Roosevelt Elementary School- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Cocoa Beach, FL

Treasurer and Playground Champion (Volunteer Roles)

August 2017

Spearheaded raising over \$125,000 to fund replacement of playground equipment via partnerships with the Brevard Public School Board, private donors, non-profits and the City of Cocoa Beach

Interests, Hobbies and Passions

I am a nature enthusiast and a musician who enjoys surfing, reading, yoga, cooking, hiking and gardening

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Jason	P	Miller
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

jasonmiller62@gmail.com
Email Address

3015 DAIRY RD	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

TITUSVILLE	FL	32796
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Mobile: (707) 389-0003	
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

7 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

B.S. Environmental Science with a concentration in fish and wildlife management.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Brevard has some very unique and important ecosystems, from numerous types of wetlands, and coastal estuaries, to flatwoods and scrublands. These lands each have their own unique requirements to maintain prime habitats, combined with the proximity of many of these lands to residential and commercial areas, management techniques must vary depending on the location but may include prescribed burns, or mechanical removal of trees and larger flora to support species like the scrub jay. Also important is the continuity of conservation lands, so that fauna can move safely between different conservation areas.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

EEL SMC

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Conservation of wild lands and the protection of species have long interested me and is why I pursued my B.S. in Environmental Science while on active duty with the Coast Guard. The extensive amount of conservation lands in and around Brevard County is one of the reasons we decided to retire here after I left the Coast Guard this past year. Now, being retired and a disabled veteran, I don't need a full-time job, and being a member of this committee would allow me to work in a field of great interest to me while also serving my community. During my time in the Coast Guard I was frequently involved in environmental protection. I spent seven of my years as an installation commander, where I was responsible for decisions that directly impacted the environment on my installations and around them. Finally, throughout my career, I worked extensively with other government agencies, commercial interests, and NGOs on environmental matters, building extensive experience in how different organizations work and finding ways to work together.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

22 years in the US Coast Guard, B.S. in Environmental Science, Former member of Lions Club international, current member of the North Brevard Rotary Club, Former board member and President of the Board for SafeQuest Solano (Rape crisis center in California), former volunteer at the North Carolina Aquarium.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

I am a disabled veteran, but do not require any accommodations.

[resume.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Jason P. Miller

Officer in Charge, U.S. Coast Guard Station Wrightsville Beach | jason.p.miller@outlook.com | 707-389-0003

Education

American Military University, Charles Town, WV

February 2019

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science Focus on Fish and Wildlife Management, GPA 3.89

Relevant Professional Skills

Expert in all aspects of boat operations with experience on vessels from 12' to 110', basic boat maintenance, marine navigation, trailering operations, operational risk management - developing and implementing risk mitigation measures for inherently dangerous operations, curriculum development, doctrine, and policy development.

Employment

United States Coast Guard, Various Duty Stations

September 2000 – October 2022

Officer in Charge, Station Wrightsville Beach, NC

May 2019 – June 2022

- Led, supervised, and trained 23 active duty and 18 reserve Coast Guard personnel across all aspects of Coast Guard missions including search and rescue, law enforcement, and marine environmental protection.
- Managed \$120,000 annual operating budget, \$5 million in operational assets, and four acres of federal property and facilities.
- Significantly increased interagency cooperation throughout the area of responsibility, resulting in enhanced maritime domain awareness, and reduced response times during emergency operations.
- Regularly presented information on Coast Guard operations to a diverse array of audiences, tailoring presentations to meet the needs of different audiences.
- Established and maintained unit-level instructions and policies to comply with Federal, State, and local laws.
- Responsible for overseeing facilities' environmental compliance for HAZMAT storage, spill response, environmental health, etc.
- Progressively set policies and established procedures to limit the impact of COVID-19 resulting in the unit maintaining operational effectiveness throughout the pandemic.
- Oversaw and coordinated efforts of approximately 50 Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers.

Executive Petty Officer, Cutter Moray, Cape Canaveral, FL

June 2017 - May 2019

- Deck Watch Officer, responsible for safe navigation and operation of 87' patrol vessel.
- Oversaw \$130,000 and \$4.5 million dollars in assets.
- Lead Law Enforcement Officer conducting training and operations for living marine resources, recreational boating safety, and alien migrant interdiction operations.

Officer in Charge, Station Rio Vista, CA

October 2013 - June 2017

- Led, supervised, and trained 35 active duty and 20 reserve Coast Guard members across all aspects of Coast Guard missions including search and rescue, law enforcement, and marine environmental protection.
- Coordinated interagency operations across six counties covering more than 1,500 miles of the California Delta.
- Participated in a number of conservation programs including the Save the Delta public education initiative, and assisting U.S. Fish and Wildlife with salmon stocking in the Sacramento River.
- Responsible for overseeing facilities' environmental compliance for HAZMAT storage, spill response, environmental health, etc.
- Oversaw and coordinated efforts of approximately 150 Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers.

Executive Petty Officer, Station Hobucken, NC

June 2012 - October 2013

- Funds Manager and property officer for \$95,000 annual budget, \$4 million dollars in operational assets, and eight acres of federal land and associated facilities.

- Training Officer for 23 active duty and 10 reserve personnel.

<i>Operations and Training Officer, Station Charleston, SC</i>	June 2008 - June 2012
<i>Operations and Training Officer, Cutter Cushing, San Juan, PR</i>	June 2006 - June 2008
<i>Operations and Training Officer, Station Saginaw River, MI</i>	June 2002 - June 2006
<i>Deck Seaman, Cutter Nantucket, Key West, FL</i>	November 2000 - June 2002
<i>Recruit Basic Training, Cape May, NJ</i>	September 2000 - November 2000

Awards, Honors, Certifications

Coast Guard Awards -

- 7 Good Conduct Medals
- 3 Commandant Letters of Commendation
- 2 Achievement Medals
- 2 Commendation Medals
- 2 Neils P. Thompsen Innovation Awards

Navy League Volunteer of the Year 2015
 California State Assembly Certificate of Appreciation
 Congressional Commendation
 Dean's List
 PADI Open Water Scuba certified since July 1996

Other Volunteer Activities

UNCW Center for Marine Science , Wilmington, NC <i>Volunteer, Wetland Monitoring & Benthic Marine Lab</i>	November 2019 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland vegetation monitoring • Seine netting, and trap sampling 	

NC Aquarium , Fort Fisher, NC <i>Volunteer</i>	October 2021 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Education 	

Lions Club International	December 2013 - Present
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President of Rio Vista Lions Club	June 2016 - June 2017
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SafeQuest Solano Board of Directors (Rape Crisis Center/Domestic Violence Response), President of the Board	June 2015 - June 2017 February 2016 - June 2017
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Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Prefix	Tara	Middle	Miller
	First Name	Initial	Last Name

tarasloan0130@gmail.com
Email Address

470 Saint Lucia Court	Tara Miller
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

SATELLITE BEACH	FL	32937
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Home: (321) 749-5053	
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

61 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
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Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I have over 15 years as Program Manager for various contracts at Kennedy Space Center and worked there for 37 years. My experience includes 30+ years in government property management, government audits, logistics, NASA Financial Reporting, Transportation, Warehousing, and Management with extensive knowledge of the Federal Acquisition Regulations, I have 20+ years' experience in training personnel and developing instructional material on various logistics and management concepts, and I provided instructional classes to employees at KSC and am a featured instructor at the National Property Management Association (NPMA) National Educational Seminars.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Completed IFAS courses to become an Advanced Florida Master Naturalist.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

no.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I am interested in preserving Florida's and Brevard County's ecological environment and feel my business background, along with my Master Naturalists background, is a good fit for this position. I have volunteered with the Florida Wildlife hospital and Restore Our Shores, plus provided community service as part of the IFAS Master Naturalist program. Being a 3rd generation Floridian / Brevard County resident means I have seen and lived through growth in the County and am interested in preserving as much of our natural resources as possible.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I have a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's in Management. I served as the Treasurer and Chair of the National Space Club, Florida Chapter, I served as Treasurer on the Space Coast Regional Friends Group Master Naturalists board, and I have volunteered at the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Restore Our Shores. I am also the National President on the National Property Management Association executive board. I am a Certified Professional Property Specialist and I have a PMP certification through PMI. My business background of managing the contracts and people, along with my personal interest in Brevard County's ecology make me an ideal candidate.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

n/a

[Tara_Miller_Resume_01192025.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

***Certified Professional Property Manager, Consulting Fellow
Project Management Professional***

Summary

- As a Program Manager, successfully manage the profitable operation, strategic vision, continuous improvement activities, budget and financial reporting, personnel issues, and contract value on a cross-functional, medium complex, small business prime contract
- Twenty years of Program Management experience, on both prime and subcontracts, with projected values of up to \$65 million.
- Twenty-six years of increasing responsibility in Logistics to include government property management, government audits, life cycle management logistics, transportation and warehousing with extensive knowledge of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) 45.5 and 52.245 and NASA FAR Supplement 1852
- Twenty plus years of experience in writing and implementing procedures and developing performance and volume based metrics
- Twenty plus years of experience in mentoring and training personnel and developing instructional material on various logistics concepts, Property Management requirements and regulations
- Direct managerial experience in government contracts (cost plus fixed fee, firm fixed price, and time & materials), with up to 155 employees

Professional Experience

As Program Manager, successfully managed the following contracts:

NASA KSC Institutional Support Services (KISS IV) contract

As the KISS IV Program Manager, directly responsible for managing a \$65 million firm fixed priced prime contract with NASA to include profitability, daily operations, strategic vision, continuous improvement activities, budget, financial reporting, personnel issues, and contract value.

NASA KSC Institutional Support Services (KISS III) contract

- Successfully managed over 150 employees and independent contractors on a firm fixed priced \$48 million contract with a built-in 1% deductive schedule, with a 98% accuracy rate
- Received "Excellent" performance ratings for each year
- Responsible for quarterly task order negotiations, developing proposals, signing task order and contract modifications

NASA KSC KISS I contract

- Received the KSC Small Business Prime Contract of the year for 2010
- Received "Excellent" performance ratings from the government every year of the contract

- During the first 12 months of this contract, led and managed staff growth from 72 to 130 people
- Responsible for task order negotiations, developing proposals, and signing task order and contract modifications

Subcontract to Boeing on the Checkout, Assembly and Payloads Processing Services (CAPPS)

- Managed CAPPS government property and the Documentation Center for engineering and quality documents. Involved in all aspects of government property to include receiving, shipping, warehousing, audits, and lifecycle management
- Responsible for 533 reporting to within a 5% accuracy rate
- Received the Boeing Small Disadvantaged Subcontract of the Year
- Received the KSC Small Disadvantaged Subcontract of the Year
- Received “Excellent” performance ratings from Boeing every year under my leadership
- Participated in and contributed to Lean / Kaizen exercises

NASA Administrative Support Services

Responsible for taking over a contract with a “poor/unsatisfactory” government rating and receiving a “satisfactory” government rating within a year, and “Excellent” ratings every year thereafter

Employers:

- Poarch Creek Indians Productions (PCI-P), Kennedy Space Center, FL June 2023 – December 2024
- Apache-Logical, JV, Kennedy Space Center (KSC), FL, August 2017 – May 2023
- Wichita Tribal Enterprises, Kennedy Space Center (KSC), FL June 2013 – July 2017
- ReDe/Critique JV, KSC, FL, May 2008 to May 2013
- All Points Logistics / CNI, KSC, FL, October 2002 to April 2008
- The Boeing Company, KSC, FL, September 1995 to September 2002

Education

Masters of Administration in Management; Honors Graduate
Webster University Brevard Campus

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Honors Graduate
Rollins College Brevard Campus

Recognition

NASA Space Flight Awareness Honoree
NASA Exceptional Public Achievement Medal
NPMA Jack E. Griffiths Property Person of the Year

Affiliations

- National Property Management Association: National President, Executive VP, VP of Professional Development, Eastern Region Vice President, Eastern Region Treasurer

- Project Management Institute
- National Space Club, Florida Chapter: Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Ms. Sandra K Racicot
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name

skrgolf@gmail.com
Email Address

645 Jubilee St Melbourne, FL 32940
Home Address Suite or Apt

Yes FL 32940
City State Postal Code

Home: (321) 421-7926 Mobile: (321) 213-3780
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

15 months

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 4

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I have a background and expertise in business and real estate.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Coastal Scrub: The most prominent ecosystem, characterized by low-growing scrub oak, rosemary, and other adapted plants, crucial for the Florida Scrub-Jay. Pine Flatwoods: Open pine forests with a sandy soil layer, often interspersed with scrub areas. Mangrove Forests: Coastal wetlands with mangrove trees, important for shoreline stabilization and marine life nurseries. Wetlands: Including freshwater marshes and depression ponds. Scrub-Jay foraging habitat: Open areas with low scrub vegetation, essential for the Florida Scrub-Jay to find food. Gopher tortoise burrows: Provide shelter for various species, including the gopher tortoise and the eastern indigo snake. Sandhill habitat: Areas with sandy soils supporting specific plant species. Riparian corridors: Areas along water bodies with unique vegetation supporting wildlife. Prescribed burning: Mimicking natural fire cycles to maintain open scrub habitat and control invasive species. Invasive species removal: Eradicating non-native plants that outcompete native vegetation. Habitat restoration: Planting native species to enhance degraded areas and create connectivity between fragmented habitats. Monitoring and research: Tracking wildlife populations and ecosystem health to inform management decisions. Public education and outreach: Raising awareness about the importance of conservation and local ecosystems. Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program: A land acquisition and management program focused on protecting sensitive habitats, primarily aiming to conserve the Florida Scrub-Jay population by managing large tracts of coastal scrub land.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No.

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I moved back to Melbourne in April 2023. I've been looking for an opportunity to serve as a volunteer, and my past volunteer experience as a member of the City of Melbourne Affordable Housing Committee from 2008 - 2010 was very rewarding. I graduated from the University of Florida with a minor in Environmental Science, and I grew up on Lake Okeechobee so I have a passionate concern about Florida's waterways. I've been an entrepreneur since 2001 providing paralegal support services to sole practitioner attorneys and in-house legal departments and I believe my business background would be a well-rounded fit as a member of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC). Thank you for your consideration.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

University of Florida B.S. Journalism and Communications Santa Fe Community College A.S. Legal Assistant, Legal Secretary Space Coast Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors Professional career paralegal, Certified Paralegal, Florida Registered Paralegal, Florida Notary Public Active Member, Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. Former Member City of Melbourne Affordable Housing Committee Certified Business Analyst, Florida Atlantic University, Small Business Development Center, Boca Raton, Florida, volunteer counselor to small business owners (March 2002 - February 2008) I have also read the Land Acquisition Manual downloaded from the website: brevardfl.gov/EELProgram/LandManagementAndRestoration Please see my resume attached for additional volunteer service I believe the combination of my professional background and work experience, education, previous volunteer service and my professional licenses and memberships will provide a diverse contribution to the objectives of the SMC.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

[SK_Racicot_Resume.pdf](#)

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Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Sandra K. Racicot, CLA, FRP
645 Jubilee Street, Melbourne, FL 32940
Telephone: 321.421.7926 Email: skrgolf@gmail.com

SUMMARY: Comprehensive and demonstrable corporate in-house (publicly-held and privately-held entities) and law firm paralegal experience with emphasis on corporate law and governance, entity formation and dissolution (C-corporations, S-corporations, LLC's - domestic, foreign and alien), corporate and company records preparation and maintenance, commercial and residential real estate leasing, sales and administration including contract preparation and conducting closings, securities law/SEC filings, litigation, business, licensing and employment contracts, mergers, acquisitions and transactional matters, estate planning and trust/probate administration, franchising, trademark creation, prosecution, and maintenance, and stock option/employee stock purchase plan design/management.

EDUCATION: University of Florida – Bachelor of Science - Journalism and Communications
Santa Fe Community College – Associate of Science – Paralegal (ABA Certified)
Santa Fe Community College - Associate of Science
Santa Fe Community College - Associate of Arts

EMPLOYMENT:

Remote Paralegal (09/12 to present)

- corporate governance, entity formation, corporate records/documents, contracts, transactional matters (legal, financial, and real estate), annual report filings (all 50 states)
- freelance notary services for refinancing applications and refinanced loan closings
- federal trademarks, contracts, and licensing
- foreclosure litigation
- probate administration
- Corporate Transparency Act – Beneficial Ownership Information Registration

Corporate Paralegal, Digital Domain Media Group, Inc., Port St. Lucie, Florida (07/11 to 09/12)

- assisted general counsel and outside counsel taking company public in November 2011
- responsible for corporate governance, corporate organizational structure and design, entity formations including obtaining EIN's, preparing and maintaining corporate records books, written consents, meeting minutes, NYSE compliance filings
- non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements, contracts, transactional matters and audit/SEC compliance projects

(the company ceased operations on Sept. 7, 2012 and filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Sept. 11, 2012)

Freelance Paralegal, Melbourne, Florida (06/10 to 06/11)

- corporate governance, entity formation, preparation of corporate records, transactional matters (legal, financial, and real estate)
- employee stock option/stock purchase plan design, management, and administration
- federal trademarks, contracts, and licensing
- foreclosure defense litigation

(relocated to accept Corporate Paralegal position in Port St. Lucie, Florida)

Legal Analyst, Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Florida (02/08 to 06/10)

- SEC filings 10-K, 10-Q, 8-K, audit letters, corporate resolutions, secretary and incumbency certificates
- domestic and international legalizations and apostiles
- management of internal compliance self-assessment program
- annual meeting and proxy preparation assistance
- preparation and negotiation of M&A NDA's
- M&A pre-acquisition due diligence and post-integration support (domestic and international)
- financial/transactional and treasury, risk management and business development dept. support
- establishing, modifying and terminating international bank accounts
- unclaimed property recovery and administration

(voluntarily resigned to care for elderly parent)

Freelance Paralegal, Deerfield Beach, Florida (09/01 to 02/08)

- corporate governance, entity formation
- transactional matters (legal, financial, and real estate)
- M&A due diligence, pre/post integration
- employee stock option and stock purchase plan design, management, and administration
- federal trademarks, contracts, and licensing

Manager, Legal Dept., Xcelerate Corp., Fort Lauderdale, Florida (09/99 to 05/01)

- developed and established in-house legal department for privately-held, pre-IPO, start-up e-business and web development consulting services firm
- corporate governance, board/shareholder resolutions, written consents, meeting minutes, secretary/incumbency certificates, corporate records maintenance, foreign qualifications
- M&A audit, due diligence and transactional matters (legal, financial, venture capital, stock offerings, and real estate)
- negotiate and draft real estate leases, letters of credit, and related documents and correspondence
- design, management and administration of employee stock option program and stock purchase program
- USPTO trademark/service mark searches and filing applications
- contract preparation, negotiation and management, statements of work, customer service agreements, licensing agreements, non-disclosure/non-solicitation agreements, alliance partnership agreements

(the company dissolved in 2002 and its remaining assets were acquired by Avenue A/RazorFish)

Senior Corporate Paralegal and Assistant Corporate Secretary, Sunbeam Corporation, Boca Raton, Florida (06/98 to 08/99)

- NYSE compliance and SEC 10-K, 10-Q, 8-K and Section 16 Forms 3, 4, 5 filings
- corporate governance for public and privately-held subsidiaries including multi-state entity formation, foreign qualification
- shareholder/board resolutions and meeting minutes
- post-M&A integration
- annual meeting and proxy statement preparation and coordination

(the company filed bankruptcy and its remaining assets were ultimately acquired by Jarden Corp.)

COMPUTER SKILLS: Proficient in Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Pro, DocuSign, E-Filing, E-Recording, SharePoint, DropBox, and FilePro contract database software

CERTIFICATES and LICENSES:

Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) Florida Registered Paralegal (FRP) Real Estate Sales License (Florida)
Certified Equity Professional (CEP -1) Notary Public (State of Florida)

ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:

Instructor for CLA Examination Review Course - Contracts and Business Organizations Florida
Metropolitan University – Fort Lauderdale College, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (1994 to 2000)

Adjunct Instructor, Law Office Management and Procedures, Legal Assistant Program, Manatee Community College,
Venice Campus, Venice, Florida (Fall Term 1994)

Active Member, Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. (Space Coast Chapter)

President/Director, National Association of Stock Plan Professionals, Florida Chapter (August 2000 - September 2003)

Certified Business Analyst, Florida Atlantic University, Small Business Development Center, Boca Raton, Florida,
volunteer counselor to small business owners (March 2002 - February 2008)

Board Member, City of Melbourne Affordable Housing Committee (June 2008 – March 2010)

Volunteer Journalist, Space Coast Golf Magazine, Melbourne, Florida (January 2010 – April 2011)

Land Acquisition Manual



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

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Land Acquisition Manual

For information pertaining to the contents of this manual, or to receive copies of the manual, or of any pages herein, please contact:

BREVARD COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
91 East Drive
Melbourne, Florida 32904

Phone: (321) 255-4466
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Website: www.eelbrevard.com

Adopted by Resolution 90-273 of the Board of County Commissioners on July 24, 1990

Revised and adopted by Resolution 97-72 of the Board of County Commissioners on April 8, 1997

Revised and adopted by Resolution 97-101 of the Board of County Commissioners on May 13, 1997

Revised and adopted by Resolution 06-007 of the Board of County Commissioners on January 10, 2006

Revised and adopted by Resolution 10-268 of the Board of County Commissioners on December 21, 2010

Revised and adopted by Resolution 11-042 of the Board of County Commissioners on March 8, 2011

Revised and adopted by Resolution 13-192 of the Board of County Commissioners on October 8, 2013

Revised and adopted by Resolution 2019-019 of the Board of County Commissioners on February 12, 2019

Revised and adopted by Resolution 2019-124a by the BOCC Chairman on March 5, 2020 as approved by the Board of County Commissioners on August 6, 2019

Revised and adopted by Resolution 2023-005 by the County Commission on January 24, 2023

The contents of this manual were re-formatted, and a process chart was added in 2013 by:

EEL Staff
Mike Knight, Program Manager

EEL PROCEDURES COMMITTEE
Linda Behret, Priscilla Griffith, Vince Lamb, Rocky Randels, Pat Reed, Leeanne Saylor-Milucky, Mike Smith, Lisa Souto, Diane Stees, Kim Zarillo

EEL SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. David Breininger, Dr. Mark Bush, Sue Hann, Dr. Charles Ross Hinkle, Dr. Randall W. Parkinson, Dr. Paul A. Schmalzer, Lorilee Thompson, Kim Zarillo

Contents

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Land Acquisition Manual	2
Preface	6
Land Acquisition Manual	6
Chapter 1	11
Land Acquisition Manual	11
<i>Purpose</i>	11
<i>Scope</i>	11
<i>Policy</i>	11
Objectives	12
<i>Authorities</i>	12
Responsibilities	14
Relationship to Reports, Ordinances and Programs	16
Maintenance of the Land Acquisition Manual	17
Distribution of the Land Acquisition Manual	19
Chapter 2	19
Land Acquisition Planning & Responsibilities	19
Purpose	19
Scope	19
Definitions	19
Policy	20
Land Conservation Goals	20
Land Acquisition Duties and Responsibilities	22
Requisition of Manual	29
Maintenance and Disposal of Manual	29
Chapter 3	30
Goals, Objectives & Land Selection Criteria – EEL Selection and Management Committee	30
Purpose	30
Land Acquisition Criteria: Scope	30
Phase 1: Determination of Environmental Status	31
Phase 2: Selecting Feasible Management Options	35
Phase 3: Selecting Feasible Acquisition Options	36
Chapter 4	38
Environmental Resource Protection Methods	38
Purpose	38
Scope	38

Definition	38
Common Methods of Land Acquisition	40
Chapter 5.....	45
Acquisition Planning Process	45
Purpose	45
Scope	45
Introduction to the Acquisition Planning Process.....	46
Specific Procedures for Land Acquisition Planning	49
Process A: EEL Selection and Management Committee Identifies Resource Protection Needs ...	50
Process B: EEL Selection and Management Committee Response to Landowner Submissions..	62
Process C: Inter-Agency Acquisition Proposals.....	63
Emergency Procedures	65
Chapter 6.....	68
Alternatives to Fee Simple Title	68
Purpose	68
Scope	69
Consequences and Impacts	70
Chapter 7.....	72
Post-Acquisition Responsibilities	72
Purpose.....	72
Scope: Management of Environmentally Endangered Lands	72
Responsible Management: The Ultimate Goal	74
Appendix Contents	75

Figures and Tables

Figure 1: Major Decision Points Land Acquisition Process	49
Table 1: Standards and Options	70
Table 2: Environmental Consequences.....	71

Preface

Land Acquisition Manual

The Land Acquisition Manual (LAM) for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program is the single document which contains the policies, standards, and procedures relating to environmentally endangered land acquisition activities.

The objectives of the LAM are:

1. To provide, in one document, the current policies relating to land acquisition or interests therein, and real property management.
2. To ensure that acquisition procedures and real property management activities will be carried out uniformly throughout the County.
3. To make the acquisition and real property management process easily understood and readily available to the public, county staff, and all parties involved in the acquisition process.

These directives are consistent with the language of the voter-approved EEL Referendums established by Resolution 90-245, Resolution 2004-201 and Resolution 2022-079 of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (June 25, 1990, August 24, 2004, and August 2, 2022) and passed by Brevard County voters in September 1990, November 2004 and November 2022.

General Program Structure

The EEL Program staff and EEL Selection and Management Committee are authorized by the Board of County Commissioners to implement EEL Program directives and make recommendations to the Board to further the conservation, environmental education, and passive recreation goals of the voter-approved program. In implementing the goals of the EEL Program, EEL Selection and Management Committee and County EEL staff are encouraged to seek innovative approaches to implement land acquisition and responsible land management. The EEL Program will establish effective inter-agency partnerships, compete for increased outside funding support from governmental and non-governmental sources, promote active public participation, and ensure responsible use of public funds.

Authorities

The Environmentally Endangered Lands *Land Acquisition Manual* (LAM) was established by the Environmentally Endangered Lands Procedures Committee (Procedures Committee). The LAM is approved and adopted by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners by Resolution. The Board has ultimate approval authority on the adoption of and revisions to the LAM. The Board has final authority to establish land acquisition policies, procedures, priorities, standards, and criteria. The Board approves specific proposals for acquisition, based on the recommendation of the Selection and Management Committee. All contracts for land purchases will be reviewed and authorized by the Board. The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee will maintain the Land Acquisition Manual and act as an advisory committee to EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee regarding procedures as set forth in the LAM. The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee will convene once per year in a joint meeting with the EEL Selection and Management Committee for an annual program review and discussion of EEL Program procedures. The Joint Committee Annual Meeting will occur after the Board adopts the annual budget (October 1), but no later than December 1 of the same year. The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee will convene as needed during each fiscal year to address changes to and updates of the LAM, as requested by the Board, EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff.

The EEL Selection and Management Committee will be composed of local environmental scientists and individuals with demonstrated expertise in environmental and land management issues and additional individuals with backgrounds and expertise in either business, finance or real estate. The EEL Selection and Management Committee has sole authority to receive and review proposals for lands nominated for purchase and make specific land acquisition and management recommendations. The EEL Selection and Management Committee will establish a strategy for endangered land acquisition that considers environmental criteria developed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee as set forth in the LAM. The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff will follow the procedures set forth in the Land Acquisition Manual. The EEL Selection and Management Committee will meet, as necessary, to implement the land acquisition and management objectives of the program.

EEL Program staff is responsible for:

1. Coordination of the EEL Selection and Management and Procedures Committees
2. Liaison with local, state or federal agencies and private nonprofit conservation groups
3. Implementation of the land acquisition strategy
4. Proposal development for outside acquisition and management funds
5. Management plan development
6. Implementation of on-site management
7. Implementation of environmental education programs
8. Public relations
9. Establishment of inter-agency partnerships for acquisition and management

County EEL staff are responsible for insuring that the proposals for acquisition are properly reviewed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee. County EEL staff will serve the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee, and the Selection and Management Committee.

Interagency Partnerships and Other Authorities

Although the Land Acquisition Manual represents the primary guidance document for policies and procedures, the Brevard County Comprehensive Plan, the Brevard County Land Development Code, and the Florida Statutes will also be considered as they contain goals, policies, and objectives relating to land acquisition.

The LAM procedures were developed, and are to be revised, as necessary to closely resemble and maintain consistency or compliance with land acquisition policies of various regional, state, and federal programs. When inter-agency acquisition agreements and partnerships are established those agency's policies and procedures may apply.

EEL Program Acquisition Policies & Procedures

The LAM is the primary document to ensure that EEL Program land acquisition decisions are consistent with the directives of the 1990, 2004 and 2022 voter- approved EEL Referendum and policies of the Board of County Commissioners.

EEL land acquisition policies include:

1. The acquisition of environmentally endangered lands consistent with the resource and conservation goals, objectives, and policies set forth in the Land Acquisition Manual and the EEL Program Referendum language of 1990, 2004 and 2022.
2. The acquisition of environmentally endangered lands using scientifically based criteria to identify lands to be purchased and to prioritize land acquisition projects of the EEL Program.
3. The acquisition of environmentally endangered lands when other means of protection (e.g., zoning or regulation) are not effective.
4. The acquisition of environmentally endangered lands following state and federal policies for land acquisitions as necessary to secure state and federal matching funds.

The primary objective of the EEL Program is for acquisition of environmentally endangered lands for preservation, conservation, and responsible long-term management. These lands are environmentally unique and irreplaceable. They contain excellent examples of natural communities, forest resources, plants, animals, coastal and wetlands resources, and geologic features. These lands contribute to the environmental, economic, and aesthetic values of Brevard County

EEL Program Management Policies

The 1990 and 2004 voter-approved referendums direct the EEL Program to provide sanctuary management, passive recreation, and environmental education consistent with the conservation goals of the program. The 2022 referendum extended the EEL Program to acquire, improve and maintain wildlife habitat, wetlands, woodlands, and lands that protect the Indian River Lagoon and St. Johns River, and maintain and improve nature education centers with citizen oversight. All sanctuary activities will consider resource protection as the primary program goal, with public access and passive recreation as important secondary considerations. Public access will be allowed at all EEL Program sites; however, public access and types or levels of public use may be controlled to ensure that the conservation and management goals of the program are achieved. No land-use practices will be allowed that degrade the natural resource values of a sanctuary site or decrease the long-term sustainability of those natural resources.

The EEL Program will make environmentally endangered lands accessible to Brevard's citizens and visitors for a variety of resource-based outdoor recreation activities. Acceptable uses at all sites include hiking, jogging, and nature observation. Other uses which will be considered on a site-by-site basis include biking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, camping, and canoeing/kayaking. Access for individuals with physical disabilities will be provided consistent with the American Disability Act.

Several sites will be identified by the EEL Selection and Management Committee as locations for the development of nature centers. These sites will be chosen for their proximity to population centers and ease of public access. The centers will provide on-site facilities for environmental education programs, programs for individuals with disabilities and a centralized location for regional conservation planning and land management implementation.

The EEL Selection and Management Committee will develop a county-wide conceptual management plan (Sanctuary Management Manual) to provide conceptual planning for land management and stewardship for all EEL sites within the county's natural areas network. The Sanctuary Management Manual will be provided to the public for review and comment prior to presenting the Manual to the Board for formal adoption. The Land Acquisition Manual and Sanctuary Management Manual will be the two primary procedures, policy and program concept documents for the EEL Program.

As sanctuary sites are acquired, site-specific management plans will be developed by the EEL Selection

and Management Committee and EEL Program staff with participation by the appropriate acquisition and management partners. All site-specific management plans will be available for public review and comment prior to presenting the plan to the Board for adoption.



Chapter 1

Land Acquisition Manual

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to define the basic purpose, scope, policies, and authorities for the EEL Program and the Land Acquisition Manual. The Land Acquisition Manual prescribes the procedures to be followed by Brevard County in conducting its Environmentally Endangered Lands acquisition program. The general intent of this manual is to:

1. provide uniform acquisition procedures that will benefit the citizens of Brevard County;
2. ensure that the program adheres to the intent of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Referendums, as authorized by the citizens of Brevard County on September 1990, November 2004 and November 2022; and
3. establish clear policies and directives for program efficiency and accountability.

Scope

This manual provides basic information concerning the policies, standards, and procedures, which apply to all County environmentally endangered land acquisition and management activities. These activities include: environmentally endangered land acquisition planning and scheduling; real property appraisals; negotiations and conveyance of lands; management and disposal of real property; the maintenance of real property records; and the preparation of reports and real property surveys.

Policy

Brevard County will conduct all of its land acquisition activities in accordance with the laws, regulations, policies, procedures and standards governing all land acquisitions as well as those specific to regional, state, and federal acquisition programs. These programs include, but are not limited to:

- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
- Save Our Rivers Program (SOR)
- Florida Forever Program
- Land Acquisition Trust Fund Program (LATF)
- Save Our Coast Program (SOC)
- Florida Communities Trust Program (FCT)
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)



This manual is the primary document for all land acquisition activities. It is incumbent upon all entities engaged in EEL Program land acquisition activities to conform to the policies, procedures, and standards set forth in this document.

County Administrative staff and County staff from the EEL Program, Parks and Recreation Department, Budget Office, Finance Department, Clerk of the Courts, and County Attorney's Office will work together to ensure that all legal and financial requirements and responsibilities associated with the use of Ad Valorem Tax Revenues, and the issuance and use of Limited Ad Valorem Tax Bonds, or other such financial instruments, meet the authorizing language of the EEL Referendum, Florida Statutes, and the covenants and agreements set forth in the Bond Resolutions for the program.

Objectives

The objectives of this manual are:

1. To provide, in one document the current policies relating to land acquisition or interests therein, and real property management.
2. To ensure that acquisition procedures and real property management activities will be carried out uniformly throughout the County.
3. To make the acquisition and real property management process easily understood and readily available to the public, county staff, and all parties involved in the acquisition process.

Authorities

Land Acquisition Manual Issuance

The authority to promulgate the policies and procedures contained in the Land Acquisition Manual are embodied in the general authorities delegated to the Brevard County Land Acquisition Procedures Sub-Committee (Resolution No. 89-464).

Land Acquisition Activities

The EEL Program was authorized by voter- approved public referendums in September 1990, November 2004 and November 2022. The referendum was originally established by Resolution 90-245, Brevard

County Commissioners. The laws or procedures which provide much of the authority for land acquisition activities of the County are provided in the Brevard County Policies and procedures and/or Ordinances, or supplemental procedures outlined in Section 125.355, Florida Statutes (1985), Chapter 259 (1994) and all subsequent modifications to Florida Statutes relevant to land acquisition and management.

Responsibilities

Board of County Commissioners, Brevard County, Florida

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) has final responsibility for the financing and implementation of the EEL Program. The Board will make all decisions relative to the funding of the EEL Program through its annual budget process, emergency expenditures, and issuance of bonds for land acquisition. The Board is specifically authorized to issue ad valorem bonds as approved by the electors in support of this program, and as authorized by the Florida Statutes. The Board has approval authority for: 1. land acquisition policies, procedures and priorities based upon recommendations from the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee, EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff (as directed by the Land Acquisition Manual); 2. land acquisition and project development proposals made by the EEL Selection and Management Committee; 3. The annual budget for the EEL land acquisition program; 4. all bond issues (both public and private) to generate funds for capital land acquisition and capital programs; 5. appointment of citizens to the EEL Selection and Management Committee; and, 6. approval of all land acquisition contracts and documents recommended by the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

The Board may approve or deny any acquisition contract or acquisition proposal proposed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee, however, the Board may not add or expand projects identified within the acquisition strategy or presented on the acquisition or sale list. The Board will make all decisions relative to the funding of this program through its annual budget process and has final responsibility for the financing and implementation of the EEL Program.

EEL Procedures Sub-Committee

The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee shall serve as an advisory committee to County Staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee regarding policies, procedures, and standards for land acquisition. The EEL Procedures Committee shall review all proposed revisions of the LAM recommended by the Board, EEL staff, or the EEL Selection and Management Committee. In recognition of the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee, the members are encouraged to advise the Selection and Management Committee and Staff about opportunities for potential funding sources for land acquisition and management.

The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee will meet at the beginning of each fiscal year (between October 1 and December 1) for the Annual Joint Meeting of the EEL Selection and Management Committee and Procedures Sub-Committee. The Annual Joint meeting will provide an opportunity for EEL staff to brief the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee about EEL Program progress over the past year, review the expenditure of funds associated with land acquisition and program implementation, and discuss the need for procedural modifications to the LAM. The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee will meet as often as needed thereafter to complete any modifications to the LAM. Procedures Sub-Committee meetings will be scheduled, as needed, by EEL Program staff or at the request of the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee Chairman, the EEL Selection and Management Committee Chairman, County Administration, or the Board.

EEL Selection and Management Committee

The EEL Selection and Management Committee, consisting of twelve (12) members, shall serve as an expert advisory committee to the Board on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands within the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County.

Seven (7) voting seats will be designated for qualified expert scientific members. Two (2) voting seats will be designated for individuals with a background and expertise in either business, real estate or finance. One (1) voting seat will

be designated for an appointee recommended by the Tourism Development Council (TDC) or the Economic Development Commission (EDC) for the purposes of promoting opportunities for eco-tourism on the EEL managed sanctuary network. Two (2) voting seats will be designated for one member of the Procedures Sub-Committee and one member of the Recreation Education Advisory Sub-Committee as appointed by a majority vote of their respective committees for a term of two years. No further qualifications will be required for the member appointed through the TDC, EDC, Procedures Sub-Committee, or Recreation Education Advisory Sub-Committee. The EEL Selection and Management Committee shall review all parcels nominated for public acquisition and make its land acquisition recommendations to the Board by an affirmative extraordinary vote of eight (8) out of twelve (12) committee members. The EEL Selection and Management Committee will provide technical review for all land acquisition proposals for outside funding. The EEL Selection and Management Committee shall consider and develop a conceptual county-wide strategy for land acquisition and management that considers local, state and national conservation issues and needs (Sanctuary Management Manual). The EEL Selection and Management Committee shall serve as an advisory committee to County EEL staff for comprehensive management plan development and implementation for all EEL Program acquisition sites.

County EEL Staff

It is the responsibility of County EEL staff to conduct and coordinate all land acquisition activities in accordance with the policies and guidelines in the Land Acquisition Manual and at the direction of the EEL Selection and Management Committee. The County shall provide adequate staff to assist the EEL Selection and Management Committee and support the EEL Program. The Parks and Recreation Department shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Land Acquisition Manual. County EEL staff shall act as the liaison for intergovernmental coordination among the County and its municipalities, adjacent Counties, the State of Florida, and Federal agencies. County EEL staff serves as a liaison between the Board, County Manager, EEL Procedures Sub-Committee, EEL Selection and Management Committee, and the public. County EEL staff is responsible for all activities associated with the successful implementation of the EEL program.

EEL Program staff duties include, but are not limited to, land acquisition, land management, the implementation of environmental education programs, development of proposals for outside funding, interagency coordination, public relations and the development of specific nature sanctuaries within the sanctuary network in Brevard County. The County will provide sufficient staff to successfully complete the stated objectives of the program, as established in the EEL Program Land Acquisition Manual and the Sanctuary Management Manual, as authorized by the Board.

Negotiation Agent

County EEL staff shall negotiate and review proposed contracts for the purchase of real property and such purchases shall be in accordance with Brevard County Policies and Procedures and Florida Statutes. In the event that additional land acquisition staff are required to handle the acquisition workload, staff additions may be considered or outside land acquisition consultants may be contracted contingent upon review and approval by the Board.

Relationship to Reports, Ordinances and Programs

The Land Acquisition Manual is the primary source for policy and procedural guidance relating to land acquisition activities. Other sources of policy and guidelines and their relationships to the Land Acquisition Manual are described below.

Comprehensive Plans – Brevard County and the fifteen municipalities in Brevard County, Florida
The comprehensive plans identify the following elements, which would contain goals, objectives, and policies relative to lands to be considered for acquisition:

1. Future Land Use Element
2. Recreation and Open Space Element
3. Conservation Element
4. Coastal Management Element
5. Surface Water Management Element
6. Historic Preservation
7. Potable Water
8. Intergovernmental Coordination Element

Land Development Codes, Brevard County, Florida

The Land Development Code requires a determination of the impact that development has on public services and facilities and the natural resources of the County.

Maintenance of the Land Acquisition Manual

Responsibility

A full-time county staff position will be established for an EEL Program Manager. The EEL Program Manager or designated staff from the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance of the Land Acquisition Manual. EEL Staff will coordinate all manual issuances. EEL Staff shall work with the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL Procedures Sub-Committee to ensure that the manual is maintained.



Amendment and Updating Procedures

The Land Acquisition Manual may be amended in the following ways:

1. If the changes are minor (non-substantiative), they can be authorized by the EEL Selection and Management Committee by issuing a memorandum to the EEL Program Coordinator and EEL Procedures Sub-Committee containing instructions for making pen and ink changes.
2. If changes to be made are substantial, e.g., complete rewriting of one or more paragraphs or additions of new material or policy changes, the affected pages containing the changes will be reissued. Each re-issuance will bear a release number or date of issuance. Substantial changes

or major revisions of the LAM must be reviewed and approved by the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee,

the Selection and Management Committee and the Board.

3. The EEL Procedures Sub-Committee shall reconvene, as needed, to review any major changes to the LAM.

Distribution of the Land Acquisition Manual

Each release of the Land Acquisition Manual or revisions to the LAM will be sent under a transmittal sheet or cover letter. The staff member responsible for maintenance of the Land Acquisition Manual shall refer to current listings of committee members, County Departments, municipalities, agencies, and interested persons to which copies of the Land Acquisition Manual and releases will be distributed. The Land Acquisition Manual represents the conceptual and procedural directives of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Acquisition Program. EEL staff will use and distribute the document as needed for policy guidance, interagency coordination, public education, and/or program information transfer.

Chapter 2

Land Acquisition Planning & Responsibilities

Purpose

This chapter is provided to outline the specific authorities and responsibilities of EEL Program advisory committees and EEL staff. The Chapter will assist and guide the EEL Selection and Management Committee through the land acquisition planning process and procedures, which lead to a decision to acquire land. The procedures may vary depending upon the participation of acquisition partners and the specific rules and policies that guide local, state, and federal acquisition agencies, who may act in partnership with Brevard County to acquire property.

Scope

Planning for land acquisition is initiated with the identification of a need to meet resource objectives requiring real property ownership and having the potential for acquisition. Acquisition involves obtaining full control (fee title) or partial control (less than fee) through easements, leases, or other agreements (see Chapter 6 – Alternatives to Fee Simple Title).

Definitions

The following terms and definitions are to aid in interpreting this Chapter:

Acquisition Study: A compilation of facts, data, and information which will support a recommendation by the EEL Selection and Management Committee to the Board for a land acquisition decision. A complete acquisition study for the EEL Program includes a Resource Planning Assessment, which considers the ecological resource values of a site, and a Project Design Report, which considers the real estate information and land value considerations associated with a site or group of sites. A proposal for the Florida Forever Program, Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Program, or other comprehensive land acquisition proposal processes can serve as the acquisition study for a site or group of sites to be acquired.

Important Resource Problem: An issue or substantial environmental concern found within Brevard County. The EEL Selection and Management Committee selects and establishes priority ranking for important resource problems.

Interest: A right, claim, or legal share in land such as lease, easement, fee title, water rights, mineral rights, and use reservation.

Land Acquisition: The gaining of rights to real property in the form of fee simple title, easement, or lease. This can be accomplished by direct purchase, exchange, transfer between Federal, State, local agencies, including individuals, partnerships, and corporations and accepting donations or gifts, withdrawing land from the public domain or by cooperative agreement.

Land Acquisition Manual (LAM): This document, adopted by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, serves as the Brevard County EEL Program land acquisition plan.

Objective: An objective specifically provides an attainable, quantifiable, or verifiable end toward which a concerted effort is directed. It is a precise statement of purpose (sufficiently detailed so as to be measurable) and includes at least two of the following elements: time limit (when it must be accomplished); standard of performance (percentage, amount or dollars); or criterion of measurement (test, questions, opinion or observation).

Program Memorandum: A document issued by the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee or the Selection and Management Committee providing short-term guidance and direction or actions aimed at meeting a program objective. A program memorandum may take the form of a written memorandum, Agenda Request for Board review, request for a Board resolution to support an acquisition strategy or proposal, or a verbal directive passed by a motion during a public meeting of the EEL Selection and Management Committee or EEL Procedures Sub-Committee. Motions will appear in the written minutes of the meeting.

Policy

Brevard County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, will acquire lands consistent with the resource conservation goals, objectives, policies, and guidelines as set forth in the EEL Referendums (1990, 2004 and 2022), the Land Acquisition Manual (as ratified by the Board of County Commissioners), enabling legislation, administrative rules, executed declarations, and particularly the basic policy of the State of Florida: "It shall be the policy of the State to conserve its natural resources and scenic beauty."

The County's policy is to consider fee title land acquisition from willing sellers to achieve the program's conservation goals and objectives. When lands are to be acquired, the minimum interest necessary to satisfy the objectives is to be utilized. If fee title is required, full consideration will be given to extended use reservations, exchanges or other alternatives that will lessen impact on the owner and the community. Donations of desired lands or interests will be encouraged. EEL Program staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee will seek to identify and secure partnerships and outside funding when available and appropriate to ensure the successful implementation of the land acquisition and management initiatives.

In carrying out this policy, the County shall consider land acquisition measures that are coordinated with various governmental entities. It is the policy of the County to work in cooperation with each of the fifteen municipalities within Brevard County and the Brevard County School Board. Moreover, the County intends to continue its long-standing cooperation with the State of Florida through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (formally known as the Department of Natural Resources) in the development and expansion of existing conservation areas or State parks in the County. The County will cooperate with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Florida Forever Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other agencies and programs in the acquisition of lands, which qualify under the EEL Program land acquisition criteria, as established by the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

Land Conservation Goals

The goal of the Brevard County Land Acquisition Manual is to provide a framework for the protection of

environmentally endangered lands, and to manage those lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education as specifically authorized by the voter-approved EEL Program Referendums of

1990, 2004 and 2022.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Protection

These lands are described as environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that are valued ecological resources. They are evaluated based on rarity, vulnerability, and threat of extirpation in Brevard County and Florida. Relative levels of endangerment can be assessed by looking at acres of natural communities remaining, current levels of protection, and likelihood for continued loss, degradation, or extirpation of habitat. Resources are represented in this program under the following general resource planning categories: Natural Communities, Forest Resources, Plants, Animals, Coastal and Wetland Resources, and Geological Features. The land acquisition goals for each primary resource category are as follows:

Natural Communities

Identify, acquire, and protect those natural communities that are inadequately represented within existing protected lands, or represent the best examples of natural communities with priority given to the most endangered or threatened. To ensure consistency of description of the natural communities, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Classification System and said system, as amended by the Office of Natural Resources Management will be used.

Forest Resources

Identify, acquire, and protect lands to maintain representatives of the various forest or timber types; and to conserve and maintain Brevard County's forests so as to perpetuate their environmental values.

Plants

Identify, acquire, and protect sites which contain endangered, threatened, rare, or species of special concern (as identified and listed by local, state, and federal agencies). Priority should be given to those sites that are critical to the survival of these plant species, or are not critical but contain important assemblages of rare, endangered, or threatened species or those species of special concern.

Animals

Identify, acquire, and protect lands that are: critical to the survival of rare, endangered or threatened species or species of special concern (as identified and listed by local, state, and federal agencies); represent significant colonial bird nesting sites; migratory bird feeding and resting sites; or lands that are necessary to maintain native animal species diversity.

Wetlands and Coastal Resources

Identify, acquire, and protect undeveloped coastal areas to conserve significant natural and aesthetic attributes. Identify, acquire, protect, and manage upland and wetland buffers to preserve significant commercial and recreational saltwater and brackish fisheries designated as State Aquatic Preserves, National Estuarine or Marine Sanctuaries, Special Water Category of Outstanding Florida Water, or Department of Environmental Protection Class II Waters. Identify, acquire, and protect significant wetland areas. Identify, acquire, and protect the functional integrity of the upland-wetland-estuarine linkage.

Geological Features

Identify, acquire, and protect examples of geological exposures, formations, and outcrops that are inadequately represented on public lands or represent the best examples of those features.

Land Acquisition Duties and Responsibilities

Officials listed below are responsible for the functions indicated:

Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida (Board)

1. Approves land acquisition policies, procedures and priorities based upon recommendations from the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff as presented in the Land Acquisition Manual.
2. Approves in writing, as a Board response to an agenda item, land acquisition, land sale, and project development proposals made by the EEL Selection and Management Committee. The Board may approve or deny any acquisition contract or acquisition proposal proposed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee; however, the Board may not add or expand projects identified within the acquisition strategy or presented on the acquisition or sale list.
3. Reviews and authorizes the annual budget for the EEL land acquisition program.
4. Authorizes all bond issues, both public and private, for carrying out the purchase of land.
5. Appoints members to the Brevard County EEL Selection and Management Committee. The procedure for appointment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee shall be:
 - a. The qualifications of all science applicants or nominees responding to a call by the County Commissioners for EEL Selection and Management Committee volunteers shall be reviewed by a Qualifying Committee consisting of the EEL Program Manager, the Chair of the Procedures Sub-Committee and the Director of Human Resources Staff will present the list of all science applicants/nominees to the Qualifying Committee for review and an initial ranking based on their level of experience and education. Qualifications for EEL Selection and Management Committee science members are outlined in this manual (pages 13 & 14).

Applicants/Nominees being recommended by the TDC / EDC and those applying for the two (2) seats designated for business, finance or real estate will not be reviewed or ranked by the Qualifying Committee or the Procedures Sub-Committee, but will be presented to the County Commission for final ranking along with the list of science applicants/nominees.

The method of the initial ranking by the Qualifying Committee is as follows:

1. All applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as approved by the Qualifying Committee will be assigned one hundred (100) points.
2. Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design.
3. And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences OR a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design.

The Qualifying Committee will provide the list of all applicants/nominees to the Procedures Sub-Committee including identification of those applicants/nominees that have been determined by the Qualifying Committee to be qualified. The qualified applicants will be identified by their initial ranking.

The Procedures Sub-Committee will review the list of applicants presented by the Qualifying Committee and

will verify the final list of qualified science applicants/nominees through a majority vote. County EEL staff will provide the list of the qualified science applicants/nominees in ranked order from highest to lowest to the Board for review and final ranking.

Any Procedures Sub-Committee member who is applying for an open seat on the Selection and Management Committee, shall refrain from voting on the final list of qualified applicants or participating as a member of the Qualifying Committee.

b. The Board shall review the qualifications of the qualified science applicants / nominees and give each nominee a ranking score from 1 - 3. The Assistant County Manager (or designated county staff) shall tabulate the ranking scores. Those nominees with the highest scores shall be appointed to the EEL Selection and Management Committee, those nominees with the second highest scores shall be appointed as alternates to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. In cases of tied scores, the Board Chair will choose members or alternates by drawing names of those with tied scores from a box.

The TDC/EDC and business, finance and real estate applicants / nominees with the highest scores shall be appointed to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. Those nominees with the second highest scores shall be appointed as alternates. In cases of tied scores, the Board Chair will choose members or alternates by drawing names of those with tied scores from a box.

c. If replacement of EEL Selection and Management Committee members are required, the Board has the option to choose from the existing pool of qualified alternates (as defined by 6.b. above) or the Board can request that staff prepare a public advertisement as a call for qualified citizen volunteers (EEL Selection and Management Committee qualifications are established in the LAM on pages 13 & 14, and will be the basis for identifying qualified applicants). The process outlined in Sections a. and b. above shall be utilized for any new appointments to the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

d. Reappointments of EEL Selection and Management Committee members can occur at the discretion of the Board without additional review or new rankings. New appointments can be made as outlined in a, b, and c above or by selecting from the most recent (not exceeding two (2) years) pool of qualified applicants/nominees. Appointment procedures will be consistent with County policies for advisory board appointments, as specified in the Uniform Advisory Board Ordinance, Ordinance 95-31.

6. Approves all land acquisition contracts and documents provided to the Board by EEL staff, as recommended by the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

EEL Procedures Sub-Committee

a. Membership shall consist of eight (8) members appointed by the Selection and Management Committee for a term of two years. Each of the nominees above will be chosen by a majority vote of the Selection and Management Committee.

Each member shall have knowledge of environmentally sensitive lands and have participated in activities to acquire or protect such lands. A Chair and Co-Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the Procedures Sub-Committee. A voting seat will be designated on the Selection and Management Committee for a Procedures Sub-Committee member selected by a majority vote of the Procedures Sub-Committee for a two-year term.

EEL Procedures Sub-Committee Duties and Responsibilities

1. Reconvene, at least one time each fiscal year, to review EEL Program compliance to the LAM, discuss procedural issues as they relate to the implementation of the EEL Program, and review modifications to the LAM, as necessary.
2. Advise the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff regarding opportunities and recommendations for outside funding for acquisition and management of acquired lands.

EEL Selection and Management Committee

Membership shall consist of twelve (12) members. Ten (10) members are appointed by the Board for a minimum term of two (2) years. Two additional voting seats are designated for one member of the Procedures Sub-Committee and one member of the Recreation and Education Advisory Sub-Committee as appointed by a majority vote from each member's committee. The Board of County Commissioners shall strive to maintain a committee membership that possesses a diversity of demonstrated expertise or experience to enhance the land acquisition and management goals of the EEL Program. The Board may appoint members that do not reside in the respective Commissioner's District. A Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

All EEL Selection and Management Committee members shall:

1. Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity.
2. Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

No further qualifications will be required for the members appointed through the TDC, EDC, business, finance or real estate, Procedures Sub-Committee or Recreation Education Advisory Sub-Committee.

All remaining EEL Selection and Management Committee members shall:

3. Have a four-year post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design.
4. Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques.



EEL Selection and Management Committee Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Establish a scientifically based set of criteria to use as guidance for land acquisition decisions. (Task completed – 1991).
2. Receive and review individual proposals nominated for purchase in accordance with the criteria established in this Land Acquisition Manual.
3. Create a land acquisition strategy in accordance with the criteria established in the LAM.
4. Receive and review individual proposals nominated for sale.
5. Make minor changes to the Land Acquisition Manual and recommend substantial changes to the LAM to the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee and the Board.
6. Provide technical and scientific guidance for the development of proposals for matching funds and management plans.
7. Provide technical and scientific guidance for land management on sanctuary sites within the EEL Program natural areas network.
8. Develop a county-wide conceptual management plan (Sanctuary Management Manual) to provide conceptual planning for land management and stewardship for all EEL sites within the county's natural areas network.
9. Provide scientific and technical guidance for protection (i.e., fencing) and development (i.e., nature centers and boardwalks) on sanctuary sites.
10. Provide scientific and technical guidance for development of educational programs.
11. Appoints members to the EEL Procedures Sub-Committee and EEL Recreation Education Advisory Sub-Committee.

Brevard County EEL Program Staff

County personnel shall be assigned to the Parks and Recreation Department to implement the EEL Program and assist the Procedures and EEL Selection and Management Committees.

EEL Program Staff Duties and Responsibilities

1. Receive all acquisition applications.
2. Evaluate applications for policy and procedural compliance.
3. Coordinate site reviews by EEL Selection and Management Committee.
4. Coordinate all land acquisition documents, appraisals, surveys and environmental assessments.
5. Arrange for discussions and meetings of EEL Committee Members and County, State and local governmental agencies, as required.
6. Prepare approval memorandum recommendations for Board consideration at the direction of the EEL Program Selection and Management Committee.
7. Identify source of funding for acquisition and management.
8. Develop, track, and administer grants and proposals for outside funding support.
9. Manage all aspects and phases of the land acquisition process.
10. Coordinate and implement on-site management, sanctuary development, and educational programs.

Land Acquisition Staff and/or Negotiating Agent(s)

County personnel, outside consultant(s) or both are assigned to provide land acquisition assistance to the EEL Selection and Management Committee and Board.

Negotiating Agent Duties and Responsibilities

1. Compile, review and track all acquisition data (including appraisal maps, title reports, boundary surveys, appraisals, comprehensive plan information, hazardous waste reports, and any additional "due diligence" items or data pertinent to the valuation or acquisition of real property).
2. Consult with interagency partners (i.e., Division of State Lands, Bureau of Land Acquisition, USFWS, SJRWMD, etc.) to ensure interagency policy and procedures consistency and compliance.
3. Coordinate appraisals, appraisal mapping, survey, and hazardous waste reports, or any other due diligence procedure for land acquisition used to determine the legal status, physical condition, or fair market value of a property.
4. Negotiate with owners for property. Negotiations by County staff or consultants will be based on the following premise: Negotiations with Brevard County landowners are to be fair and impartial. Negotiations are to be conducted in a professional manner. Purchase prices are to be based on information provided by a Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI) appraisals, and staff review of real estate and market considerations. Land purchase prices will be determined by competitive negotiations. Offers will be consistent with land acquisition policies established by Brevard County and Florida Statutes. Final purchase price will be determined through competitive negotiations with the landowner with considerations for fair market value and fiduciary responsibility to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and Brevard County taxpayers. The EEL land acquisition process should serve the citizens of Brevard County in a professional and responsible manner

regardless of the final outcome of a negotiation to purchase real property.

5. Develop purchase contracts. All contracts will be reviewed by County legal staff and risk management staff prior to presenting a contract to the Board for review.
6. Provide monthly reports to EEL Program staff regarding acquisition progress and status of active negotiations, and support contracts presented to the Board of County Commissioners by the EEL Program. Contract must be signed and in the possession of EEL Program staff prior to placing an Agenda Request to the County Administration for Commission review of the Contract.
7. Act as the primary contact with property owners and County legal staff. EEL staff will facilitate and coordinate all interactions between legal representatives, owners and interagency partners during the contract and closing phases of the acquisition process. County land acquisition staff or contractors are responsible for all aspects of the acquisition process.
8. Negotiate and coordinate Florida Forever Program land acquisition reimbursements and property transfers with the Florida Division of State Lands and the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for all multi-agency Florida Forever Program projects.



Requisition of Manual

Copies of this manual may be obtained through:

Brevard County Parks & Recreation Department
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

91 East Drive

Melbourne, Florida 32904

Phone: 321-255-4466

Fax: 321-255-4499

Email: eel-info@brevardparks.com

www.eelbrevard.com

Maintenance and Disposal of Manual

County staff of the EEL Program, through the Parks and Recreation Department or an administrative office, as designated by the County Manager, shall maintain a historical file of this manual and shall be responsible for updating the file.



Chapter 3

Goals, Objectives & Land Selection Criteria – EEL Selection and Management Committee

Purpose

The following review of land acquisition criteria represents a summary of a case study prepared by the EEL Selection and Management Committee for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. These county-wide natural resources data were compiled and presented for scientific peer review. The work was published as part of *Partners in Stewardship: Proceedings of the 7th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands*. W. E. Brown and S. D. Veirs, Jr. (Editors). George Wright Society, Hancock, Michigan, p. 452-462, 1993. The full text is provided in the LAM as part of the *Appendix*.

Land Acquisition Criteria: Scope

Goals

The goals of the EEL Acquisition Program are:

- **Primary Goal 1.** Protection of the rich biological diversity of Brevard County.
- **Secondary Goal 1.** Maintenance of ecosystem function.

Additional Goals:

1. Protection of educational values of natural lands.
2. Protection of research or scientific values of natural lands.
3. Protection of cultural, passive recreational and aesthetic values of natural lands.

Criteria for Acquisition Selection

The criteria that will be used to select lands under each of these goals are outlined below. A database/spreadsheet will be developed for potential sites or groups of sites that will collate relevant information under each variable.

- **Phase 1:** Determination of high priority sites based on environmental criteria.
- **Phase 2:** Determination of management requirements and feasibility, to include the expected cost for management.
- **Phase 3:** Determination of which high priority environmental sites are feasible acquisition options.

These criteria represent general standards that are considered as minimum technical standards for strategic evaluation of endangered lands acquisitions. By necessity, the specific criteria used to prioritize endangered lands for acquisition are open to scientific interpretation and consideration by the members of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee. The science members of the EEL Selection and Management Committee were chosen for their demonstrated expertise in conservation, land management, and ecological disciplines. The land acquisition criteria, natural resource considerations and comparative ecological value decisions required to assess the natural resource values of endangered lands are subject to change with an emerging and evolving understanding of biological diversity and ecosystem management.

These criteria were developed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee to be adaptive and responsive to the evolution of our ecological knowledge and understanding of natural area protection and stewardship. New criteria may be imposed, existing criteria may be modified, or existing criteria may be re-prioritized depending upon existing environmental conditions, new data/information, and changes in the status of environmentally endangered lands in Brevard County, Florida and the nation.

Phase 1: Determination of Environmental Status

Primary Goal: Protection of Biodiversity

To achieve the primary goal of the protection of biodiversity, lands will be assessed under three broad categories:

1. Value for species;
2. Natural communities present; and,
3. Landscape values.

These three considerations will be integrated in the land evaluation process, but no one category will be rated more importantly than others. It will be the decision of individual members of the EEL Selection and Management Committee to establish their acquisition priorities based on a comprehensive analysis of specific criteria (much in the same way that the Florida Forever Program committee functions).

Species

The species approach to selecting sites will depend on currently available data including existing county records, Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) data and site visits by the EEL Selection and Management Committee Members. Sites which will have high priority from a species perspective will include:

1. Records of listed species (USFWS, FGFWFC, FDA, FNAI).
2. Species for which Brevard County is particularly important based on status, distribution, and endemism.
3. Endemics present.
4. High species diversity.
5. Significant populations (e.g. migratory, breeding sites, roosting, colonial nesting, over wintering).
6. Part of a minimum viable population (MVP) polygon for a key species (FGFWFC data).
7. Species which are unusual records (e.g., estuarine species in inland lakes).

Natural Communities

The extent of each natural community that is present on a site will be recorded based on the Florida DEP/FNAI Classification System. Highest priority communities for acquisition in Brevard County have been determined based on the following:

1. Frequency of natural communities in Brevard County.
2. The conservation status of these communities in terms of State rankings.
3. The extent to which these communities exist in protected areas in Brevard County.
4. The degree to which these communities support listed species.
5. Habitat loss and current legislative protection afforded these communities.

The natural communities present in Brevard County fall into three broad categories in terms of acquisition priorities. The allocation of acquisitions among high priority rare communities (Group A), representative widespread communities (Group B), and lower priority communities (Group C) is not fixed.

Group A: High priority communities that are rare in the County, have high state rankings (S2, S3), and are largely unprotected.

1. Scrub (sand pine, xeric oak), scrubby flatwoods
2. Coastal strand
3. Hardwood hammock (mesic and maritime)
4. Forested wetlands (including hardwood swamps, cabbage palm hammock, cypress)
5. Saline inland bogs
6. Seepage bogs

7. Mixed hardwood/pines

Group B: Communities that are fairly common in the County, largely unprotected, exist in large, often contiguous tracts and often with high habitat diversity:

1. Mesic and hydric pine flatwoods
2. Wet prairies
3. Dry prairies
4. Freshwater wetlands isolated from St. Johns River
5. Tidal marsh and tidal swamp

Group C: Communities that are common in the County, essentially protected by other agencies but which may be considered in conjunction with other communities if contiguous or selected under other criteria (species, landscape, ecosystem function, etc.)

1. St. Johns River freshwater marsh
2. Wetland scrub
3. Rangeland

Other issues which may be considered in relation to these natural communities are:

1. Is the site a good representative for this community type?
2. What is the community diversity present on the site?
3. What are the key community assemblages on a site (e.g. wetland-upland interface)?
4. What is the degree of naturalness of the site (or the degree of disturbance)?
5. Is the size of a site greater than the minimum dynamic area for species or community viability?
6. What is the extent and scale of fragmentation?

Landscape

Important ecosystem and landscape values exist in Brevard County. Sites with the following landscape characteristics will be afforded higher priority:

1. Proximity to existing or proposed protected areas.
2. Inter-connectivity potential of the site. Does the site or sites have potential value as a corridor? This is particularly important in the north of the county where there is potential to connect protected areas like Farmton, St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge, Seminole Ranch, other SJRWMD properties, and Tosohatchee with the Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Secondary Goal: Maintenance of Ecosystem Function

The priorities for this goal fall under the following criteria:

Primary Considerations

1. Proximity to water bodies
2. Value for fire management or mechanical management to simulate fire
3. Vegetation
4. Fire suppression, as it relates to the condition of the natural communities.

Secondary Considerations of Lower Importance

1. Recharge potential
 - a. Soils
 - b. Vegetation
2. Run-off abatement
 - a. Buffering potential
 - b. Location
 - c. Land use
 - d. Vegetation
 - e. Soils
3. Floodplain
 - a. Floodway conveyance
 - b. Location

Additional Goals

1. Educational Values Sites will be ranked on their potential educational values, primarily in relation to their accessibility, location, and suitability as educational sites. Natural resource factors, such as endangered species, endemic species, unique geological features, exceptional biological diversity, or traditional educational use of site will be considered.
2. Research or Scientific Values Sites which have any of the following characteristics may be considered more highly:
 - a. History of scientific research or study
 - b. Essential or unique monitoring site
 - c. Potential for scientific research or study
 - d. Locally significant scientific location (e.g., fossil bed, geological exposure, location of the specimen)

3. Cultural, Passive Recreational, or Aesthetic Values Sites which show the following characteristics may be considered more highly:
 - a. Site showing aspect of human ecology (man and environment, e.g., shell mounds, archaeological digs like Windover, early settlers' sites).
 - b. Sites that have potential for passive recreational activities.
 - c. Aesthetically pleasing sites - human bias might include hardwood forests, colorful wildflowers and orchids.



Phase 2: Selecting Feasible Management Options

The following criteria will be incorporated into spreadsheet format and used to comparatively assess which sites are feasible in terms of management:

1. Limited development or encroachment in surrounding land uses.
2. Feasibility and requirements for fire management or alternatives to fire management regimes.
3. Ability to maintain natural hydrology or restore altered hydrology.
4. No extensive removal of exotics required.
5. Degree of access for the public.
6. Absence of hazardous materials.
7. Potential management costs.

8. Potential for restoration.

Phase 3: Selecting Feasible Acquisition Options

The following criteria will be incorporated into spreadsheet format and used to assess comparatively which sites are feasible in terms of funding.

1. Easy availability and reasonable value as determined by:

- a. Tax role valuation/taxes
- b. Appraised value
- c. Asking price
- d. Willing seller
- e. Bargain sales
- f. Donations

2. Cooperative acquisition potential

- a. State
- b. Federal
- c. Non-profit/other

3. Ownership

- a. Number of owners
- b. Large landowner parcels

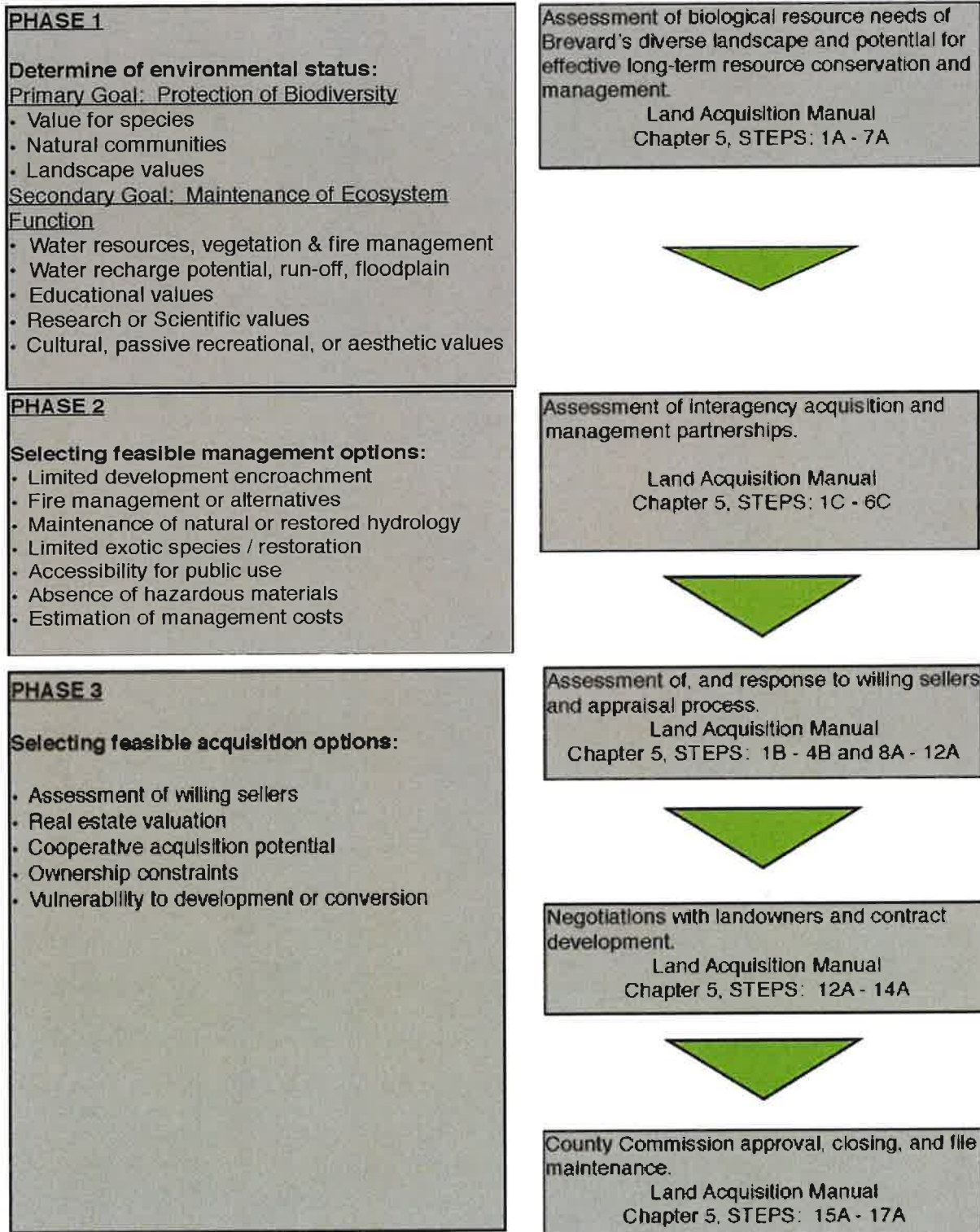
4. Vulnerability

- a. Zoning
- b. Existing regulatory protection
- c. Threat of conversion



The chart below is a summary of the EEL Acquisition Process that is described in detail in Chapter 3 of this manual.

EEL Acquisition Process Summary
Land Acquisition Manual



Chapter 4

Environmental Resource Protection Methods

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide general information regarding the measures and strategies to be utilized to acquire properties in fee simple title or acquire rights through non-fee-simple techniques. The procedures identify a variety of methods that can be used individually or collectively to meet the conservation and management objectives of the EEL Program, as authorized by the EEL Program Referendums of 1990, 2004 and 2022.

Scope

The EEL Program Referendums (1990,2004 and 2022) authorized Brevard County to acquire, protect, and maintain environmentally endangered lands and make improvements as appropriate for passive recreation and environmental education. Private land ownership consists of a bundle of rights (interests). The EEL Program Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff should consider all available resource protection methods. When possible and practical, the EEL Program shall utilize methods to take minimum possible interest in lands, including none. The policy is to leave as large a proportion of these rights as possible in private ownership and still meet the defined objectives of the public referendum and the LAM.

Brevard County recognizes the need for long-term land management and stewardship to ensure the protection of Brevard's rich biological diversity, endangered natural communities, and listed species. The following resource protection methods provide a range of resource protection methods available to the County.

Definition

Regulatory Controls

Zoning

This occurs where specific geographic areas have been assigned particular uses which are either permitted within the area, or prohibited. Zoning is ordinarily accomplished by a local jurisdiction. Zoning can be used to provide some measure of protection to both natural resources and property values. Zoning can protect environmental resources areas with a minimum of intervention and cost. The principal disadvantage of zoning is lack of permanency since laws can change from time to time. Zoning cannot be used to provide areas for public use without just compensation to the owner.

Regulatory Permits

A variety of State, Federal, and local permits are required to perform work on private or public lands. Examples of permits are: building permits, dredge and fill permits, land clearing, and landscaping permits.

Direct Land Use Controls

When regulatory controls are not available or feasible, it is often necessary to use more direct land use controls, which involve some degree of land acquisition. Since environmentally endangered lands exist in significant quantities on privately owned land, it is often necessary to acquire these lands in their entirety or in partial interest for the protection of environmental resource areas.

It is necessary to understand the concept of land ownership. No ownership is a single simple entity, but a composite of rights, which may be categorized as follows: water rights, trespass rights, mineral rights, development rights, etc. Collectively these are called property rights. Acquisition may involve all or part of

the total property rights.

Below are listed the various devices or documents used to transfer a property right between parties. They are listed in degree of rights acquired.

License, Permission, or Permits

These are special authorizations for a specific act on land of another party. They are temporary in nature. Their benefits are simplicity and ease to negotiate. An example would be permission to conduct an inventory.

Cooperative Agreement

This is a simple land acquisition action since it usually places no legally binding restriction on land. Agreements are consummated between government agencies, local governments, conservation groups, or individuals. An agreement is generally long term but can be modified by either party. They are most effective in establishing multiple-use management of land.

Lease

This is a short- or long-term agreement for full or specified use in return for a rental payment (usually annual). The rights revert back to the owner at the termination of a specified lease period. This device is useful when the objectives are short term or the owners are unable to provide other forms of land transfer. The property remains on the tax rolls during the lease unless specific agreements are arranged by negotiation with the landowner. Generally, rights are reduced during the lease and taxes are correspondingly reduced because the land is serving a public interest.

Easement

Often the acquisition of a single right (less than fee title) or easement can be of value in meeting an objective. This is the purchase of a right to do or not to do something. These can be viewed as positive easements or prohibitive easements. The purchase of a right to trespass on land would be a positive easement, while the right to leave timber standing (i.e. prohibit cutting) would be a negative easement.

Non-development or preservation easements are very often used to ensure that existing environmental concerns remain intact. Easements become part of the title to property and are not usually subject to termination except if bought back by the person holding title to the land. If a landowner sells his property, the easement continues as part of the title. Easements are especially useful when multiple uses for property can be developed. Properties subject to easements generally remain on the tax rolls, although the assessments may be reduced by the reduction of market value.

Preferential Tax Assessment

Section 193.501 of the Florida Statutes provides for preferential tax assessments for environmentally endangered lands when land development rights have been conveyed or conservation restrictions covenanted. On November 20, 1992, Brevard County filed Ordinance 92-25 with the Secretary of State. The ordinance amended Chapter 21 by adding Article V "Preferential Tax Assessment Program". This program provided for preferential tax assessment for marine and estuarine marshes and mosquito impoundments by option of owners and providing for the provisions and covenants as outlined in Section 193.501.

Fee Title

This is the acquisition of all control to a person's land. There is a total exchange of property with the formal conveyance of a title to the County. While a fee title acquisition involves major rights to a property, certain rights may be withheld or not purchased. (See water rights, mineral rights, and use reservation below). In many cases, acquisition of fee simple title may be the only real mechanism to ensure that the conservation objectives are met in perpetuity.

Property Rights

Under the nomenclature of fee title (generally denoting acquisition of full usage) certain property rights can be excluded in any transaction. The more common of these are:

Water Rights

Many properties have defined water rights associated with the real property and often these rights are part of the title. The law of Florida controls how water rights are administered. When a supply of water is a factor in planning, a determination must be made of what water rights exist and if they must be purchased separately or whether the owner can be allowed to reserve them for use on other lands.

In addition, Florida law provides that waters adjacent to navigable waters are sovereign lands. As a result, some wetlands adjacent to navigable waters may already be vested with public interest, and acquisition of these lands is probably not necessary because they are already owned by the State and are, therefore, in the public domain. Each potential acquisition of lands adjacent to navigable waters must specifically provide for delineation of sovereign lands boundaries so that the total consideration for the purchase of the property does not include any acquisition of sovereign lands.

Mineral Rights

The right to explore for, or extract, minerals from land are often separated from other rights. A determination of what mineral rights are essential to the proposed acquisition must be made. If mineral exploration or extraction would impact adversely the intended use of the site, then it is necessary that these rights be included in the transaction. On the other hand, oil and gas may be extracted in a manner compatible with the intended land conservation effort, resulting in a potential savings of acquisition funds by allowing reservation of these rights.

Use Reservation

On some occasions, it is desirable to acquire title to land but to permit the existing owner to continue to live on or use the land. This is called "extended use" or "use reservation." For example, if the property in question has a residence unit which is not of immediate need to the program, a life-use reservation may be granted to the owner and the owner can continue to live in the residence for the remainder of the owner's life. Many other types of use reservations can be negotiated such as agriculture, grazing and hunting. This is a very useful tool in developing a land acquisition strategy that has a minimum social impact. Use reservations should be phased out at the earliest possible time to ensure proper management of the project.

Common Methods of Land Acquisition

There are a number of methods available to acquire property rights. These are direct purchase, condemnation, donation, exchange, transfer, or withdrawal. Not all these methods are used by the EEL Program. A brief discussion of each method follows:

Purchase

This is a simple straightforward means of separately obtaining fee title or an easement. It involves a willing seller/willing purchaser situation wherein the purchaser negotiates the sale of one, some or all rights to property. All purchases by the County must be based on land values established by qualified, independent appraisers. The EEL Selection and Management Committee or Negotiation Agent will maintain a list of appraisers qualified by the Florida Division of State Lands (DSL). Consistent with State policy and Brevard County Policy BCC-24 the EEL Program shall select appraisers from a list of qualified appraisers provided by the Division of State Lands.

Direct acquisition agreements have the advantage of being quick, controllable, and generally non-controversial.

Condemnation (not used by the EEL Program)

There are occasions when direct purchase is not possible because the owner does not want to sell or will not accept the price offered. When extremely high public values are endangered or threatened or the land is needed for protection, the County can exercise the right of eminent domain (the taking of land without consent of the owner). This judicial process is also called condemnation.

The disadvantages are that this process is almost always controversial, frequently creating highly emotional reaction on the part of the landowners and sometime the community at large. Furthermore, there is little control as to the cost which is generally determined as a result of a trial. In addition, the County must assume the judgment of the value that the jury places upon the land. The County may also pay additional costs and attorney fees of the property owners, as provided by law.

The EEL Program was established by voter- approved bond referendums in 1990,2004 and 2022 and was authorized in the Goals, Policies, and Objectives of the Brevard County Comprehensive Plan (1988). Policies 9.6 and 10.4 direct that the establishment of a county- wide land acquisition program (EEL Program) must be voluntary and shall not use the powers of eminent domain or condemnation.

Donation

A citizen or group of citizens, foundation, or non- profit organization may wish to make a gift of property to the County. Such donations are often useful in carrying out the land acquisition program at a minimum of cost. Aside from the cost factor, these acquisitions are not different from any other means of obtaining land control. Gifts and donations have the same planning requirements as purchases.

Landowners often request information regarding Internal Revenue Tax benefits associated with donations. EEL staff should NOT provide information regarding potential tax benefits associated with land donations. Landowners should be cautioned that IRS regulations regarding donations are complex, likely to change, and require professional review by qualified tax lawyers or professional tax consultants.

Exchange

Lands under County control can be exchanged for land having greater ability to satisfy the objective of the land acquisition program. This can involve land in private ownership or land under the administration of another governmental agency. Inherent in the exchange concept is the requirement to get dollar value for dollar value. Exchanges are attractive in that they do not increase land holdings and do not require funds for purchase. Exchanges should be carefully considered by the EEL Selection and Management Committee to ensure that conservation goals are satisfied by the exchange.

In some cases, it may be appropriate for the EEL Program to exchange or transfer lands with other County departments in order to further the goals of the EEL Program. Any exchange or transfer that involves the movement of acquisition funding from one department to another must be considered as a land sale and must follow the Land Sale Procedures as defined on Page 34. In the event that land being transferred to the EEL Program was originally part of a mitigation permit, and has a balance of management funding, it is understood that the remaining funds would be transferred to the EEL Program along with the property.

To ensure that all lands being considered for exchange or transfer are consistent with the intent of the voter-approved EEL referenda, and the Board- approved land selection criteria (Chapter 3 of the EEL Land Acquisition Manual), the following steps will be followed:

Step 1: Conceptual Exchange/Transfer Presentation by staff to SMC (for consideration of a 1st Majority Vote).

The Conceptual Presentation would include the following information:

1. A brief history of the initial acquisition or donation and the sale/purchase history of all properties associated with the exchange/transfer.
 - a. Land exchanges or transfers that were acquired with partnership funding, or through donation may require approval from the original acquisition funding partner, permitting agency, or donor (where land use restrictions may exist, including but not limited to, easements, donor restrictions, etc.) before being considered for an exchange or transfer.
2. Justification for the exchange/transfer detailing how it will further the EEL Program goals and mission.
3. An overview of the conservation value and current habitat conditions. The SMC would have the option of conducting a site visit prior to their consideration of a 1st Majority Vote.

Step 2: Exchange/Transfer Proposal

Staff will prepare an Exchange/Transfer Proposal for the Selection and Management Committee for consideration of a 2nd Majority Vote. All Exchange/Transfer Proposals must be carefully evaluated by the SMC, and must receive an extraordinary vote (at least eight (8) out of twelve (12) affirmative votes) in support of the proposal in order to authorize staff to prepare a Board Agenda Request for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners. The proposal will include at a minimum, the following information:

1. An overview of the current use of the property, the existing management, and required management obligations related to the property.
2. An overview of the anticipated management needs of the property, including the estimated initial and annual management costs, priorities, and management partnership opportunities.
3. An overview of public access and environmental education opportunities.

Step 3: Bring exchange/transfer concept to BoCC for direction

EEL Staff will prepare an Agenda Request to present the land exchange/transfer to the Board for consideration. Upon consideration of the recommendation from the SMC, the Board will determine the most appropriate course of action for the disposition of the property including whether or not appraisals are necessary for the purpose of asset tracking and method of exchange/transfer, in accordance with County Ordinance Chapter 2, Article VIII and Florida Statutes 125.35 and 125.38.

Step 4: Initiation of Land Asset Transfer Process

Upon approval of the Exchange/Transfer Proposal by the Board of County Commissioners, staff will initiate the process for the transfer of the county property between the appropriate county departments. All lands transferred into EEL management become formally designated as part of the EEL Sanctuary Network.

Land Sales

In certain circumstances it may be appropriate to sell property previously purchased under the EEL Program where the conservation value has diminished since the property was acquired. In these situations, the EEL SMC may recommend the sale of property if they determine that such a sale would provide a greater opportunity to further achieve the conservation goals of the EEL Program. The value for the sale of any property will be based on its fair market value, and will be consistent with County Policies related to the sale of real property. The proceeds from such sale shall be used for the acquisition of comparable conservation lands.

The following sequential steps will be followed when considering land sales:

Step 1: Extraordinary Majority Vote from SMC

All lands considered for sale will be carefully evaluated by the SMC, and must receive an extraordinary majority vote (at least eight (8) out of twelve (12) affirmative votes) in support of the sale to authorize staff to prepare a Board Agenda Request for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

Step 2: County Commission Consideration and Approval

EEL Staff will prepare an Agenda Report Request to present the land sale to the Board for consideration. Upon consideration of the recommendation from the SMC, the Board will determine the most appropriate course of action for the disposition of the property including the determination of fair market value, negotiations, and method of sale, in accordance with County Ordinance Chapter 2, Article VIII and Florida Statutes 125.35 and 125.38.

Step 3: Contract Negotiations

Based on the direction provided by the County Commission, staff will take the necessary steps to obtain a contract for sale for approval by either the County Commission or if so directed by the Board, the Chairman of the County Commission.

Step 4: SMC Final Review of Contract

Prior to presenting the sale contract to the Board, EEL staff will present the general contract terms to the SMC for final review and authorization to proceed to the Board. The basic question to be answered in the discussion is: "Does the proposed sale meet the Program objectives and needs and should the SMC recommend the sale for Board approval?"

Step 5: BoCC Consideration of Contract and/or BoCC Chair Approval of Contract

Based on the direction provided by the BoCC in Step 2, the final contract for sale will either be approved by the BoCC, or executed by the BoCC Chair. At this point the property will proceed to closing.

Installment Sales

This concept has not been approved in Brevard County; however, an installment sale involves the sale of bonds. The prospective seller would contract to convey property to the County and in return, the County would issue a private placement bond. This bond would have to be paid back over a set number of years. The effect of this would be to create a potentially tax-free installment sale to the seller.

Use of Intermediaries

Often, the County will find it advantageous to work with a private group as an intermediary to facilitate the transaction. The most common examples of this would be The Nature Conservancy or the Trust for Public Lands. Use of these intermediaries can bring about closing more rapidly and offer certain tax motivated aspects to the transaction. Use of intermediaries can provide an opportunity to obtain expert acquisition support services without permanently enlarging EEL Program staff.

Off-site Mitigation, Land Transfers or Mitigation Banking

Off-site mitigation requirements, as required by the County or other agencies having regulatory authority, for the incidental taking of endangered species or protected habitats (i.e. wetlands, scrub, etc.) often results in a transfer of real property or money to a regulatory agency or in the case of cash transfer, to a mitigation escrow account or "mitigation bank". The successful implementation of endangered land acquisition programs throughout Florida provides opportunities for the establishment of off-site mitigation banks with funds transferred to local, state, or federal land management and conservation sites. Mitigation assessments for development can result in the transfer of real property, cash, or cash held in a management endowment fund (or a combination thereof) to a local government having an established land acquisition program. Government agencies involved in wetland regulation include the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Clean Water Act), Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or the St. Johns River Water Management District. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service enforces regulations authorized by the Endangered Species Act.



Chapter 5

Acquisition Planning Process

Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to describe a comprehensive and strategic planning process for land acquisition. The process identifies three phases of decision-making:

1. Resource Planning,
2. Acquisition Planning, and
3. Acquisition.

Scope

The summary, flowchart and narrative provided in this Chapter describe the specific stages of the property review and acquisition processes. The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff will adhere to the details of the process to ensure that all properties considered for acquisition by the EEL Program are administered in a consistent, responsible, and professional manner. Specific decision points and EEL staff reports are highlighted in the process to provide enhanced accountability to the Board and the public.

Introduction to the Acquisition Planning Process

Resource Planning Phase

The Resource Planning Phase determines the ecological significance of a property through a preliminary ecological assessment by the EEL Selection and Management Committee. At a minimum, this phase considers site location, natural communities, biological diversity, habitat quality, and contribution to functional ecological integrity. During the Resource Planning Phase, the EEL Selection and Management Committee develops a conceptual plan to meet the program's conservation objective(s). The EEL Selection and Management Committee reviews the ecological values of a property or group of properties using the land acquisition criteria developed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee (see Chapter 3 and Appendix). (Note: This first phase of planning is called the "Resource Planning Boundary Phase" in the Florida Forever Program process).

The end result of the Resource Planning Phase is the identification of an acquisition objective presented in the form of an EEL Selection and Management Committee report (in the case of site-specific reviews) or development of a land acquisition proposal (for larger multi-parcel acquisition initiatives).



EEL Selection and Management Committee Action

The EEL Selection and Management Committee votes on the resource values of the property or group of properties and authorizes the next phase of acquisition planning with a First Majority Vote (seven (7) out of twelve (12) Selection Committee members). Note: This first phase of planning is called the "Resource Planning Boundary Phase" in the state's Florida Forever Program process. The First Majority Vote authorizes EEL staff to expend EEL funds on aerial photographs, appraisal maps, expanded site assessments, appraisals, title reports and other due diligence items that are required to further determine ecological values, economic values and property status.

Acquisition Planning Phase

The Acquisition Planning Phase re-examines and expands upon the information collected in the Resource Planning Phase. Real estate and economic considerations are now brought into full consideration through the analysis of title reports, appraisal maps, appraisal reports, and synthesis of all pertinent real estate and resource data.

While the resource planning for an acquisition can be relatively unstructured and general, detailed planning and accurate real estate information are required to present all of the pertinent real estate and environmental data to the appraisers for effective land valuation.

Information required by the appraisers includes accurate delineation of ownership boundaries, property acreage, zoning, future land use designations, presence, location and size of jurisdictional wetlands,

potential for endangered species, physical encroachments and any other information required to assess the real estate status, value and availability of the property.

The end-result of the Acquisition Planning Phase is a compilation of information in a file, report format, or proposal which details the real estate status of the property. (Note: This second phase of planning is called the "Project Design Phase" in the state's Florida Forever Program process).

EEL Selection and Management Committee Action

Based on the findings of the Resource Planning and the Acquisition Planning Phases, the EEL Selection and Management Committee votes to authorize EEL staff to begin negotiations with a Second Majority Vote. The Second Majority Vote requires an extraordinary majority (eight (8) out of twelve (12) affirmative votes).

Land Acquisition Phase

The negotiating agent shall prepare a pre-negotiation strategy for EEL Program staff approval as part of the confidential negotiation file to prepare the negotiation agent or team for strategic decisions required during the negotiation. The negotiating agent will negotiate with a landowner for as long as the landowner remains a willing seller and the negotiations are moving in a productive and professional manner. The EEL Program is a non-regulatory program that acquires lands from willing sellers. Negotiation staff can terminate negotiations with a landowner or their representative at the discretion of the staff negotiator or negotiation agent. EEL staff or the negotiation agent will brief EEL Selection and Management Committee members at regularly scheduled EEL Selection and Management Committee meetings regarding the general status of land negotiations.

Until negotiations are completed and an acquisition contract is executed by the Board, all negotiation files and appraisals will remain in a confidential negotiation file. EEL staff will maintain the confidentiality of all appraisals, offers and other negotiation matters as required by Sections 259.041(7)(e) and 259.041(8)(c), Florida Statutes and Chapter 18-1 F.A.C. or as directed through Multi-Party Acquisition Agreements with inter-agency acquisition partners.

Once an acceptable purchase price is negotiated, the negotiating agent or EEL staff will present a contract to the landowner for signature. The negotiating agent may enter into a contract with the landowner for assignment to the County for closing, or may close directly on the property for subsequent sale to the County upon disclosure by the negotiating agent of its purchase price and all transaction expenses. EEL staff will prepare an Agenda Request for presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting date.

At a minimum, the agenda package will include the following information items:

1. Contract for Sale or Purchase with legal description of the property and a map of the property.
2. Summary of the natural resource attributes of the site and ecological reasons for the acquisition.
3. Negotiation Summary Report with details about the negotiation history, purchase price, appraised values, and justification of the purchase price.

The Board of County Commissioners has final and sole authority to accept or deny a contract to acquire property.

All negotiation files, appraisals, and negotiation materials become part of the public records when a contract is executed by the Board. Disclosure of these details will occur two weeks prior to the execution of the contract when the Agenda Request is presented to the County Administration and the Board. After the Board executes the contract, all records pertaining to the acquisition shall become public records,

subject to public access in the same manner as are other public records, pursuant to the provisions of

Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The key steps and decision points of this three-phased land acquisition process is summarized in Figure 1.

Specific Procedures for Land Acquisition Planning

The EEL Selection and Management Committee decision process of the acquisition of environmentally endangered lands will follow a two-pronged process.

Process A

Resource planning boundaries and acquisition strategies will be developed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee based on identification of problems and/or needs assessment; and

Process B

Properties will be considered that are brought to the EEL Selection and Management Committee by landowners and/or landowner representatives.

Additional procedures are described that address interagency management proposals and emergency acquisition procedures. All components of the Resource Planning Phase will consider the guidelines outlined in the EEL Program Goals, Objectives, and Selection Criteria (Chapter 3). The two-pronged decision process is outlined in the narrative that follows. Any EEL Selection and Management Committee member that has a potential conflict of interest must identify the potential conflict and abstain from discussions or voting.



FIGURE 1: MAJOR DECISION POINTS LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS

1. RESOURCE PLANNING PHASE

- Identify Needs and Objectives
- Make Preliminary Resource Assessment
- Prepare Resource Assessment Data (Part of Resource File)

DECISION POINT (EEL SMC FIRST MAJORITY VOTE) OPTIONS:

- Land Acquisition Not Required (Does not meet EEL criteria)
- Land Acquisition Not Required (Alternative to Fee Simple Acquisition provides best option)
- Land Acquisition Provides Best Option

2. ACQUISITION PLANNING PHASE

Develop Project Design for Acquisition

Identify and Establish Funding Mechanisms and Partnerships

Compile Acquisition Plan Documents

- Soil Maps
- Appraisal Maps
- Title Report
- Tax Information
- Wetland-Upland Determination
- Ecological Data
- Ownership Information
- Appraisals

DECISION POINT (EEL SMC SECOND MAJORITY VOTE) OPTIONS:

1. Authorize Negotiations and Land Acquisition
2. Reject Acquisition Option

3. LAND ACQUISITION PHASE

Staff or Negotiation Agent Review of Acquisition Plan Documents

Staff or Negotiation Agent Prepares Negotiation Strategy

Staff or Negotiation Agent Negotiates Terms of Acquisition with Landowners

Staff or Negotiation Agent Prepares Contract for Signature; Contract Signed by Landowner

Staff or Negotiation Agent Prepares Negotiation Summary and Acquisition Justifications

Staff or Negotiation Agent Present Contract and Property Summary Report to Board

DECISION POINT (BOARD AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT) OPTIONS:

1. Board Accepts Contract
2. Board Denies Contract; Staff Notifies Landowner(s)

EEL Staff and County Legal Staff Prepare Closing Documents and Execute Closing.

Figure 1: Major Decision Points Land Acquisition Process

Process A: EEL Selection and Management Committee Identifies Resource Protection Needs

1. Resource Planning Phase

Step 1A: Identify Acquisition Priorities

The identification of program priorities or needs is performed by the Selection and Management Committee. EEL staff works with the Selection and Management Committee to identify land acquisition priorities, acquisition strategies, or alternative strategies to meet the goals of the program. The Selection and Management Committee will identify priorities for site-specific acquisitions and/or establish acquisition strategies that consider local, regional, or statewide conservation concerns. The goal is to establish a strategic framework for land acquisitions that considered the biological resources needs of Brevard's diverse landscape and potential for effective long-term resource conservation and management.

Step 2A: Preliminary Resource Assessment

The staff makes a broad assessment of the County's natural resources to define in general terms the magnitude of the conservation problems or needs. The assessment is made using the best available scientific data, maps and other pertinent information. For example, the loss of habitat and high level of

endangered species within scrub habitats along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge represents a national conservation need or problem that requires a comprehensive acquisition solution. For property specific acquisitions, a formal discussion of the property assessment will be made by the Selection Committee. Individual properties may be integrated into a larger strategic acquisition plan or properties may be considered as “stand alone” properties for acquisition.

Preliminary resource assessments for all acquisition projects will consider the Goals, Objectives, and Selection Criteria of the EEL Program developed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee (Chapter 3). The EEL Selection and Management Committee will follow a scientific approach to the needs assessment that considers species level, natural community-level and ecosystem-level issues. EEL staff will coordinate with the EEL Selection and Management Committee and other persons or agencies that may be involved in the identification or implementation of land acquisition solutions or alternative solutions. It is important that local land acquisition decisions consider and integrate local, state, and national perspectives for conservation needs and priorities. Preliminary resource assessments by the Selection and Management Committee may include on-site visits conducted with the permission of the landowner (see Step 5A).

Preliminary contact with affected local governments and participating agencies should begin at this time. Contacts will gauge levels of local interest and identify areas for potential interagency conflicts or concerns. All participants should establish a firm basis in preliminary planning before preliminary decisions are made and prior to initiating the detailed planning phase. All options and land acquisition alternatives should be considered.

Documentation for the preliminary resource assessment may be presented in a verbal report, formal report, land acquisition strategy proposal, or memorandum from EEL Selection and Management Committee members or EEL Staff. The preliminary resource assessment will be discussed during the regularly scheduled EEL Selection and Management Committee meetings.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at all scheduled EEL Selection and Management Committee meetings. If the EEL Selection and Management Committee determines that they are not prepared to entertain a motion to decline or accept the proposed project, or if there is a consensus by the EEL Selection and Management Committee to pursue more information, the decision will be tabled until such time that additional information is prepared by EEL staff.



Step 3A: Decision Point (Preliminary Review Vote)

If the identification of priority needs is complete, the EEL Selection and Management Committee may entertain a motion to decline to move forward with project development. Projects that are moved to be retained for further acquisition consideration will be placed in “active status.” At this time, the EEL Selection and Management Committee will direct EEL staff to prepare resource assessment data. EEL staff will notify landowner(s) of the decision.

Step 4A: Resource Planning Assessment

EEL staff prepares resource and real estate data, as available, to begin the Resource Planning Assessment summary. The assessment is represented by information and data that describe the property, location, resource importance, significant ecological attributes, and preliminary real estate data for the site. At this stage, the EEL staff and EEL Selection and Management Committee will contact outside agencies and potential acquisition partners to see if there are ongoing negotiations on the property, opportunities for acquisition partnerships or more appropriate acquisition agencies. Gaps in resource data are identified. All available resource data are compiled by EEL staff.

Step 5A: Schedule and Conduct On-site Visits

EEL staff coordinates with landowners (or their designated representatives) and the EEL Selection and Management Committee to schedule and conduct field trips on the subject property or properties. Site visits are used by the EEL Selection and Management Committee to further evaluate the sites based on the EEL Selection Criteria. Information obtained on the site visit or visits will be compiled into a field report by one or several members of the EEL Selection and Management Committee. The field report(s) will be presented to the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff at a regularly scheduled EEL Selection and Management Committee meeting. Attendance by the landowner or land representative will be encouraged. The EEL Selection and Management Committee field reports will be combined with the resource assessment data and archived as part of the Resource Planning Assessment.

Step 6A: Resource Planning Assessment Report

The Resource Planning Assessment report will be filed as a compilation of all available resource data on a property or group of properties. This information will be used to prepare Resource Planning Boundaries for multi-parcel Florida Forever Program boundaries, prepare summary reports for site resource attributes or as information sources for outside acquisition funding. EEL staff is encouraged to seek land acquisition funding opportunities and multi-agency partnerships to extend the efficient use of EEL Program acquisition funds.

Step 7A: Contact Agencies

The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff will discuss potential acquisition partners based on the ecological attributes of the site and local, state, and national acquisition and management programs. At any time during the process, EEL staff are encouraged to seek acquisition partners to extend the available financial resources of the program. Verbal and written inquiries will be sent to all agencies or programs to identify potential levels of interest and funding availability for acquisition or management. Special attention will be given to programs having significant matching funds, such as Florida Forever Program, Florida Communities Trust, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. Each of these programs has their own guidelines and rules for acquisition. County staff must coordinate with every acquisition partner to ensure that EEL Program procedures are complementary to and consistent with partner agency programs.

2. Acquisition Planning Phase

Step 8A: Decision Point (First Majority Vote)

The First Majority Vote is an important decision point that initiates Phase 2, the Acquisition Planning-Project Design phase of the process. This phase will include acquisition planning and real estate valuation. The EEL Selection and Management Committee initiates Phase 2 by a majority vote of the members.

Step 9A: Project Design Report

The EEL Selection and Management Committee determines land acquisition priorities and the timetable for moving properties into the detailed planning phase for land acquisition. Basic to the establishment of acquisition priorities are considerations for resource values, resource vulnerability, economic opportunities, acquisition partnership opportunities, and availability of willing sellers. The development of a strategy for land acquisition should consider an ecosystem approach to acquisition which includes four general phases of project design development:

1. Resource and real estate data synthesis and analysis;
2. Proposal development with acquisition justification;
3. Identification of funding sources and interagency acquisition partners; and
4. Third party valuation of the property (appraisal process), which includes appraisal maps and title reports for the property.

Decisions regarding acquisition priorities should consider the establishment of a proper climate for effective negotiations. Generally, the EEL Program should not establish a prioritized, linear list of properties to be acquired. The list of properties to be acquired by the program should exceed the available funds at any given time in the process. This will provide flexibility and an enhanced negotiation position for the program. Properties and groups of properties of highest and equal resource value should be given priority consideration. The process must remain flexible to ensure that acquisition staff can capitalize on unique real estate opportunities and “bargain sale” opportunities.

Considerations during the Project Design phase include the urgency of the conservation need, the priority of the resource, estimated cost of the action, the potential for funding, opportunities for interagency partnerships, availability of willing sellers, options to fee simple acquisition and other factors.

For acquisition proposals which require large commitments of EEL matching funds or long-term program commitments to acquisition and management, a state or federal land acquisition proposal may be prepared by the EEL staff and EEL Selection and Management Committee in compliance with the requirements of the funding agency. Land acquisition proposals and requests for outside funding support must be submitted to the Board for approval.

EEL Program staff may submit preliminary proposals for funding support in advance of formal approval by the Board in circumstances where Board authorization is not possible prior to the application deadline. In such circumstances, EEL staff will present the proposal to the Board at the earliest available Board meeting. If the Board does not approve of the submission or makes changes to the proposal, EEL staff will either submit a revised proposal to the funding agency or remove the proposal from further review and consideration. The EEL staff is encouraged to seek matching fund opportunities generated by the Preservation 2000 Act (passed by the Florida Legislature in 1990), Florida Forever Program and other local, state, federal, and private sources of land acquisition and management funding.

The comprehensive nature of Florida Forever Program and Florida Communities Trust (FCT) proposals and the extensive property review process required by the State will satisfy the requirements of the Resource Planning Assessment Report and the Project Design Report for multi-agency acquisition projects initiated by the EEL Program.

The EEL Selection and Management Committee may allocate available EEL Program funds by projects, studies, or functions through Program Memoranda which authorize the allocation of funds and staff resources for detailed planning to meet the needs identified in the concept plan. Planning beyond the preliminary or concept plan stage should not proceed until requested by a Program Memorandum and authorized by the EEL Selection and Management Committee as part of the First Majority Vote. The EEL Program budget is approved annually by the Board for all administrative needs, land acquisitions, capital expenditures, and for required staff support.

With the issuance of the appropriate Program Memoranda from the EEL Selection and Management Committee, EEL staff should proceed with the process of developing detailed acquisition and project design plans. A standardized planning process should be followed in planning for any land acquisition proposal. The development of a detailed plan should include direct EEL staff contact with affected government agency staff. The major components in planning for projects which involve land acquisition are:

1. Defining, redefining, or amplifying the objectives or purposes.

The program objectives for the action must be clearly identified at the beginning of the project design planning. For most acquisition projects in the EEL Program, fee simple acquisition will be the primary program objective as authorized by the EEL Program Referendums of 1990, 2004 and 2022.

2. Assuring public awareness of the problem or objective and the planning process to be followed.

Inherent in the land acquisition planning is the need for public awareness of the project. At a minimum, contacts with the affected landowner, local political entities and interested political leaders should be made to make them aware of the project and the scope of alternatives under consideration. Very often, well-timed public input into the planning process can make the difference between success and failure.

The range of public participation and information techniques available to the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff is extensive. Particular techniques depend on conditions present and the needs. EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee should encourage public participation with the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

The following are some of the possible techniques available to enhance public involvement in the EEL Program:

- a. Holding or attending meetings, public hearings, or lectures
- b. Working meetings
- c. Open meetings
- d. Conducting workshops or seminars
- e. Producing and releasing materials for communication to the public
- f. Publishing a newsletter or informational brochures
- g. Educating the public about the decision-making process

- h. Presenting the full range of feasible alternatives
- i. Interacting with the public in the County offices

3. Applying the planning process to seek a solution to the problem.

The planning phases provide a dynamic process to assess the possibility of a property acquisition and the importance of the acquisition to the long-term goals and objectives of the EEL Program. The land acquisition process is a tool the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff should use to implement effective solutions to identified problems.

4. Reporting the procedure followed.

Accurate documentation of procedures followed, and justification for decisions made are essential to effective program implementation and public accountability. The Project Design represents the compilation of available information used to identify a recommended land acquisition action.

In broad terms, the Project Design process calls for:

- a. Clearly identifying the purpose or need for the action (defining objectives)
- b. Identifying alternatives that solve the problems or meet the objectives
- c. Evaluating the effectiveness of the alternatives to meet the objectives
- d. Identifying possible or probable consequences or impacts of each option

Incorporating resource and economic considerations into the planning process, the format for preparing a Project Design is likely to differ slightly from project to project. At a minimum, the Project Design report should include the following general information for consideration:

4-a: Project History and Purpose

A brief account of the events which led to the proposal should be given. If there are existing reports on the proposal, the relationship of the recommended action to the Project Design Report should be explained. Objective(s) should be defined to clarify and reinforce the purpose of the proposal. The need for the action should be described and a rationale for its accomplishment should be developed. Threats to the environment or resource should be described, as well as establishing the level of urgency for the acquisition or acquisition alternative. The relationship of the land acquisition or acquisition alternative to the program goals should be discussed.



4-b: Vicinity and Property Descriptions and Maps

A broad description of the project area with a map to orient the reviewer should be provided. An appraisal map, diagram or survey of the property boundaries with a legal description should be provided for each property within the project area.

4-c: Title Reports

A title report should be provided for each property in the project. The chain of title should be investigated for at least the last 30 years.

4-d: Appraisal Reports

The County will contract for appraisal of all parcels to be acquired as provided by this section. The appraisals shall be prepared by qualified appraisers, certified by the State of Florida, who are included on a qualified list of appraisers approved by the Florida Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal. All appraisals prepared for the EEL Program must comply with the procedures and requirements set forth in Section 259.041(7) Florida Statutes, Rule 18-1.006 Florida Administrative Code and the Bureau of Appraisal's Uniform Appraisal Standards (and amendments to these rules, policies, and procedures as they are adopted). Appraisal reports should meet the technical standards of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. In addition, an affidavit from each appraiser shall be submitted with the appraisal reports certifying that the appraiser has no vested or fiduciary interest in the parcels being appraised.

Each parcel to be acquired shall have at least one appraisal. Two appraisals are required when the estimated value of the parcel exceeds \$500,000. However, when two appraisals are obtained that differ significantly (the higher of the two values exceeds 120% of the lower value) a third appraisal may be obtained as determined by the EEL Program Manager. Additionally, an appraisal review shall be obtained for any appraisal exceeding \$250,000. All appraisals and reviews will be prepared by MAI appraisers contracted by the EEL Program, provided by Brevard County as permanent appraisal review staff or identified by the Division of State Lands (DSL), Bureau of Appraisal as part of an interagency acquisition project (as defined by a Multi- Party Acquisition Agreement).

Additional items that may be included in the Project Design Report are:

- a. Description of the planning process followed
- b. Description of the present environment or resource setting
- c. Discussion of alternatives to fee simple acquisition
- d. Discussion of the environmental, administrative and institutional consequences of each alternative
- e. Discussion of the alternatives considered, chosen, and rejected
- f. Discussion of potential problems for the County and its municipalities
- g. Discussion of the degree of public involvement and public sentiment
- h. Identification of commitments made to the public, local governments, or State and Federal agencies, if applicable
- i. Documentation of compliance with policies, regulations, and the law

j. Projections of project costs and community impact

The basic information (as described in the previous steps) relates to the planning process and provides much of the information needed for responsible land acquisition decisions. Land acquisition decisions often require additional material and data which may be pertinent to specific land acquisition sites and objectives. EEL Program staff should consider every property as a unique entity, with site-specific issues and challenges.

Responsible and comprehensive pre-acquisition planning is essential to the successful completion of an acquisition initiative. As general guidance for EEL staff, the Project Design Report shall contain the basic information needed for making an informed real estate acquisition decision. Key components include appraisal map (with wetland and upland delineation), appraisals, title reports, and any additional information essential to the negotiation.

Various laws, regulations, and policy directives which pertain to the proposed land acquisition must be considered prior to making decisions on land acquisition. The Project Design Report should contain a brief and concise statement indicating what has been done to comply with these laws, regulations, and policies, if applicable.

Since the planning process requires consideration of a number of resource and economic considerations, the feasibility of a land acquisition initiative must consider economic issues. Land costs and funding availability may be a key consideration. Effective planning and priority setting require a close liaison between the EEL Selection and Management Committee and the Negotiation Agent or EEL acquisition staff.

Although the final acquisition cost estimate for land and improvements is presented as a lump sum, the estimate should be based on a total of the following considerations separately stated.

- a. Direct cost of acquisition based on current estimate.
- b. Land appreciation projected over a reasonable period to a proposed date of acquisition. Presumptions on projections should also be stated.
- c. Indirect cost of acquisition: appraisals, negotiations, title, survey, closing costs and other land acquisition-related costs. These may entail a certain amount of cost projection.

The size and nature of a project will generally dictate what additional facts are needed to get an overall picture of the proposed project, project locale and the impact the project could have on local communities. These considerations may include:

- a. The general financial situation of the county or municipality where the project is located. This should include the county/city tax or millage rate schedule showing the proposed distribution of taxes to the State, county, school districts, roads, and other purposes.
- b. Information on drainage, water rights, stormwater control, and the Water Management District interests to be affected by the proposed project.
- c. The number and size of school districts partly or wholly within the proposed project and the effect the project will have on these.
- d. Other impacts of the project on the local area that should be identified may include the impact on an individual, on adjacent landowners or on the local community at large.

- e. Any possible acquisition problems uncovered during the feasibility study should be discussed, as well as any other matters which might have a bearing on the proposed project or which would be helpful in considering the proposal.

5. *Recommending an Action.*

A land acquisition strategy shall be developed based on the information compiled in the Project Design Report. The strategy should outline in general terms the order of acquisition priority, recognizing such factors as resource protection, public and administrative needs, changing land values and willingness of owners to sell. The land acquisition strategy should also address any proposed schedule for the transfer of property owned by other government agencies. For multiple parcels or complex property ownership patterns, the general acquisition strategy developed at the pre-acquisition stage should be updated and re-evaluated as necessary.

Step 10A: Contact Agencies

The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff will discuss potential acquisition partners based on the ecological attributes of the site and local, state, and national acquisition and management programs. At any time during the process, EEL staff are encouraged to seek acquisition partners to extend the available financial resources of the program. Verbal and written inquiries will be sent to all agencies or programs to identify potential levels of interest and funding availability for acquisition or management. Special attention will be given to programs having significant matching funds, such as Florida Forever Program, Florida Communities Trust, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. Each of these programs has their own guidelines and rules for acquisition. County staff must coordinate with every acquisition partner to ensure that EEL Program procedures are complementary to and consistent with partner agency programs.

Step 11A: Decision Point (Second Majority Vote)

The Second Majority Vote requires an extraordinary majority vote (at least eight (8) out of twelve (12) affirmative votes) of the EEL Selection and Management Committee and provides authority to EEL acquisition staff to begin negotiations, prepare land acquisition contracts and to proceed towards the purchase of real property, contingent upon approval by the Board.

3. Land Acquisition Phase

Step 12A: Appraisal Review and Negotiation Strategy

All appraisals and reviews will be prepared by MAI appraisers contracted by the EEL Program, provided by Brevard County as permanent appraisal review staff or identified by the Division of State Lands (DSL), Bureau of Appraisal as part of an interagency acquisition project (as defined by a Multi-Party Acquisition Agreement). Any appraisal review required by this manual will evaluate appraisals for adherence to minimum technical standards and acceptable appraisal procedures. All appraisals shall be prepared by qualified appraisers, certified by the State of Florida, who are included on a qualified list of appraisers approved by the Florida Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal (see 39, 4-d: Appraisal Reports) and qualified appraisers will be required in accordance with State policy to submit fully completed Bureau of Appraisal, Appraisal Checklist with each appraisal report.

EEL Program acquisition staff and/or the acquisition agent have authority to:

1. Request new appraisals if appraisal dates are older than 6 months or if recent comparable sales indicate that new appraisals are warranted.
2. Request a third appraisal or new appraisals if appraisals are greater than 20% divergent and no rectification of value appears possible through the third-party appraisal review process.

3. Require appraisal revisions from appraisers if appraisals do not conform to appraisal standards specified by the Florida Statutes, the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, or policies adopted by the Florida Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal, or as indicated by third-party appraisal reviewer.
4. Establish the maximum value for negotiation purposes as follows:
 - a. The maximum value for a parcel to be acquired shall be the value indicated in a single approved appraisal if only one appraisal is required. If two appraisals are obtained and approved when only one is required, the maximum value shall be the higher of the appraisals, regardless of their divergence.
 - b. If two appraisals are required and the values do not differ significantly (the higher of the two values does not exceed 120% of the lower value), the maximum value shall be the higher value indicated in the two approved appraisals.
 - c. If two appraisals are required and the values of the two appraisals differ significantly (the higher of the two values exceeds 120% of the lower value), the maximum value shall be 120% of the lower of the two appraisals or a third appraisal shall be obtained.
 - d. If a third appraisal is obtained when two appraisals are required, the maximum value shall be the value contained in the higher of the two closest appraisals as long as the two closest appraisals do not differ significantly. If the two closest appraisals differ significantly, the maximum value shall be 120% of the lower of the two appraisals.

Based on the appraisal reports and review of all real estate information associated with a site, EEL staff will develop a written negotiation strategy report which is placed in the confidential negotiation files. The EEL Program will follow the policies, rules, and directives for confidentiality as established by the Florida Statutes. Only essential land acquisition staff will have access to negotiation files or will be identified on Confidentiality Agreements with the Division of State Lands or St. Johns River Water Management District. Typically, these individuals will be limited to the acquisition agent, EEL Program Manager, EEL Selection and Management Committee Chair, and Legal Staff assigned to the project.

If a land acquisition agent is involved in the negotiation, the agent must review the negotiation strategy with the EEL Program Coordinator prior to initiating the negotiation with the landowner or land representative. The negotiation strategy report provides clear directives to aid the staff member or negotiation agent through the negotiation process.

The negotiation files for a given property, which includes appraisal report(s), negotiation strategy, offers and counter-offers, negotiation notes and the negotiation summary, become part of the public record when the Board executes the contract. Prior to that time, the negotiation files are considered confidential, as required by Sections 259.041 (7)(e) and 259.041 (8)(c) Florida Statutes, Chapter 18-1, F.A.C. and provisions of any Multi-Party Acquisition Agreements with the Division of State Lands (DSL), Department of Environmental Protection as agent for the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida.

A Negotiation Summary Report will be completed by the acquisition agent or acquisition staff at the termination of all negotiations, whether the negotiation is successful or not. The Negotiation Summary Report will be presented to the Board with the Contract or Option Agreement signed by the landowner and a summary of important resource and project design considerations. Submission of the Agenda Request to the County Manager and acceptance of the Agenda Request for scheduling at a Board meeting places this negotiation information in the public record.

In instances where EEL Program staff are negotiating on Florida Forever Program Project parcels on behalf of the DSL, it is necessary for County staff to adhere to all land acquisition procedures, rules and policies of DSL. EEL staff are strongly encouraged to network with DSL acquisition, appraisal and survey staff and maintain a high level of communication and coordination among interagency staff members. All appraisal reports, appraisal maps, negotiation strategies, boundary surveys and contract formats should be reviewed by appropriate DSL staff prior to initiating a negotiation.

Step 13A: Property Negotiations

Designated County staff, land acquisition agents representing agency partners, or land acquisition contractors will negotiate for the purchase of all properties. The acquisition agent will negotiate with owners or their authorized representative(s). EEL staff will negotiate only with the individual(s) identified by the landowner on the Owner's Authorized Representative Form (see Appendix). The current status of the Owner's Authorized Representative Form will be confirmed immediately prior to initiating negotiations. In situations where a significant time (over 6 months) has passed since the Owner's Authorized Representative Form was signed, EEL staff will request a new Owner's Authorized Representative Form from the landowner. Although negotiations are likely to involve much verbal discussions, all offers and counter-offers will be formally presented in writing. The acquisition agent will maintain complete records of the negotiation process.

Step 14A: Contract Development and EEL Staff Review

To ensure complete consideration of land acquisition documents, the following County staff must review all contract documents:

1. Parks and Recreation Department
2. Negotiation Agent
3. The County Attorney or designated legal staff from the County Attorney's Office
4. Designated staff from the Risk Management Office
5. Per County Administrative Order AO-37, all land purchases that have a contract price of \$750,000 or more are reviewed by the County's Land Acquisition Review Committee to ensure that the facts upon which the appraisals are based are accurate and that all information necessary for the Board's consideration has been provided.

EEL staff reviews shall seek clarification on minor points or additional information by informal communication with County legal and survey staff, other agencies or other parties to the acquisition. If significant problems are encountered, formal communications shall be forwarded to the EEL Selection and Management Committee by EEL staff. No acquisition contract will be presented to the Board until all essential legal and technical issues are addressed and considered by staff.

Prior to presenting the acquisition contract to the Board, EEL staff or the acquisition agent will present the general contract terms to the EEL Selection and Management Committee for final review and authorization to proceed to the Board. The basic question to be answered in the discussion is: "Does the proposed action meet the Program objectives and needs and should the EEL Selection and Management Committee recommend the acquisition for Board approval?"

Consultation with other County entities should occur for any property that has the potential to impact other County or municipal programs. EEL staff should consider the following general questions prior to presenting an acquisition to the Board for consideration:

1. Will the proposal have an impact on County or municipal programs or properties?
2. Are there technical errors or omissions which may affect a decision by the County Commission?

If it is determined by the EEL Selection and Management Committee that Board approval should not be sought, the Board shall be made aware of the decision by staff memorandum. EEL staff will notify the landowner(s) of the decision.

Step 15A: Decision Point (Board Review of Contract)

EEL staff will prepare an Agenda Request to present the land acquisition documents to the Board for review and approval. The Agenda Request will present a summary of the project and will include:

1. Resource values of the property
2. Justification for the action
3. Program and administrative consequences
4. Economic impacts of the requested action
5. The EEL Selection and Management Committee's recommended action

At a minimum, staff will include the following items as attachments to the Agenda Request to the Board:

1. Legal documents (Contract, Option Agreement, etc.) for the purchase of the property. All legal documents must be signed by the landowner(s) prior to staff submission of the Agenda Request.
2. A vicinity map and property boundary map of the subject parcels.
3. A Negotiation Summary Report, which at a minimum should include:
 - a. Purchase price
 - b. Appraised values
 - c. Brief summary of the negotiation history.
 - d. Justification of the purchase price

The Board approves the land acquisition proposal presented in the Project Design by signing the Approval Memorandum (Contract or Option Agreement for purchase of Real Property or other legal instruments, as appropriate). Prior to the Board's action any EEL Selection and Management Committee member has the option of concurring with the recommendation or providing a written minority statement to the Board. The EEL Selection and Management Committee is made aware of the Board's decision by announcement at the next regularly scheduled EEL Selection and Management Committee meeting or by distribution of a copy of the signed memorandum. All Approval Memorandums and supporting documents are to be filed by EEL staff.

If the Board-approved action involves other agencies and funding sources, EEL staff will transmit the Agenda Report and all pertinent documentation to the partner agencies at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled Board meeting. The EEL staff is responsible for providing copies of all Board-executed documents to the partner agencies.

Step 16A: Closing

Closing documents will be prepared by County legal staff and EEL staff. Closing will be contingent upon satisfaction of the contractual agreements as specified in the Contract for Sale and Purchase. The County negotiates the terms of the contract, but generally does not pay for back taxes, closing costs or broker fees. Documents essential to execute the closing include a Phase 1 hazardous waste assessment, an acceptable boundary survey, proof of marketable title and any additional documents as required by the County legal staff or specified in the Contract for Sale and Purchase.

Step 17A: File Maintenance and Archives

The EEL staff is responsible for all file maintenance, organization and updates. Acquisition files should be organized by property and owner. Data spreadsheets MUST include full listings of the property tax identification numbers for every parcel acquired. Property acquisition files can be organized by projects. EEL staff must keep all records of program activities and memoranda. For Preservation 2000 Projects, duplicate copies of all closing documents, title policies, contracts for purchase, invoices for costs for appraisals, surveys, hazardous waste reports and wetland jurisdictional surveys, Negotiation Summary Reports, and dates of decisions by the Board of County Commissioners and agency partners will be required for all reimbursement requests that are submitted to the Division of State Lands. All property files must be archived in the EEL Program office. Complete files, inactive files or files older than 3 years can be placed in the County archives. If a negotiation agent is used, and the subcontractor's office is not located in the EEL Program office, all files must be duplicated, in full for both offices. The subcontractor will provide completed files to Brevard County EEL staff at the completion of each.

Process B: EEL Selection and Management Committee Response to Landowner Submissions

1. Resource Planning Phase

For properties entering the Resource Planning Phase as submissions from owners or their designated representatives, proceed through the following steps:

Step 1B: Submittal and Application

Landowners and/or designated representatives will be required to present a formal application to the EEL Selection and Management Committee which consists of:

1. Application Form dated and signed by the landowner and/or the designated representative;
2. A signed and dated Owner's Authorized Representative Form; and
3. Authorization to Enter Property Form.

These three items will constitute a complete application. Applications will not be processed if any component of the application package is missing or incorrectly/incompletely filled out. (See Appendix for copies of these forms. Refer to the front cover page for the contact to receive additional copies of these forms.)

Step 2B: Initial EEL Staff/Selection and Management Committee Review

EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee will review the resource characteristics of a site to determine if the property meets the land acquisition criteria of the EEL Selection and Management Committee. If a property does not meet the minimum criteria, the EEL Selection and Management Committee, at their discretion, can decline the property and remove it from further consideration. If sufficient data are available to accept the property, the EEL Selection and Management Committee can vote to retain the property on an active list. If insufficient data are available, the EEL Selection and Management Committee can direct EEL staff to provide additional information or schedule

a site visit to review the property (refer to Step 5A, if applicable).

Step 3B: Data Collection and Synthesis

Data collection and synthesis is the responsibility of EEL Program staff. The EEL Selection and Management Committee shall function as a technical and scientific advisory committee.

Step 4B: Preliminary EEL Selection and Management Committee Review

At the completion of the preliminary planning process (Resource Planning Phase – Steps 1A-7A, all applicable steps), the EEL Selection and Management Committee will entertain a motion to accept or decline a property or group of properties submitted by the landowner. The decision and reasons for the decision will be compiled by EEL staff in a letter, which will be sent to the landowner. A copy of the letter will be sent to the acquisition designated representative (if applicable). Application materials and documentation for properties that are declined will remain the property of the County as a permanent record of the application and decision process.

Step 5B: Return to Step 7A: Contact Agencies and Proceed

Process C: Inter-Agency Acquisition Proposals

2. Acquisition Planning Phase

Proposals that pass the EEL Selection and Management Committee's First Majority Vote and are submitted by the Brevard County EEL Program for outside funding support will comply with the following procedural steps:

Step 1C: Project Design Proposal

A completion of the Resource Planning Assessment Report (Step 6A) and Project Design Report (Step 9A) will serve as the basic data to prepare all proposals for land acquisition funding. Proposals will be developed and submitted following the specific guidelines of the funding agency or program. In many instances, the agencies will provide workshops or training sessions to instruct local municipalities regarding proper proposal format. Staff will be encouraged to participate in these opportunities as they greatly increase the quality of the proposal and the potential for successful funding.

Step 2C: Proposal Review

The EEL staff and EEL Selection and Management Committee will review all proposals for technical and scientific accuracy and adherence to proposal format. Outside assistance and partnerships are encouraged to increase the quality of the proposal. Proposals require full review by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee prior to submission for Board review.

Step 3C: Decision Point (Second Majority Vote)

The Second Majority Vote (by extraordinary majority – Step 11A) is required at this stage for expenditure of EEL funds for land acquisition proposal preparation. Almost all land acquisition proposals require a commitment of local funds as a prerequisite of proposal ranking and matching fund appropriations. Most state and federal programs have lengthy proposal review cycles that can last up to one year. Once accepted and funded, the County is expected to meet the financial, acquisition and program commitments as outlined by the proposal.

Step 4C: Commission Review and Resolution

All proposals for outside funding support must be submitted to the Board for full review prior to submission of the proposal. In circumstances where proposal notification provides no time for formal Board review, a proposal may be submitted in advance of Board approval. Staff must place the proposal on the next available agenda for Board consideration. If the Board determines that the proposal should

not be submitted or requires modification, staff will immediately contact the funding agency and remove the proposal from further consideration or make requested changes.

Step 5C: Proposal Submission

Land acquisition proposals involving outside funding support are to be submitted to the partner agency(s) in the proper format and with the appropriate signatures as are necessary. The Board may elect to provide a Resolution of Support to be appended in the proposal or submitted independently to demonstrate their level of support for the project.

Step 6C: Agency Review and Proposal Tracking

Each agency has individual procedures and policies for proposal review. EEL staff is responsible for coordinating local support and lobbying efforts, liaison with agency staff, providing verbal testimony at public hearings, tracking the proposal review process, and coordinating all efforts that contribute to the successful ranking and funding of the proposal.

Step 7C: Boundary Maps and Appraisal

Prior to making an offer for the acquisition of a parcel, the County will have prepared all due diligence (Site Visit Reports, Phase 1 hazardous Waste Assessment Report, Title Report, Appraisal and/or Survey Maps), including appraisals of the fair market value of parcels to be acquired following the procedures of the EEL Program LAM or those of the acquisition partner's agency. The appraisals shall be ordered from State of Florida certified appraisers who are listed on the State's Division of State Lands qualified list of appraisers, as approved by the EEL Selection and Management Committee. The Board shall be regulated by Florida Statutes which limit the amount that local governments can pay for land.

Step 8C: Boundary Map and Appraisal Review

Acquisition staff and/or County acquisition consultants are required to implement a procedure for appraisal review that is consistent with and accepted by the Florida Division of State Lands (DSL) and the partner agencies involved in the acquisition. Staff and review appraiser are responsible to ensure that appraisals meet minimum technical standards.

A complete technical review of mapping and appraisal reports is essential to maintain work-product accuracy and consistency with minimum technical standards established by local policies or the Division of State Lands. Internal policies and rules within State agencies may change on a regular basis. In some cases, a number of procedural options may exist for local programs to enhance the process of land acquisition and increase the efficiency of the process.

For example, landowners are very concerned about the length of time for acquisition when selling to government agencies. Outside funding agencies, like the Division of State Lands, conduct their own review analyses, but completion of DSL reviews is a lengthy process. Although DSL reviews remove the burden of review from the local municipalities, map and appraisal review may be contracted by the County to expedite the land acquisition process.

For direct acquisitions, staff are required to ensure that all work products conform to policies and standards as established by the County, State agencies, or professional associations. Staff must establish ongoing relationships with the Division of State Lands and other acquisition partners to ensure that local policies and actions are consistent with and acceptable to our acquisition partners. EEL staff can use their professional discretion when considering these matters and moving acquisition projects forward in an efficient manner. When reimbursement funds are potentially at risk, all local decisions concerning appraisal maps and appraisals should be discussed with staff from the partnership agency and supported by written confirmation of the discussions.

[Step 9C: Return to Main Procedure Path at 13A and Proceed](#)

Emergency Procedures

While it is most desirable to plan for all land acquisitions in accordance with the procedures set forth in this handbook, it is recognized that under some circumstances such planning is not possible. Emergency situations occur which may require expeditious actions that will not permit the expenditure of time required in the normal planning process and it is administratively desirable to bring certain matters to the Board's attention.

A formal declaration of an emergency situation is necessary before any action can take place. This may be an independent or joint determination to be made by the EEL Selection and Management Committee, staff or an appropriate local, State, or Federal agency. An emergency can be declared only if one of the following conditions exists:

1. Identified critical habitat or natural resources are under an unforeseen immediate threat of destruction, damage, development, or loss of availability.
2. An existing Land Acquisition Project is in danger of destruction, damage, development, or loss of availability.

The following steps must be followed in a declared emergency situation:

Step 1: Land Acquisition Application

An EEL Program Application Form must be completed by the EEL staff, EEL Selection and Management Committee or the property owner. Proposals may be rejected if incomplete. The application must document the existence of an emergency situation. EEL staff can convene an emergency meeting of the EEL Selection and Management Committee by advertising the meeting in compliance with Florida Sunshine Laws. Applicants will be notified and provided the opportunity to supply the essential information for the meeting.

Step 2: Emergency Assessment Report: Resource Assessment and Project Design

A written Emergency Assessment Report is prepared by EEL Program staff or EEL Selection and Management Committee members to address the following:

1. General location and size of project.
2. Natural resources including community types and Natural Area Inventory and Brevard County ranking, endangered and threatened species, other plants and animals, forest resources, geologic resources, water resources, etc.
3. Verification of vulnerability and endangerment
4. Archaeological resources
5. Conformance with Brevard County Land Acquisition Plan, Conservation, Coastal Zone Management, Recreation, and Open Space elements, and/or related elements of adopted Comprehensive Plan in Brevard County.
6. Ownership patterns and relative ease of acquisition
7. Estimated cost with respect to availability of other funding, alternative acquisition techniques, management costs, etc.
8. Suitability and proposed use, including functional use, manageability, and designated

management agencies.

9. Location relative to urban areas and other public lands.
10. Zoning and Future Land Use designation of the parcel and surrounding properties.
11. Five-year history of ownership, taxes and assessment
12. Sovereignty and jurisdictional lands
13. Public and non-profit ownerships
14. Information on land use and development trends, including zoning changes, annexations, and extension of utilities.
15. Alternative acquisition techniques and the availability of other funding sources.
16. Proposed land uses within the project boundary
17. Protective land uses within the project boundary
18. Minimum due diligence information

Regardless of the circumstance of the emergency, on-site visits by the EEL Selection and Management Committee and staff are required.

Landowners requesting emergency consideration may be required to provide essential information at their own cost and verification of the emergency need. EEL staff will communicate directly with the Chairman of the EEL Selection and Management Committee to discuss the emergency request, review the available data, and determine if an emergency meeting of the EEL Selection and Management Committee is warranted.

Step 3: *EEL Selection and Management Committee Review*

As soon as sufficient information is compiled for the project and a reasonable demonstration of emergency circumstances is presented to EEL Program staff, the project will be evaluated by the EEL Selection and Management Committee at a regularly scheduled EEL meeting or an emergency meeting declared by EEL staff. This meeting will present the pertinent data to the EEL Selection and Management Committee to determine if the project has ecological merit and meets the emergency acquisition criteria.

The Emergency Assessment Report is presented to the EEL Selection and Management Committee for review of the site attributes consideration of less than fee simple techniques to protect the property and analysis of opportunities to phase acquisitions within the project. If applicable, a time-sequence for acquisition is recommended to acquire the most critical parcels first, with primary consideration given resource management concerns and parcels' endangerment and vulnerability. Additionally, potential acquisitions which exceed current levels of funding can be divided, according to relative resource importance, into phases.

Step 4: *Landowner Presentations*

As a general rule, landowners or their representatives are encouraged to provide oral testimony and visual or written materials in support of acquisition proposals at EEL Selection and Management Committee meetings. For emergency acquisition requests, the landowner and/or the representative will be required to address the EEL Selection and Management Committee, in person and/or in writing, to present justification for the request for emergency consideration. Committee members may request

additional information from landowners and/or their representatives.

Step 5: Decision Point (First Majority Vote)

The EEL Selection and Management Committee votes to determine whether the project proposal will be subjected to a full review process after reviewing the information provided on the Application Form, Emergency Assessment Report, and owner testimony. Proposals that have sufficient documentation of resource value and emergency need may receive the First Majority Vote and the Second Majority Vote in immediate succession. The Second Majority Vote at this time provides advanced authority for EEL acquisition staff to immediately negotiate the terms of the acquisition based on appraisals and other required acquisition due diligence.

At the EEL Selection and Management Committee discretion, specific terms or contingencies of the Second Majority Vote can be established to direct acquisition staff. The EEL Selection and Management Committee has authority to request additional information from the landowner, refuse emergency consideration of the property based on resource values or need, or to table an emergency decision for future consideration.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE USED AS PROCEDURAL RESPONSE TO EXPEDITE THE ACQUISITION PROCESS

Emergency procedures will not be invoked unless exceptional circumstances or financial and resource opportunities exist.

The sponsors of these proposals may be asked by the EEL Selection and Management Committee or EEL staff to provide additional information. EEL staff should try to accommodate the specific needs and timetable of the landowner; however, the landowner must realize that greater responsibilities may be placed on the owner as a result of the emergency request. Proposals failing to receive a First Majority Vote may not be reconsidered as an emergency purchase, unless SIGNIFICANT new data is provided to EEL staff or additional verification of emergency status is provided. A simple need to sell quickly may not be considered sufficient reason to invoke emergency procedures.

The EEL Selection and Management Committee must agree to initiate the emergency acquisition process as part of the First Majority Vote. Emergency acquisition proposals must receive unanimous support from the EEL Selection and Management Committee if the project is to be considered under emergency procedures. EEL staff will notify the landowner in writing of the decision.

Step 6: Boundary Map for Appraisal Purposes

After the Committee approves the emergency status of a project proposal, appraisal maps, title reports and appraisals are ordered, if they were not ordered previously. Appraisal maps can be waived if a property boundary survey is supplied by the landowner, or if sufficient data allows the reasonable estimation of wetland and upland acreage for use in the appraisal process. Approximate upland and wetland acreage will be computed for the parcel. Title information reports are prepared by an abstractor to identify ownerships and encumbrances. When time constraints are critical, property surveys provided by a landowner can be updated and re-certified for use in the acquisition process. Care must be taken by EEL staff to consider the policies and requirements of interagency land acquisition partners when making decisions to waive appraisal maps or accept surveys from landowners that might not meet the rigorous standards of the Florida Division of State Lands, Bureau of Survey and Mapping.

Step 7: Appraisal Review

Prior to making an offer for the acquisition of a parcel, the County will have received an appraisal or appraisals of the fair market value of the parcel(s) to be acquired. Appraisals shall be prepared by certified appraisers who shall be on a qualified list of appraisers as approved by the Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal. In an emergency situation, the EEL Selection and Management Committee

can recommend that staff negotiate the terms of the acquisition prior to third party appraisal review, if, after a second majority vote, acquisition staff receives two independent appraisal values that are divergent by no more than 10% or \$250,000. If the divergence exceeds either of these two values, a third-party appraisal shall be ordered.

Step 8: Decision Point (Second Majority Vote)

If no second majority (extraordinary) vote was considered previously, acquisition staff will present the property information to the EEL Selection and Management Committee for a Second Majority Vote which authorizes EEL staff or the negotiation agent to negotiate the terms of the land acquisition contract.

Step 9: Submission to Board: Public Hearing

The EEL Selection and Management Committee's recommendation for project acquisition is submitted to the Board along with the contract, Emergency Assessment Report, and negotiation summary at the next available Board meeting.

The Board has sole authority to authorize a land acquisition proposal presented to them by the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff. The Board may approve the acquisition, decline the acquisition, or table a Board decision pending the delivery of additional information not provided in the assessment. If the Commission disapproves the recommendation for acquisition by the EEL Selection and Management Committee, then the EEL Selection and Management Committee and/or applicant may evaluate and address the Commission's concerns and resubmit the application for further consideration. If the project does not receive a majority vote by the Board on the second hearing, then the application will be denied further consideration under emergency acquisition procedures. The Clerk of the Court will be instructed to notify the landowner, in writing, of the Board's decision.



Chapter 6 Alternatives to Fee Simple Title

Purpose

The following Chapter provides general guidance for the use of less than fee simple techniques. The policy on land acquisition calls for a comprehensive review of options, which would accomplish EEL conservation objectives. Although the EEL Referendums of 1990, 2004 and 2022 authorized the acquisition of endangered lands, less-than-fee techniques may provide a variety of effective options to fee simple acquisition. The procedures, herein described, apply to situations where some form of land acquisition is to be recommended. Other options will require an appropriate analysis to determine the level of requirements.

Scope

The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff should explore and evaluate reasonable alternatives to fee simple title acquisition. Alternatives should be discussed fully by the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff. A record of those considerations should be summarized in the written minutes of the meetings or in a separate memorandum and included as part of the property file.

The question facing planners is what alternatives must be considered in the acquisition planning phase, which alternatives have demonstrated effectiveness in protecting natural resources and which alternatives are feasible to implement within the EEL Program structure and referendum authority. Since many objectives involve the need to protect, preserve, restore or manage resource areas, the control of land or land rights becomes a central issue. The following alternatives to control land use should be considered and evaluated as to their relative practicability to meet an objective:

- Easements
- Withdrawal (Public Domain)
- Fee Title Acquisition
- Cooperative Agreement
- Administrative Regulation
- Mitigation Banking
- Rental (Lease)
- Zoning
- Acquisition by Other Entities
- Permit Restrictions
- Mitigation
- No Action

The “no action” alternative is usually not utilized. The objective of land acquisition planning is to solve a problem which stems from the status quo or from the projected future of the resource. The “no action” alternative is essentially maintenance of current conditions and prediction of future conditions if no action is taken. As such, it provides a benchmark against which to measure the impacts of the alternatives.

The status quo is a description of the present situation. It is essential to have the description of the present situation as a baseline for projecting the future (without the project or action) situation.

Discussion of the “no action” alternative provides a foundation to evaluate impacts to the resources, if conditions are allowed to proceed without an action by the EEL Selection and Management Committee. A scientific basis for selection of alternatives is a desirable, but often difficult task. Standards and criteria should be set forth to be used in choosing among the options. If possible, numerical quantification of standards and criteria should be considered and developed. Unfortunately, numerical quantification of standards and criteria for direct comparisons is difficult or impossible to achieve. A well-designed matrix should integrate resource, legal and real estate knowledge to establish a process that provides a rapid and simple means of comparing various land acquisition alternatives and their ability to meet the standards and criteria.

An example of a simple matrix follows in Table 1.

Table 1: Standards and Objectives

	1	2	3	4	5
OPTION A	+	+	+	0	-
OPTION B	+	+	+	0	+
OPTION C	0	-	-	-	+

Wherein: + = exceeds standards and criteria
0 = meets standards and criteria
- = fails to meet standards and criteria

Table 1: Standards and Options

Based on the data presented in the matrix and the resource/environmental consequence of each alternative, a discussion of each should be prepared to explain why the preferred alternative was selected, as well as why alternatives were rejected. The data can be weighted, of course, to reflect differing levels of importance among the factors.

Environmental elements affected by the acquisition options should be presented in sufficient detail so that the reader can visualize existing environmental conditions. Only conditions which would be changed or modified by one of the alternatives should be emphasized. Since this approach might provide a primary basis for deciding, important environmental components should be quantified, whenever possible, to facilitate comparisons.

Resource values could be included as important environmental elements and the importance of the area for the specific value could be highlighted. For example, it is not enough to state that the area is valuable for ducks. The number and kinds of birds using the area or nesting or harvested should be given. Accurate and detailed biological resource data are essential. Federal or State listed endangered or threatened species of plants or animals and essential habitats must be adequately described. For these reasons, the development and quality control review of an acceptable acquisition option matrix is likely to take some time and expertise for development and effective use.

Until such time as sufficient data is available to develop and test the effectiveness of the matrix approach to decision making, the EEL Selection and Management Committee will consider and discuss all options to direct acquisition. The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff should consider the following aspects in the development of the matrix and in their formal discussions.

Consequences and Impacts

Each alternative can be considered to have two general types of impacts or consequences: environmental and administrative. Environmental consequences relate to the broad ecological and conservation issues, while the administrative consequences include those factors which cannot be clearly identified with the natural physical or human environment, but must be taken into consideration in making responsible decisions.

Environmental Consequence

A forecast of significant impacts or consequences for each alternative must be made and displayed for the decision maker. Since the term "significant" is not defined, a judgment determination must be made on each environmental factor and similarly on each consequence. Ideally, the environmental consequences should be developed without bias, with all elements given equal consideration. Since resource management is a primary issue of concern, components of the environment should be treated in a comprehensive manner. The importance of the environmental consequences should not be minimized. One of the major objectives is to provide public disclosure of the environmental

consequences of proposed actions.

In resource planning, where the objective is usually to enhance the quality of resources or to improve the value of an area (an environmental component), the consequences of each acquisition alternative are of utmost importance. The planning goal should optimize the beneficial impacts, while having the least possible adverse impacts on other environmental issues.

Since decisions rest primarily on the impacts of a proposed action, it is important to clearly describe the consequences of each alternative and to present a comprehensive analysis of each. A matrix showing the important impacts of the alternative should be presented for rapid and easy evaluation of each. A simplified example is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Environmental Consequences

Alternative	Social Impact	Archaeological Resource	Endangered
A (No Action)	150 New Homes	4 Ruins Lost	3 of 3 Eagle Roosts Lost
B	110 New Homes	2 Ruins Lost	3 of 3 Eagle Roosts Lost
C (10 Acre Fee Title)	50 New Homes	1 Ruins Lost	1 of 3 Eagle Roosts Protected
D (100 Acre Fee Title)	0 New Homes	No Impact	3 of 3 Eagle Roosts Protected

Table 2: Environmental Consequences

Administrative/Institutional Consequences

The administrative/institutional factors; which must be taken into consideration in the decision-making process, include such topics as:

1. Real Estate feasibility
2. Engineering feasibility
3. Initial cost factors
4. Annual operation and maintenance
5. Labor requirements
6. Public relations
7. Program considerations
8. Policy and legal compliance

The consequence section of the report could provide a comparison of how each alternative would impact each of these factors. When possible a quantitative evaluation of consequences is desirable.

The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff should consider the environmental and administrative consequences of their acquisition decisions as part of the long-term planning for land stewardship and program implementation within the proposed natural areas network.

Chapter 7

Post-Acquisition Responsibilities

Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a brief introduction to post-acquisition responsibilities of the EEL Program. Lands that are acquired within the EEL Program are to be managed as conservation areas for Brevard County. The responsibilities associated with resource conservation and land stewardship represent long-term commitments to responsible resource management.

Scope: Management of Environmentally Endangered Lands

Lands acquired under the EEL Program shall be managed to maintain important natural characteristics; preserve biological diversity; protect rare, threatened or endangered species; and maintain critical natural ecosystem functions. A secondary, but no less important, issue will be the ecologically and fiscally responsible management of natural lands with provisions for public access, passive recreation, scientific research, and public environmental education. Lands acquired by the EEL Program will be managed as nature sanctuaries within a countywide natural areas network.

The Sanctuary Management Manual (SMM)

On May 16, 1994, the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff hosted a statewide Conference on Natural Areas Management. Over 40 people representing eighteen agencies attended. The Conference provided a forum for discussions regarding the challenges and opportunities for endangered land managers and programs, as acquisition efforts are completed and management challenges arise. As a result of this Conference, EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee concluded that a conceptual management plan for the countywide natural areas network was essential to guide the EEL Program and the Board as specific conservation and management decisions arose for individual sanctuary sites acquired by the EEL Program. Specific information obtained from the conference was critical to the development of the Sanctuary Management Manual and establishment of interagency partnerships for management of the protected area network.

As a result of the Conference and by direction of the Land Acquisition Manual (herein), the EEL Selection and Management Committee will develop a Sanctuary Management Manual to serve as the conceptual planning document for the proposed natural areas network in Brevard County. The Sanctuary Management Manual will provide strategic planning for sanctuary development, management funding, and EEL Program organization. The Land Acquisition Manual and the Sanctuary Management Manual represent complimentary procedures and guidance documents for use by Brevard County acquisition and land management staff. The documents represent model planning tools that will be available to other local governments embarking on land acquisition and management programs throughout Florida. The SMM will be presented to the public for review and to the Board for review and ratification.

The Land Acquisition Manual and the Sanctuary Management Manual represent the general conceptual and procedural guidelines for the implementation of the EEL Program.

At a minimum, the SMM will consider the following issues:

1. Unique Natural Areas:

The essential natural characteristics of these areas will be enhanced or maintained to ensure protection of the natural resources of the land. Areas may be maintained or enhanced by a variety of methods including, but not limited to, elimination or control of invasive non-native species, fire management, restoration of ecosystem function, elimination of off-road vehicle access, and prohibition of dumping. Effects of on-site management practices will be monitored to provide data for long-term evaluation and development or revisions to management practices.

2. Public Access:

Opportunities for passive (non-destructive) recreational experiences will be provided to highlight the rich biological diversity of Brevard's coastal landscape. Some levels of public access and use will be provided on all sites acquired by the EEL Program. Consideration for natural resource carrying capacity will govern the types and levels of human activities on EEL sanctuary sites. Limited facilities will be developed at selected sites to encourage public enjoyment of the land and its resources in a natural setting. Nature trails, boardwalks, educational displays, educational centers, and observation platforms are types of facilities that may be developed.

The policies and procedures that govern the development and human use of these protected areas will be found in the Sanctuary Management Manual developed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee and County staff for the EEL Program natural areas network. In addition, the EEL Selection and Management Committee and County staff will develop a comprehensive management plan for each site or management unit (composed of multiple parcels) purchased in the program. When properties are acquired and managed in partnership with other agencies or programs, interagency management agreements will establish the levels and locations of public access and use that are consistent with the conservation and recreation goals of the management partners. The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff will work with entities such as the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department, the Economic Development Council and the Tourist Development Council to identify compatible conservation, tourist, and economic opportunities available through ecotourism.

3. Environmental Education:

Environmental education and awareness is vital to the implementation and management of a successful land acquisition and stewardship program. The public must understand the complicated issues associated with endangered land management, endangered species protection and long-term land stewardship. Brevard's rich biological diversity has regional and national environmental and economic significance. The EEL Selection and Management Committee and County staff shall promote opportunities to develop and implement environmental awareness and education programs that highlight the natural resources of Brevard County and the resource values of the EEL Program natural areas network. The EEL Program will promote environmental education and awareness about Brevard's unique natural attributes and rich biological diversity to local residents and visitors.

4. Citizen Involvement and Participation:

General citizen involvement through advisory committees, non-profit citizen support groups (such as the "Friends of Enchanted Forest") and county-wide citizen volunteer programs will be encouraged and implemented as part of an innovative EEL program community involvement campaign.

5. ADA Compliance (Americans with Disabilities Act):

Nature trails for access by individuals with disabilities will be established at specific EEL Sanctuary sites within the protected areas network. ADA compatible nature trails will be developed at selected sites to showcase examples of the natural communities in conservation in the Brevard County sanctuary network. The goals of a trail network and specific programs for disabled individuals are to:

- a) Meet or exceed ADA standards to provide unique and innovative opportunities for persons with physical disabilities to experience, appreciate and enjoy Brevard's natural lands with a high degree of quality, security and safety;
- b) Establish Brevard County and Brevard's natural areas network as a model program for

other local communities interested in providing “wilderness” type experiences to the disabled; and

- c) Highlight the EEL Program natural areas network and Brevard County as a community that is aware of, and responsive to, the unique needs and concerns of the retirement community and persons with physical disabilities.
- d) To this end, the EEL Program staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee should continue to conduct workshops and programs that encourage active EEL Program participation among disabled individuals in Brevard County. Active participation should be encouraged through specific programs and advisory committees established by the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff as directed in the Sanctuary Management Manual.

6. Racial and Ethnic Group Participation:

The EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff will establish a greater level of citizen participation among all of Brevard County’s citizens. Direct citizen participation in all aspects of conservation, land management, environmental education, and passive recreation within the natural areas network will be encouraged through special programs, citizen involvement in committees and local community participation in nearby EEL sanctuary sites.

Responsible Management: The Ultimate Goal

The acquisition of endangered lands presents many opportunities, challenges and responsibilities for local governments. Once a property is acquired, responsibilities shift to site security, long-term maintenance, conservation, public access, public education and awareness, public use and strategic management planning. If implemented in an effective and efficient manner, a natural areas network provides exceptional natural resource, economic, and aesthetic values to a community for generations to come.

Brevard County will assume primary management responsibility or joint management responsibility for all sites purchased through the EEL Program. The identification and partnership with outside land acquisition and management agencies is viewed as an essential step towards effective and efficient ecosystem management. Interagency agreements will be actively pursued by EEL Program staff to ensure that all sites in the natural areas network are managed responsibly. A central theme of the EEL Program will be that innovative and cooperative partnerships lead to more efficient use of available funds, shared responsibilities and a strong foundation for interagency coordination.

The Sanctuary Management Manual provides conceptual program guidance for facilities development and long-term land stewardship within the EEL Program Natural Areas Network. Site-specific management plans must provide guidance and directives for management decisions within each sanctuary site or natural area management unit acquired by the program. A facilities’ needs assessment is an essential part of the comprehensive management planning process. Issues related to public access, types of passive recreational uses, resource management goals, natural area carrying capacity, ecosystem functions, endangered species protection and historical human impacts must be integrated with current and future facilities’ needs. Development of facilities should be planned to result in the minimum amount of environmental impact, efficient land management planning, and effective resource conservation.

Appendix Contents

[EEL Original Procedures Committee Members](#)

[EEL Original Selection Committee Members](#)

[EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication](#)

[Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application \(Form EEL 1.97\)](#)

[Application Form](#)

[Owner's Authorized Representative Form](#)

[Authorization to Enter Property](#)

[Field Report: Guideline for EEL Selection and Management Committee Evaluation \(Form EEL 2.97\)](#)

[Resource Planning Report \(Form EEL 3.97\)](#)

[Project Design Report \(Form EEL 4.97\)](#)

[Negotiation Strategy Report \(Form EEL 5.97\)](#)

[Negotiation Summary Report \(Form EEL 6.97\)](#)

[Legal Checklist – For Contracts for Sale or Purchase \(Form EEL 7.97\)](#)

[Checklist – Closing Package for Files \(Form EEL 8.97\)](#)

[Property Tracking & Procedures Form \(Form EEL 9.97\)](#)

[Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands – Land Acquisition Chart](#)

Environmentally Endangered Lands Original Procedures Committee Members

Original Appointment Resolution 89-464

- Kenneth Friedland appointed by District 1
- Jane Furguson appointed by District 1
- Jim Swann appointed by District 2
- Karl Eichorn appointed by District 2
- Margaret Hames appointed by District 3
- Ed Weed appointed by District 3
- Nedra Sekera appointed by District 4
- Paul Joyal appointed by District 4
- Priscilla Griffith appointed by District 5
- Richard Burges appointed by District 5
- Sue Carlson appointed by Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Environmentally Endangered Lands Original Selection Committee Members

Original appointment August 22, 1990

- David T. Cox
- Kenneth Friedland, Esq.
- Margaret T. Hames
- Dr. Charles Ross Hinkle
- Dr. Randall W. Parkinson
- Dr. Paul A. Schmalzer
- Dr. Hilary Swain

EEL Staff at time of original manual: Dr. Duane De Freese & Anne Birch
Layout & design by Jan McLarty

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication

(Partners In Stewardship: Proceedings of the 7th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands. W.E. Brown and S. D. Veirs, Jr. (eds.). George Wright Society. Hancock, Michigan. p. 452-462. 1993)

Stewardship at the Local Level: A Case Study From Brevard County, Florida.

Hilary Swain

Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, 150 West University Blvd., Melbourne, Florida 32901

C. Ross Hinkle and Paul A. Schmalzer

The Bionetics Corporation, NASA Biomedical Operations and Research Office, Mail Code BIO 2, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899

MOST OF THE STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY and land acquisition in the U.S.A. are focused at the national or state level (e.g., Scott et al. 1987). However, in Florida, there has been a growing emphasis on acquisition promoted and funded at the local level; this corresponds with the perceived shift of environmental support away from the large national organizations towards small locally relevant efforts. At present (October 1992), Florida has a total of 15 endangered lands acquisition programs funded at the county level with four additional programs pending and one city program (Fig. 1).

The most common revenue sources for these programs are ad valorem taxes and bonds; other sources include sales taxes, impact fees, and mitigation fees. For example, in September 1990, citizens of Brevard County, Florida passed a referendum supporting an ad valorem tax increase to fund a \$55 million bond for the acquisition, protection, and management of environmentally endangered lands. The total funds involved in these programs are significant with existing programs totalling over \$600 million and funding levels in individual counties ranging from \$2.5 million to \$100 million.

Different counties in Florida have had a variety of approaches to select lands for acquisition under such local acquisition programs. Most programs have concentrated on acquisition of environmentally endangered or sensitive lands although some include recreational sites. Brevard County is recognized as having implemented a very successful strategy where the County Commissioners appointed a committee, the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection

Committee, of seven volunteer professional ecologists and local experts and gave them the responsibility to develop criteria and to select lands for acquisition. This committee worked under the procedural guidelines of a Land Acquisition Manual, adapted from a similar document developed by Volusia County, Florida. They set the primary goal to select local sites for acquisition that would complement larger state and federal acquisition programs and protect biodiversity values lying outside the current network of protected areas in the county. The secondary goal of the program was to address the need to maintain ecosystem function in the county. Additional goals included selecting sites with educational value, scientific value and also cultural, aesthetic and passive recreation value.

Brevard County is an area rich in biodiversity and, as such, a challenging county in which to determine conservation priorities. It has an area of approximately 336,821 ha including 267,296 ha of land, 5,079 ha fresh water lakes, and 64,446 ha saltwater lagoons (Randy

Figure 2: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 1 of 11.

County Environmental Land Acquisition Programs in Florida

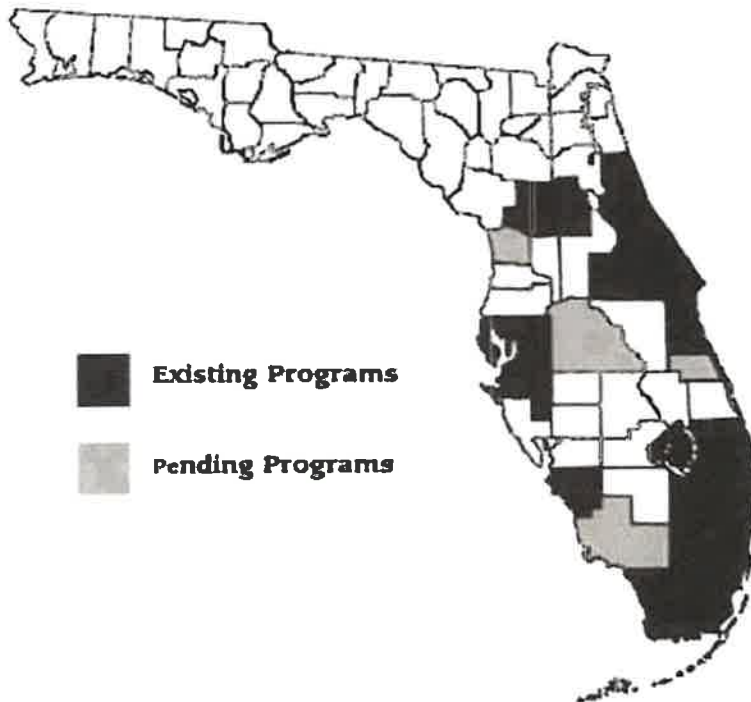


Figure 1.
The distribution of proposed and existing local land acquisition programs in Florida (1992).

In Parks and On Public Lands

463

A-64

[Figure 3: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 2 of 11.](#)

Kautz, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, pers. comm.). It extends 116 km from north to south and 40 km east to west. The major ecological features of the county are: barrier islands including Cape Canaveral and Merritt Island; estuarine lagoons (Indian River Lagoon, Banana River Lagoon, and Mosquito Lagoon), an ancient north/south dune ridge dating from the Pleistocene known as the Atlantic Coastal Ridge and finally the broad marshes of the St. Johns River. The climate is warm and humid, transitional between warm temperate and subtropical which results in a diverse local flora and fauna containing northern species near their southern limits and subtropical species near their northern limits, contributing to a high biological diversity. Many local species are already listed as rare, threatened or

endangered by a variety of state and federal agencies (Table 1).

There are extensive existing publicly owned lands in the county including: the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) where non-operational areas are managed as Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge or Canaveral National Seashore. This area supports no fewer than 13 federally listed threatened and endangered species. Other federal interests are the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge, lands already acquired for the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, and the proposed expansion of the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to federal properties there are state owned lands such as the Sebastian Inlet State Recreational Area and parts of the Upper St. Johns River Basin, acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Table 1.
Threatened, Endangered, or Rare Species
in Brevard County, Florida

TAXA	USFWS ¹	CITIES ²	FDA ³	FGFWFC ⁴	FCREPA ⁵	TOTAL
Plants	18	30	95	0	12	109
Fish	1	1	0	3	7	9
Reptiles/ Amphibians	12	6	0	11	12	16
Birds	13	6	0	22	43	59
Mammals	7	2	0	5	10	11
Invertebrates	0	0	0	0	5	5
Total	51	45	95	41	89	208

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (E:12, T:9, TIS/A1.1, C1.3, C2.26).
 2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (I.A. II:37).
 3. Florida Department of Agriculture (E:22, T:65, SP:1, CE:7).
 4. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (E:10, T:13, SSC:18).5
 5. Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals (E:14, T:31, R:12, SCC:27, SU:5).

Figure 4: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 3 of 11.

This paper addresses how Brevard County, Florida, a locale rich in biodiversity, has approached the issue of how to protect biodiversity through local land acquisition. To achieve the goal of the protection of biodiversity, lands were assessed under three broad categories: the natural communities present, the value for species, and the landscape context. These three considerations were integrated and no one category rated more highly than others.

Natural Community Components

One of the most widely accepted methods of protecting biodiversity is to protect representative examples of all natural community types thereby assuring protection of most of the biodiversity typical for each of the community types present. This is known as the 'coarse filter' approach to conservation planning (Noss, 1987). Clearly local acquisition programs have inadequate funds to purchase enough land to assure adequate representation of all natural community types found within a county. However aiming at representation demands integrated approaches at a variety of geographical scales; representative coverage requires coordination between federal, state and local agencies and, to date, this has not yet been tackled for Florida. The decision was made, therefore, to focus the Brevard County land acquisition program on natural community types that were relatively rare at both a local and a state level and were also under represented within the existing local protected area network. We acknowledge this puts the emphasis on rarity rather than overall representation.

The highest priority was given to natural communities that exhibit the following characteristics:

- under a high degree of threat throughout the state (e.g., ranked as S1, S2, S3 under Florida Natural Areas Inventory state heritage program ranking system

where S1 are the most imperiled natural communities).

- locally rare and under represented in the existing local protected area network (Fig. 2).
- critical for the support of a large numbers of listed species.
- known to have declined considerably in extent.
- unprotected by state or federal regulatory provisions.

Based on all of these factors the highest acquisition priority was given to rare communities, with high state rankings, that are relatively unprotected in the county. These included: scrub communities such as sand pine scrub, Xeric oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods; coastal strand; hardwood hammocks (mesic and maritime); forested wetlands such as hardwood swamps, cabbage palm savanna and cypress; and saline inland marshes. Communities that are fairly common in the county, largely unprotected and exist in large and often contiguous tracts were given the next highest priority. This covered communities such as mesic and hydric pine flatwoods, wet prairies, coastal wetlands. Lower priority for direct acquisition was given to communities that are common in the county and protected to some degree by regulatory provisions such as fresh water marshes. Some examples of natural communities which ranked very highly in the committee's selection process are given in Table 2.

In addition to selecting sites supporting high priority natural communities, consideration was also given to whether sites supported good representative examples of community types without much disturbance. We also chose sites that supported an array of different community types including important assemblages such as wetland-upland interfaces. Clearly factors such as the degree of fragmentation of a site and its isolation from other similar natural community

A-66

Figure 5: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 4 of 11.

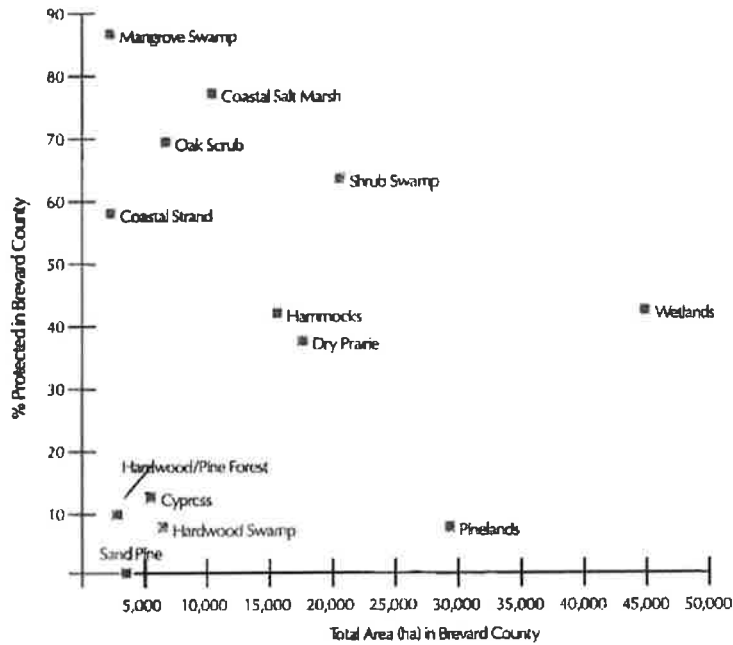


Figure 2.
The area of natural community types in Brevard County in relation to the extent to which they occur in protected areas in the county (based on data kindly provided by Jim

types were also part of the assessment. These factors will weigh considerably in terms of the long-term viability of natural communities on sites.

Species Components

Species based approaches to selecting sites for acquisition have been a feature of many acquisition programs, particularly for federal agencies operating under the Endangered Species Act. Although the sole presence of a key species did not dictate the selection of any particular site, high priority was afforded to sites with species that exhibit the following characteristics:

- listed as rare, threatened, species of special concern and endangered etc.

by state agencies, federal agencies, or nongovernmental review committees (Table 1)

- have a narrow geographic range and restricted to this region of Florida
- highly habitat specific
- do not occur, or only occur at low densities, within the current protected area network in the county
- have large proportion of their total population occurring locally (including migratory stop-overs, breeding sites, roosting sites and wintering grounds)

Some examples of the many species that fall into these categories are given in Table 3. When selecting sites with a high priority

for these listed or vulnerable species we were also concerned that the areas selected should be able to support viable populations; in the case of some plant species such data are almost impossible to ascertain at present, but in the case of species such as scrub jays consideration was certainly given to the size of the local population which could be afforded some protection. In addition to considering sites in terms of listed species, we also compared the overall species diversity found on different sites.

Landscape and Ecosystem Components

One of the greatest general failures of local land acquisition programs is the lack of consideration of the long-term effects of surrounding land use changes. Not only is this important in a buffer sense but also in the sense of maintaining some critical ecosystem processes. In Florida this revolves primarily around maintaining hydrological regimes and fire periodicity. Hence one of the overriding concerns we faced in deliberating the selection of sites under the

Table 2.
Characteristics of selected high priority community types for protection in Brevard County, Florida.

MARITIME HAMMOCKS

Canopy: live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), red bay (*Persea barbonia*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*);
 Understory: naked wood (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), *Eugenia* spp., other subtropical species. Epiphytes (ferns, bromeliads) often common.
 Inland on barrier island from coastal strand. Windward side often pruned by salt spray.
 Most are lost to development, remaining are fragmented. Not in protected areas in county.
 Focus of Maritime Hammock Project.

CABBAGE PALM SAVANNA

Canopy: scattered cabbage palm.
 Understory: grasses—sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*); rushes—black rush (*Juncus roemerianus*); sedges—*Cyperus* spp., *Rhynchospora* spp.; and forbs.
 On gradient between hammocks and marshes.
 About 2300 ha in existing protected area (KSC). In the Northern Indian River Corridor Project.

SAND PINE SCRUB

Canopy: sand pine (*Pinus clausa*).
 Understory: myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), Chapman oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), rusty lyonia (*Lyonia ferruginea*), staggerbrush (*Lyonia fruticosa*), dwarf blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*).
 Restricted to high, dry ridges, primarily on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. About 1000 ha remain in county, most in patches of 5 ha or less. Little (<10 ha) in existing protected areas. Large-flowered rosemary, Florida scrub lizard (*Sclerophorus woodi*), and other species depend on this community.
 Three of four Scrub Jay Refugia sites contain sand pine scrub as part of scrub landscape.

Figure 7: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 6 of 11.

environmentally endangered lands program was to review these sites in terms of their context (surrounding landscape) as well as their content. In some cases this meant reviewing sites with high species and natural community content to assess their long-term viability in the light of foreseeable changes in the surrounding landscape. In other cases this meant reviewing sites to see if their primary role may lie in their landscape potential—for example, could they serve as a landscape linkage or buffer for existing protected areas? Alternatively, could they serve a role in terms of maintaining broader landscape-scale processes such as protecting water quality or hydrological integrity? Clearly no site should be considered for landscape potential alone; endangered land acquisitions based on landscape roles should also have high biological content.

In the light of these considerations higher priority was given to sites in the local landscape that exhibit the following characteristics:

- contiguity with existing protected areas and the potential to serve as landscape linkages. Such interconnectivity is an important consideration for the northern end of the county where a large number of protected areas occur in both Brevard County and neighboring counties of Seminole and Volusia.
- stepping stone sites providing some opportunity for movement across the landscape for certain habitat specific but vagile species.
- a range of ecotonal linkages, in particular providing ecotonal transitions missing within existing protected areas.
- those which help maintain hydrological function.
- sites and communities that support fire-driven ecosystems.

One example of landscape scale protection is found in some of the lands bordering the

Indian River Lagoon. These protect some of the state's areas of highest water quality and represent some of the best remaining examples of upland-wetland-estuarine landscapes on the east coast. They support extensive seagrass beds which provide high primary production, sediment stabilization, food resources through direct and detrital grazing, shelter and nursery grounds, accumulation of nutrients from surrounding waters, and feeding grounds for the greatest number of manatees on the east coast of Florida.

Acquisition Strategy

The acquisition program proposed by the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection Committee is an integrated strategy which aims to protect much of the biodiversity in the county that has fallen outside the existing protected area network. The three main areas of focus for this strategy are shown on Fig. 3 and discussed separately below.

1. The *Maritime Hammock Initiative* was designed to protect five of the last nine areas of maritime hammock remaining on the barrier islands in Brevard County, which represent nearly 40% of hammocks remaining on the east coast of the state (Johnson et al., 1991). Maritime hammocks with tropical components are very rare and fragmented, rapidly declining and largely unprotected in the county. They provide habitat for an array of federal and state listed plants and animals such as Florida lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *floridana*) and beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*) which are often entirely dependent upon these coastal habitats. The project is both contiguous with and considerably enlarges existing and proposed protected areas such as the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and Sebastian Inlet State Park. It provides for an ocean-to-estuary ecotone going from beach dune through coastal strand and scrub to maritime hammock and estuarine wetlands. The initiative will also protect, in a stepping-

Figure 8: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 7 of 11.

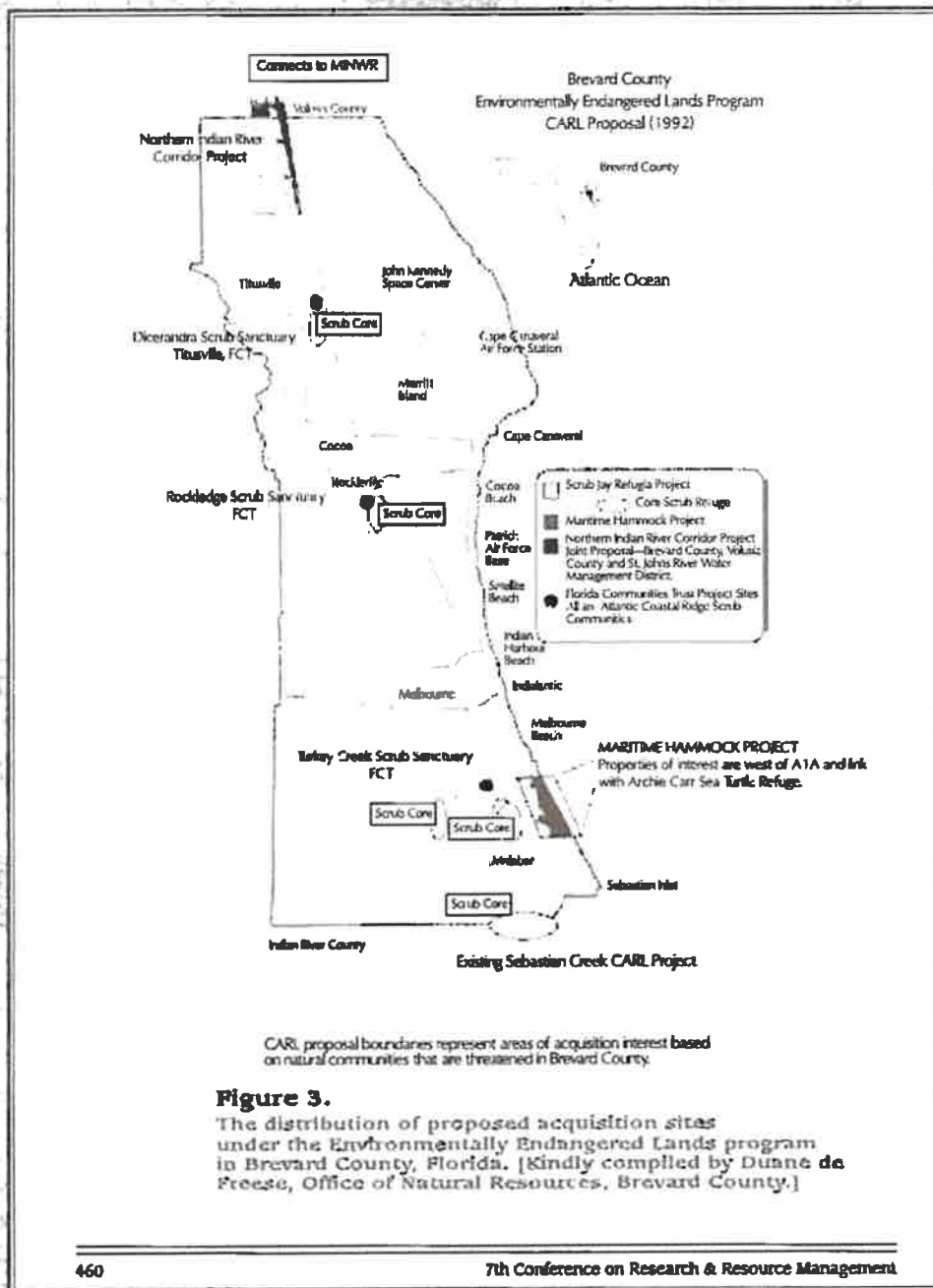
Table 3.
Examples of high conservation priority species
for Brevard County, Florida.

<p>FLORIDA SCRUB JAY (<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens</i>) Status: United States Fish and Wildlife Service: threatened Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission: threatened Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking S3</p> <p>A Florida endemic which is found in Brevard County in a series of disjunct populations due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Scrub jays are restricted to highly threatened scrub habitats, which greatly increases their vulnerability. A large population (700 families) occurs within the existing protected area on Kennedy Space Center, however no mainland populations are protected in the county which limits dispersal and regional variability. Medium population sizes (>30 families) are present on some sites but their territory requirements are large necessitating setting aside considerable acreage of scrub to support locally viable populations. The scrub jay is the focus of a new Endangered Species Act Initiative in Brevard County to develop a regional Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida scrub jays which will incorporate some aspects of endangered land acquisition.</p>
<p>FLORIDA EAST COAST TERRAPIN (<i>Malaclemys terrapin lewisti</i>) Status: Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking 3</p> <p>This terrapin is reported for the North Indian River Lagoon (Siegel, pers. comm.). It does not have a current listed status although it is recognized, at the state level, as being a subspecies in need of review and consideration (Millsap et al., 1990). It is clearly vulnerable since it has such a limited geographical range (East Central Florida), found locally in the estuarine waters of the Indian River and local population aggregations were reported recently as quite large (>100 individuals) but recent surveys suggest a decline. The population size on existing protected areas is essentially unknown, although under investigation.</p>
<p>FLORIDA LANTANA (<i>Lantana depressa</i> var. <i>floridans</i>) Status: United State Fish and Wildlife Service: candidate 1 Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking S2/G2</p> <p>Florida lantana occurs along the barrier islands of East Central Florida but it is not found on any protected areas in the county. This species is a Florida endemic, restricted to central and southern Florida primarily along the Atlantic coast. It is highly habitat specific, occurring within coastal strand, coastal dune, and open maritime hammock. Local populations are medium in size (10-60 individuals/site).</p>
<p>TAMPA VERVAIN (<i>Glandularia tampensis</i>) Status: United States Fish and Wildlife Service: candidate 1 Florida Department of Agriculture: endangered Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking S1/G1</p> <p>The Tampa vervain is another Florida endemic, with disjunct populations on the east and west coasts of central to southern Florida. It occurs primarily in hammocks and flatwoods. Although a few individuals occur within one protected area (Kennedy Space Center), other local populations which are small to medium (10-15 individuals/site), are outside the protected area network.</p>
<p>LARGE-FLOWERED ROSEMARY (<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>) Status: United States Fish and Wildlife Service: candidate 2 Florida Department of Agriculture: endangered Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking S3/G3</p> <p>The large-flowered rosemary is another endemic, restricted to southeast Florida primarily along Atlantic Coastal Ridge. It is highly habitat specific, and found in sand pine scrub and xeric oak scrub on the mainland. Although local population can be large (>100 individuals/site), none are found on existing protected areas in the county.</p>

stone fashion a north-south series of sites that show a physiogeographic gradation of barrier island habitats. In addition to biological value, acquisition of barrier island habitats will enhance protection and stability of the

barrier island system during major stochastic events such as hurricanes.

2. The Northern Indian River Lagoon Project, also know as Turnbull Hammock, was designed to protect the natural



A-71

Figure 10: Long description EEL Selection Committee Selection Criteria Publication page 9 of 11.

communities of the northern Indian River lagoon watershed, including the largest hydric hardwood hammock on Florida's east coast and expanses of coastal wetlands and cabbage palm savanna. This watershed protection provides, in turn, for the protection of the highest density of submerged aquatic vegetation in the lagoon system. This area supports a rich fisheries and forms the basis of a regional economy. The northern watershed of the Indian River lagoon incorporates natural functional linkages associated with upland, marsh, and estuarine communities; this serves species such as wading birds which are known to utilize a variety of habitats in this area for feeding, roosting and breeding sites.

This project will help conserve the outstanding biological diversity of the Indian River lagoon, acknowledged to be the most species-diverse estuarine waterbody in the U.S. The project is contiguous with federal lands on the barrier islands at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and provides for an unfragmented landscape bridge from these areas to the mainland. The area also affords some long-term potential to establish a natural landscape linkage, an east-west connection between the coastal marshes in the east and the St. Johns River system to the west. From a biogeographical perspective protecting the Indian River lagoon also maintains the north-south connection of the temperate Carolinian biotic province and the tropical-subtropical Caribbean biotic province.

3. The *Scrub Jay Refugia Project* was designed to protect the largest remaining and least fragmented areas of mainland scrub along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge in the county. This includes some of the rarest natural community types in the county such as sand pine scrub, xeric oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods. It also provides habitat for the Florida scrub jay, a federally listed threatened species, which was selected as a flagship species to name this project. The Florida

scrub jay occurs on all Scrub Jay Refugia sites and some Maritime Hammock Project sites. The acquisition of these sites will form the cornerstone of a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida scrub jay in Brevard County. The Scrub Jay Refugia project also protects many other species dependent upon the unique scrub habitat including large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*) and Florida scrub lizard (*Sceloporus woodi*). Since scrub was always limited in distribution in the county and has now been very heavily fragmented, the Scrub Jay Refugia project is a series of disjunct sites; the four largest remaining areas of scrub with the largest scrub jay populations present. The Brevard County Habitat Conservation Plan for the scrub jay will address protection of enough additional areas to attempt viability for the county's scrub jays. The need to manage these sites, particularly with fire management is a top priority and will be the subject of detailed management plans for each site. In addition to biological value the protection of these sites also assists in the protection of critical groundwater re-charge areas.

Partnerships

The strategy that has been developed for the protection of biodiversity at the local level in Brevard County has been the foundation for seeking matching funds to assist in acquisition of these lands. The county has submitted three proposals to the state Conservation and Recreation Lands Program and the Florida Community Trust Program (see also Fig. 3), both of which are funded by an extremely assertive statewide land acquisition initiative, Preservation 2000. This is three years into a ten year program aimed at raising \$3 billion for acquisition of endangered lands throughout Florida. Our local land acquisition programs have sought partnerships for many acquisitions with the St. Johns River Water Management District and adjacent county acquisition programs. We have entered into agreements with the Nature Conservancy and

Figure 11: Long description EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication page 10 of 11.

are bidding on properties from the Resolution Trust Corporation. Previous local acquisition programs in Brevard County were successful at getting matching funds from other state programs such as Save Our Coasts. The Endangered Lands Program has applied to other national acquisition programs such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Locally funded programs have also contributed towards completion of projects of national significance, such as participation in acquisition of the proposed Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Brevard County.

It is clear that, cumulatively, local acquisition programs, such as the one in Brevard County, could be very important contributors to the overall protection of biodiversity. They need expert guidance and will be most successful with a great deal of coordination and a liaison between local initiatives and state and federal programs. Local initiatives engender a strong sense of stewardship in the local community for acquired lands and should be viewed as a growing component of the protected area network.

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the major role the other members of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection Committee—Randy Parkinson, Margaret Hames, Dave Cox, and Ken Friedland—have played in formulating the strategy

discussed in this paper. In addition, special acknowledgment to Duane De Freese, the outstanding staff coordinator for this program, who takes our plans from the committee meetings to the drawing board and on to acquisition reality; no mean feat! We would also like to thank the many other local, state and federal acquisition programs, and the Nature Conservancy who have given us guidance and assistance throughout this initiative.

References

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Figure 12: Long description EEL Selection Criteria Publication page 11 of 11.

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application (Form EEL 1.97)

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application (Form EEL 1.97)

- Application Form
- Owner's Authorized Representative Form
- Authorization to Enter Property

Instructions:

The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program was authorized by the citizens of Brevard County by public referendum in September, 1990. The referendum provided ad valorem revenues to support bond funds for the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands. The EEL Program goal is to establish a sanctuary network throughout Brevard County that protects the finest examples of Brevard's natural communities, endangered species and rich biological diversity. Nature sanctuaries established in the program will consider public access, passive recreation and environmental education as components of the overall acquisition and conservation objectives of the program.

The Land Acquisition Selection and Management Committee is authorized to review lands for acquisition consideration and to acquire property rights necessary for the protection of environmentally endangered lands in Brevard County. If a parcel or parcels fulfill the resource criteria as established by the EEL Selection and Management Committee, the Committee will consider it for inclusion in its land acquisition plan. All property purchases will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for review prior to initiating a contract purchase.

In order for a property to be considered by the EEL Selection and Management Committee the following three items **MUST** be completed and submitted to the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program at the address indicated on the letterhead:

1. Application Form
2. Owner's Authorized Representative Form
3. Authorization to Enter Property

A-74

Figure 13: Brevard County EEL Program Application. Page 1 of 5.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application

I. PROGRAM (see Note 1)

- A. Property Name: _____
- B. Property is located in:
Township _____; Range _____ Section _____;
- C. Tax Parcel Number: _____
- D. Does the Property have a lien? _____; If Yes, Explain:
- E. Size of Parcel: _____ acres.
- F. This property is located on the north, south, east, west, side (**circle** the appropriate direction) of _____ (road), approximately _____ (feet, miles) from its intersection with _____ (road) in the community of _____. The property is near _____ (recognizable landmark).
- G. Attach a legal description and survey or map showing the boundaries of the property, existing streets, buildings, watercourses, easements, section lines and any deed restrictions or encumbrances.
- H. List owner(s) of record:
- | NAME | ADDRESS | TELEPHONE and FAX |
|-------|---------|-------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

- I. Attach a copy of the deeds(s) (if available)
- J. Briefly describe the character of the parcels(s) (e.g. wetlands, swamp, scrub, pine forest etc.)
- _____
- _____
- _____

- K. Briefly explain why this parcel(s) should be considered as environmentally endangered and eligible for purchase in the Brevard County EEL Program:
- _____
- _____
- _____

- L. This application is being submitted by owner, owner authorized representative, other (circle one). If other, explain below:

APPLICANT'S NAME (print)	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
_____	_____	_____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE	DATE
_____	_____

A-75

Figure 14: Brevard County EEL Program Application: Page 2 of 5.

II. ATTACHMENTS

- a. Vicinity map at a scale of 1" = 20000'; with sufficient information to locate the property in the field (i.e. roads, water bodies, landmarks, etc.) (See note 2).
- b. Existing zoning (See note 3).
- c. Land use designation according to the current Brevard County Comprehensive Plan (See note 4).
- d. A topographic quadrangle map (U.S.G.S. with boundaries of property sketched in) (See note 1).
- e. Photographs or video tape representing the characteristics of the property (optional: if available).

III. VALUATION

- a. Fair market value (document with current appraisal, if available or asking price).
- b. Documentaion of current assessed value (See note 1).
- c. Documentaion of owner(s) willingness to sell

NOTES:

- 1. Information available at Property Appraisers Office
- 2. Information available at Transportation Department
- 3. Information available at Zoning Division
- 4. Information available at Planning Department

A-76

Figure 15: Brevard County EEL Application. Page 3 of 5.

Owner's Authorized Representative Form

BLA Acquisition Number _____

Parcel Number(s) _____

Owner _____

Owner _____

Owner _____

Owner _____

***Owner's Authorized Representative
to The Board of Trustees of
The Internal Improvement Trust Fund***

In accordance with CH. 253, Fla. Stat., this is to advise that the individual named below is the authorized representative of the owner(s) of the real property described below, which is located in _____ County, Florida, for any negotiations concerning conveyance of the property to the Board of Trustees.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

OWNER _____

OWNER _____

OWNER _____

OWNER _____

DATE SIGNED _____

A-77

Authorization to Enter Property

Authorization to Enter Property

Re: Land submitted to the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

I, _____, the Owner or Owner's Representative of the property described below agree that from the date this Agreement is executed, the members of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee, upon reasonable notice, shall have the right to enter the property located at _____ for the purposes of environmental site review and for all lawful purposes associated with the evaluation of the property for acquisition consideration by the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

The granting of this permission by the undersigned is not intended, nor should it be construed, as an admission of liability on the part of the undersigned or undersigned successor's.

This permission is contemplated to be used for the following activities which may be performed by the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department, its agents, representatives, or contractors.

- a. Survey of the natural community types on-site or property boundary survey prior to closing.
- b. Nondestructive surveys of the flora and fauna on-site, including the identification and survey of rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals.
- c. The collection of written and photographic data required for comprehensive site review during the EEL site selection process or property appraisal review.
- d. Survey of the property boundaries.

Name of Authorized Representative

Signature

Name of Owner

Signature

Date

A-78

[Field Report: Guideline for EEL Selection and Management Committee Evaluation \(Form EEL 2.97\)](#)

[Resource Planning Report \(Form EEL 3.97\)](#)

[Project Design Report \(Form EEL 4.97\)](#)

[Negotiation Strategy Report \(Form EEL 5.97\)](#)

[Negotiation Summary Report \(Form EEL 6.97\)](#)

Field Report: Guideline for EEL Selection and Management Committee Evaluation (Form EEL.2.97)

Instructions:

Items for inclusion in the field trip report include date of trip, names of individuals attending, property name, property location, property acreage, important natural communities on-site, important listed species known from the site, unique natural attributes, comments about management potential and a location map.

EEL Staff Report:

Resource Planning Report (Form EEL.3.97)

Instructions:

The Resource Planning Report represents a detailed summary of the natural characteristics of the site, site location, biological diversity and ecosystem value. This report is prepared by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee as a compilation of available environmental data. It does not have to be in a formal report format.

EEL Staff Report:

Project Design Report (Form EEL.4.97)

Instructions:

The Project Design Report represents a detailed summary of the land acquisition and real estate values of a site. This report is prepared by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee as a compilation of all of the available data pertinent to a land acquisition. The report does not have to be in a formal report format.

EEL Staff Report:

Negotiation Strategy Report (Form EEL.5.97)

Instructions:

This report is prepared by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee to establish a strategic approach to land negotiations. The report should clearly identify the value of the property as determined by qualified state certified appraisers. The report should describe the property, establish a highest value for the property based on independent appraisals and provide a justification for the negotiation approach. The report can be brief, but thorough.

EEL Staff Report:

Negotiation Summary Report (Form EEL.6.97)

Instructions:

The Negotiation Summary Report represents a detailed summary of the actions and decisions that occurred during the negotiation. The report will chronicle offers and counter offers.

EEL Staff Report:

A-79

[Figure 16: EEL Forms 2.97, 3.97, 4.97, 5.97, and 6.97.](#)

Legal Checklist – For Contracts for Sale or Purchase (Form EEL 7.97)
Checklist – Closing Package for Files (Form EEL 8.97)

Legal Checklist—For Contracts for Sale or Purchase
(Form EEL 7.97)

1. Sellers Name:
2. Sellers Name if Company:
3. Sellers Address:
4. Sellers Telephone Number:
5. Second Sellers Name:
6. Buyers Name: Board of County Commissioners, Brevard County, Florida
7. Buyers Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners , Chairman
8. Buyer(s) Address:
9. Buyers Telephone Number:
10. Property Located In:
11. Legal Description of Property:
12. Street Address of Property:
13. Personal Property Description:
14. Purchase Price:
15. Other Amount:
16. Time for Acceptance:
17. Title Evidence Time-Frame:
18. Title Evidence: Title Commitment
19. Closing Date:
20. Restrictions: Purpose(s):
21. Assign Ability:
22. Special Clauses: Addendum attached; Exhibits

Contract Formate

Checklist—Closing Package for Files (Form EEL 8.97)

- _____ Application Page
- _____ EEL Selection and Management Committee Field Report(s)
- _____ Boundary Survey
- _____ Title Report
- _____ Phase I Hazardous Waste Assessment
- _____ Appraisal Reports
- _____ Contract for Property Acquisition with Board Authorization
- _____ Title Commitment
- _____ Closing Documents

A-80

Property Tracking & Procedures Form (Form EEL 9.97)

Property Tracking & Procedures Form (Form EEL 9.97)

(Must be filled out by EEL staff for each property submitted or considered.)

Page 1 of 3

Property Name: _____

Location: T _____; R _____; S _____

Owner/Applicant

Owner Name: _____ Representative: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Telephone: _____

FAX: _____ FAX: _____

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

BASIC RESOURCE PLANNING (check boxes, dates, and initial where appropriate)

Date of Submission: _____

EEL Selection and Management Committee Preliminary Assessment

	_____	Date	Vote:	Y	N	Tabled
If Tabled, Second Consideration	_____	Date	Vote:	Y	N	Tabled

Site Visit(s); Dates; EELSMC Members in Attendance

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Preliminary Project Summary Completed by EEL Staff _____
Date & Initial

Agency(s) Contacted and Response

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

EEL Selection & Management Committee First Majority Vote

_____ | Date | Vote: Y N Abstain

A-81

Property Tracking & Procedures Form (Form FEL 9.97)

(Must be filled out by EEL staff for each property submitted or considered.)

Page 2 of 3

ACQUISITION PLANNING

Completion of Project Design Proposal:

• With information from feasibility study, if direct purchase _____
Date & Initial

EEL Selection & Management Committee
Second Majority Vote _____ ; Vote: Y N Abstain
Date

• Without information from feasibility study, if joint purchase _____
Date & Initial

EEL Selection & Management Committee
Second Majority Vote _____ ; Vote: Y N Abstain
Date

Proposal Submitted to _____ on _____
Agency Date

Proposal Funded or Not Funded (circle one) _____
Date

• Mapping Completed _____
Date & Initial Contractor

• Title Reports Completed _____
Date & Initial Contractor

• Appraisal Completed _____
Date & Initial Contractor

_____ Contractor

• Appraisal Review _____
Specify: In-House, Agency or Third Party Date & Initial
Specify Reviewer:

A-82

Property Tracking & Procedures Form (Form EEL.9.97)

(Must be filled out by EEL staff for each property submitted or considered.)

Page 3 of 3

ACQUISITION PHASE

- Negotiations Begin _____
Date & Initial

- First Offer: _____
Response: _____

- Counter Offer: _____
Response: _____

- Negotiations End
Contract Signed by Owner _____
Date & Initial

- No Deal _____
Date & Initial

- Board Action _____
Agenda Item Date Decision

- Closing Documents Filed _____
Date & Initial

- Acquisition File Completed
and Property Archived _____
Date & Initial

A-83

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication: Page 1 of 11.

(Partners in Stewardship: Proceedings of the 7th Conference on Research and Resource management in Parks and on Public Lands. W E Brown and S D Veirs, Jr. (eds.). George Wright society. Hancock, Michigan. pages 452 to 462. 1993

Stewardship at the Local Level: A Case Study from Brevard County Florida
Hillary Swain

Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, 150 West University Blvd. Melbourne, Florida 32901

C. Ross Hinkle and Paul A. Schmalzer
The Bionetics Corporation, NASA Biomedical Operations and Research Office, Mail Code BIO 2, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899

Most of the strategic plans for the protection of biodiversity and land acquisition in the USA are focused at the national or state level (e g, Scott et al. 1987). However, in Florida, there has been a growing emphasis on acquisition promoted and funded at the local level; this corresponds with the perceived shift of environmental support away from the large national organizations towards small locally relevant efforts. At present (October 1992), Florida has a total of 15 endangered lands acquisition programs funded at the county level with four additional programs pending and one city program (Fig. 1).

The most common revenue sources for these programs are ad valorem taxes and bonds; other sources include sales taxes, impact fees, and mitigation fees. For example, in September 1990, citizens of Brevard County, Florida passed a referendum supporting an ad valorem tax increase to fund a \$55 million bond for the acquisition, protection, and management of environmentally endangered lands. The total funds involved in these programs are significant with existing programs totaling over 600 million dollars and funding levels in individual counties ranging from \$2.5 million to 100 million dollars.

Different counties in Florida have had a variety of approaches to select lands for acquisition under such local acquisition programs. Most programs have concentrated on acquisition of environmentally endangered or sensitive lands although some include recreational sites. Brevard County is recognized as having implemented a very successful strategy where the County Commissioners appointed a committee, the Environmentally Endangered lands Selection Committee, of seven volunteer professional ecologists and local experts and gave them the responsibility to develop criteria and to select lands for acquisition. This committee worked under the procedural guidelines of a Land Acquisition Manual, adapted from a similar document developed by Volusia County, Florida. They set the primary goal to select local sites for acquisition that would complement larger state and federal acquisition programs and protect biodiversity values lying outside the current network of protected areas in the county. The secondary goal of the program was to address the need to maintain ecosystem function in the county. Additional goals included selecting sites with educational value,

scientific value and also cultural, aesthetic and passive recreation value. Brevard County is an area rich in biodiversity and, as such, a challenging county in which to determine conservation priorities. It has an area of approximately 336,821 ha including 267,296 ha.

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication. Page 2 of 11.

County Environmental Land Acquisition Programs in Florida

Image of a map of existing programs and pending programs in Florida in 1992. At present, (October 1992) Florida has a total of 15 endangered lands programs funded at the county level with 4 additional programs pending and one city program.

Image of the caption: Figure 1. The distribution of proposed and existing local land acquisition programs in Florida (1992)

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication: Page 3 of 11.

of land, 5,079 ha fresh water lakes, and 64,446 ha saltwater lagoons (Randy Kautz, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, personal communication). It extends 116 kilometers from north to south and 40 kilometers east to west. The major ecological features of the county are: barrier islands including Cape Canaveral and Merritt Island; estuarine lagoons (Indian River Lagoon; Banana River Lagoon: and Mosquito Lagoon), an ancient north/south dune ridge dating from the Pleistocene known as the Atlantic Coastal Ridge and finally the broad marshes of the St. Johns River. The climate is warm and humid, transitional between warm temperate and subtropical which results in a diverse local flora and fauna containing northern species near their southern limits and subtropical species near their northern limits, contributing to a high biological diversity. Many local species are already listed as rare, threatened or endangered by a variety of state and federal agencies (Table 1).

There are extensive existing publicly owned lands in the county including: the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) where non-operational areas are managed as Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge or Canaveral National Seashore. This area supports no fewer than 13 federally listed threatened and endangered species. Other federal interests are the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge, lands already acquired for the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, and the proposed expansion of the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to federal properties there are state owned lands such as the Sebastian Inlet State Recreational Area and parts of the Upper Saint Johns River Basin acquired by the Saint Johns River Water Management District.

Image of caption: Table 1. Threatened, Endangered, or Rare Species in Brevard County Florida

Image of explanation of abbreviations numbered 1 through 5 included in table 1.

1. US Fish and Wildlife Service (E:12. T:9. T(S/A) -1, C1:3, C2:26)

2. Convention or international Trade in Endangered Species or Wild Fauna and Floras (1:8, 11:3 7)
3. Florida Department of Agriculture (E:22, T:65, SP:1, CE:7)
4. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (E:10, T:13, SSC:18).5.
5. Florida committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals (E:14, T:31, R:12, SCC:27, SU:5)

Image of table with 1 column (TAXA) and 7 rows USFWS 1 of 7; CITIES 2 of 7; FDA 3 of 7; FGFWFC 4 of 7; FCREPA 5 of 7, Invertebrates 6 of 7, and total 7 of 7. List for each TAXA follows.

1. Plants
 - a. USFWS – 18
 - b. CITIES – 30
 - c. FDA – 95
 - d. FGFWFC – 0
 - e. FCREPA – 12
 - f. TOTAL - 109
2. Fish
 - a. USFWS – 1
 - b. CITIES – 1
 - c. FDA – 0
 - d. FGFWFC – 3
 - e. FCREPA – 7
 - f. TOTAL – 9
3. Reptiles/Amphibians
 - a. USFWS – 12
 - b. CITIES – 6
 - c. FDA – 0
 - d. FGFWFC – 11
 - e. FCREPA – 12
 - f. TOTAL - 16
4. Birds
 - a. USFWS – 13
 - b. CITIES – 6
 - c. FDA – 0
 - d. FGFWFC – 22
 - e. FCREPA – 43
 - f. TOTAL - 59
5. Mammals
 - a. USFWS – 7
 - b. CITIES – 2
 - c. FDA – 0
 - d. FGFWFC – 22
 - e. FCREPA – 43
 - f. TOTAL - 59
6. Invertebrates

- a. USFWS – 0
 - b. CITIES – 0
 - c. FDA – 0
 - d. FGFWFC – 0
 - e. FCREPA – 5
 - f. TOTAL - 5
7. Total
- a. USFWS – 51
 - b. CITIES – 45
 - c. FDA – 95
 - d. FGFWFC – 41
 - e. FCREPA – 89
 - f. TOTAL - 208

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication: Page 4 of 11.

This paper addresses how Brevard County, Florida, a locale rich in biodiversity, has approached the issue of how to protect biodiversity through local land acquisition. To achieve the goal of the protection of biodiversity, lands were assessed under three broad categories: the natural communities present, the value for species, and the landscape context. These three considerations were integrated and no one category rated more highly than others.

Natural Community Components

One of the most widely accepted methods of protecting biodiversity is to protect representative examples of all-natural community types thereby assuring protection of most of the biodiversity typical for each of the community types present. This is known as the 'coarse filter' approach to conservation planning (Noss,1987). Clearly local acquisition programs have inadequate funds to purchase enough land to assure adequate representation of all-natural community types found within a county. However, aiming at representation demands integrated approaches at a variety of geographical scales; representative coverage requires coordination between federal, state and local agencies and, to date, this has not yet been tackled for Florida. The decision was made, therefore, to focus the Brevard County land acquisition program on natural community types that were relatively rare at both a local and a state level and were under represented within the existing local protected area network. We acknowledge this puts the emphasis on rarity rather than overall representation.

The highest priority was given to natural communities that exhibit the following natural characteristics.

- under a high degree of threat throughout the state (e.g., ranked as S1, S2, S3 under Florida Natural Areas Inventory state heritage program ranking system where S1 are the most imperiled natural communities).
- locally rare and underrepresented in the existing local protected area network
Figure 2
- critical for the support of a large number of listed species.

- known to have declined considerably in extent.
- unprotected by state or federal regulatory provisions.

Based on all of these factors the highest acquisition priority was given to rare communities, with high state rankings, that are relatively unprotected in the county. These included: scrub communities such as sand pine scrub, Xeric oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods; coastal strand; hardwood hammocks (mesic and maritime); forested wetlands such as hardwood swamps, cabbage palm savanna and cypress; and saline inland marshes. Communities that are fairly common in the county, largely unprotected and exist in large and often contiguous tracts were given the next highest priority. This covered communities such as mesic and hydric pine flatwoods, wet prairies, coastal wetlands. Lower priority for direct acquisition was given to communities that are common in the county and protected to some degree by regulatory provisions such as fresh water marshes. Some examples of natural communities which ranked very highly in the committee's selection process are given in Table 2.

In addition to selecting sites supporting high priority natural communities, consideration was also given to whether sites supported good representative examples of community types without much disturbance. We also chose sites that supported an array of different community types including important assemblages such as wetland-upland interfaces. Clearly factors such as the degree of fragmentation of a site and its

EEL Selection Committee Publications. Page 5 of 11.

Image of Graph of Total Area (ha) in Brevard County and the % Protected in Brevard County of 13 natural communities from the rarest. The following are estimated percentages and total area (ha). 1 of 13 sand pine 1% of 2,000 (ha); 2 of 13 hardwood Swamp 9% of 5,000 (ha); 3 of 13 Pinelands 8% of 29,000 (ha); 4 of 13 Hardwood Pine Forest 10% of 1000 (ha); 5 of 13 Cypress 12% of 4,000 (ha); 6 of 13 Dry Prairie 39% of 18,000 (ha); 7 of 13 Hammocks 42% of 16,000 (ha); 8 of 13 Wetlands 41% of 45,000 (ha); 9 of 13 Coastal Strand 58% of 1,200 (ha); 10 of 13 Shrub Swamp 63% of 22,000 (ha); 11 of 13 Oak Scrub 69% of 6,000 (ha); 12 of 13 Coastal Salt Marsh 77% of 10,000 (ha); 13 of 13 Mangrove Swamp 87% of 1,800 (ha).

Image of caption: Figure 2. The area of natural community types in Brevard County in relation to the extent to which they occur in protected areas in the county (based on data kindly provided by Jim Cox, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission).

isolation from other similar natural community types were also part of the assessment. These factors will weigh considerably in terms of the long-term viability of natural communities on sites.

Species Components

Species based approaches to selecting sites for acquisition have been a feature of many acquisition programs, particularly for federal agencies operating under the Endangered Species Act. Although the sole presence of a key species did not dictate the selection of any particular site, high priority was afforded to sites with species that

exhibit the following characteristics:

- listed as rare, threatened, species of special concern and endangered etc. by state agencies) federal agencies, or nongovernmental review committees Table 1
- have a narrow geographic range and restricted to this region of Florida
- highly habitat specific
- do not occur, or only occur at low densities, within the current protected area network in the county
- have large proportion of their total population occurring locally (including migratory stop-overs, breeding sites, roosting sites and wintering grounds)

Some examples of the many species that fall into these categories in Table 3. When selecting sites with a high priority.

EEL Selection Committee Publication. Page 6 of 11.

for these listed or vulnerable species, we were also concerned that the areas selected should be able to support viable populations; in the case of some plant species such data are almost impossible to ascertain at present, but in the case of species such as scrub-jays consideration was certainly given to the size of the local population which could be afforded some protection. In addition to considering sites in terms of listed species, we also compared the overall species diversity found on different sites.

Landscape and Ecosystem Components

One of the greatest general failures of local land acquisition programs is the lack of consideration of the long-term effects of surrounding land use changes. Not only is this important in a buffer sense but also in the sense of maintaining some critical ecosystem processes. In Florida this revolves primarily around maintaining hydrological regimes and fire periodicity. Hence one of the overriding concerns we faced in the deliberating the selection of sites under the

Image of Table 2. Characteristics of selected high priority community types for protection in Brevard County Florida. Three community types: 1 of 3 Maritime Hammocks, 2 of 3 Cabbage Palm Savannah, and 3 of 3 Sand Pine Scrub.

- Maritime Hammocks (1 of 3)
 - Canopy: live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), red bay (*Persea barbonia*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*).
 - Understory: naked wood (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), *Eugenia* spp., other subtropical species. Epiphytes (ferns, bromeliads) often common.
 - Inland on barrier island from coastal strand. windward side often pruned by salt spray.
 - Most are lost to development, remaining are fragmented. Not in protected areas in county.
 - Focus of Maritime Hammock Project.
- Cabbage Palm Savannah (2 of 3)

- Canopy: scattered cabbage palm.
- Understory: grasses-sand cordgrass (*spartina bakeri*); rushes-black rush (*Juncus roemerianus*); sedges - *Cyperus* spp., *Rhynchospora* spp.; and forbs.
- On gradient between hammocks and marshes
- About 2300 ha in existing protected area (KSC). In the Northern Indian River Corridor Project.
- Sand Scrub Pine (3 of 3)
 - Canopy: sand pine (*Pinus clausa*).
 - Understory: myrtle oak (*Quercub myrtifolia*), sand live oak (*euercus geminata*), Chapman oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), nusty lyonia (*Lyonia femtginea*), staggerbrush (*eronia fruticosa*), dwarf blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*).
 - Restricted to high, dry ridges, primarily on the Atlantic coastal Ridge. About 1000 ha remain in county, most in patches of 5 ha or less. Little (less than 10 ha) in existing protected areas. Large flowered rosemary, Florida scrub lizard (*Scleroporus woodi*), and other species depend on this community.
 - Three of four Scrub-Jay Refugia sites contain sand pine scrub as part of scrub landscape.

EEL Selection Committee Publication. Page 7 of 11.

environmentally endangered lands program was to review these sites in terms of their context (surrounding landscape) as well as their content. In some cases, this meant reviewing sites with high species and natural community content to assess their long-term viability in the light of foreseeable changes in the surrounding landscape. In other cases, this meant reviewing sites to see if their primary role may lie in their landscape potential for example, could they serve as a landscape linkage or buffer for existing protected areas? Alternatively, could they serve a role in terms of maintaining broader landscape scale processes such as protecting water quality or hydrological integrity? Clearly no site should be considered for landscape potential alone; endangered land acquisitions based on landscape roles should also have high biological content.

- In the light of these considerations higher priority was given to sites in the local landscape that exhibit the following characteristics:
 - contiguity with existing protected areas and the potential to serve as landscape linkages. Such interconnectivity is an important consideration for the northern end of the county where a large number of protected areas occur in both Brevard County and neighboring counties of Seminole and Volusia.
 - stepping stone sites providing some opportunity for movement across the landscape for certain habitat specific but vagile species.
 - A range of ecotonal linkages, in particular providing ecotonal transitions

- missing within existing protected areas.
- those which help maintain hydrological function.
- sites and communities that support fire driven ecosystems.

One example of landscape scale protection is found in some of the lands bordering the Indian River Lagoon. These protect some of the state's areas of highest water quality and represent some of the best remaining examples of upland-wetland-estuarine landscapes on the east coast. They support extensive seagrass beds which provide high primary production, sediment stabilization, food resources through direct and detrital grazing, shelter and nursery grounds, accumulation of nutrients from surrounding waters, and feeding grounds for the greatest number of manatees on the east coast of Florida.

Acquisition Strategy

The acquisition program proposed by the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection Committee is an integrated strategy which aims to protect much of the biodiversity in the county that has fallen outside the existing protected area network. The three main areas of focus for this strategy are shown on Figure 3 and discussed separately below.

1. The Maritime Hammock Initiative was designed to protect five of the last nine areas of maritime hammock remaining on the barrier islands in Brevard County, which represent nearly 40 percent of hammocks remaining on the east coast of the state (Johnson et al., 1991). Maritime hammocks with tropical components are very rare and fragmented, rapidly declining and largely unprotected in the county. They provide habitat for an array of federal and state listed plants and animals such as Florida lantana (*Lantana depressa var. floridana*) and beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*) which are often entirely dependent upon these coastal habitats. The project is both contiguous with and considerably enlarges existing and proposed protected areas such as the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and Sebastian Inlet State Park. It provided for an ocean-to-estuary ecotone going from beach dune through coastal strand and scrub to maritime hammock and estuarine wetlands. The initiated will also protect, in a stepping-

EEL Selection Committee Publication. Page 8 of 11.

Table 3 Examples of high conservation priority species for Brevard County Florida.

FLORIDA SCRUB JAY (*Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens*)

- Status: United States Fish and Wildlife Service: threatened
- Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission: threatened
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking 53
- A Florida endemic which is found in Brevard County in a series of disjunct populations due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Scrub Jays are restricted to highly threatened scrub habitats, which greatly increases their vulnerability. A large population (700 families) occurs within the existing protected area on Kennedy Space Center however no mainland populations are protected in the county which limits dispersal and regional variability. Medium population sizes

(greater than 30 families) are present on some sites but their territory requirements are large necessitating setting aside considerable acreage of scrub to support locally viable populations. The scrub jay is the focus of a new Endangered Species Act initiative in Brevard County to develop a regional Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida scrub jays which will incorporate some aspects of endangered land acquisition.

FLORIDA EAST COAST TERRAPIN (*Malaclemys terrapin* Tequesta)

- Status: Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking 3
- This terrapin is reported for the North Indian River Lagoon (Siegel, pers. comm.). It does not have a current listed status although it is recognized, at the state level, as being a subspecies in need of review and consideration (Millsap et al., 1990). It is clearly vulnerable since it has such a limited geographical range (East Central Florida) found locally in the estuarine waters of the Indian River and local population aggregations were reported recently as quite large (greater than 100 individuals) but recent surveys suggest a decline. The population size on existing protected areas is essentially unknown although under investigation.

FLORIDA LANTANA (*Lantana depressa* var. *floridana*)

- Status: United State Fish and Wildlife Service: candidate 1 Florida Natural Areas Inventory state ranking S2/G2
- Florida lantana occurs along the barrier islands of East Central Florida but it is not found on any protected areas in the county. This species is a Florida endemic restricted to central and southern Florida primarily along the Atlantic coast. It is highly habitat specific, occurring within coastal strand, coastal dune, and open maritime hammock. Local populations are medium in size (10-50 individuals/site).

TAMPA VERVAIN (*Glandularia tampensis*)

- Status: United States Fish and wildlife Service: candidate 1. Florida Department of Agriculture: endangered. Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking S1/G1.
- The Tampa vervain is another Florida endemic, with disjunct populations on the east and west coasts of central to southern Florida. It occurs primarily in hammocks and flatwoods. Although a few individuals occur within one protected area (Kennedy Space Center), other local populations which are small to medium (10-15 individuals/site) are outside the protected area network.

LARGE-FLOWERED ROSEMARY (*Conradina grandiflora*)

- Status: United States Fish and Wildlife Service: candidate 2. Florida Department of Agriculture: endangered. Florida Natural Areas Inventory: state ranking S3/G3.
- The large-flowered rosemary is another endemic, restricted to southeast Florida primarily along Atlantic Coastal Ridge. It is highly habitat specific and found in sand pine scrub and xeric oak scrub on the mainland. Although local population can be large (greater than 100 individuals/site) none are found on existing protected areas in the county.

stone fashion a north-south series of sites that show a physio geographic gradation of

barrier island habitats. In addition to biological value, acquisition of barrier island habitats will enhance protection and stability of the barrier island system during major stochastic events such as hurricanes.

2. The Northern Indian River Lagoon Project, also known as Turnbull Hammock, was designed to protect the natural

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication. Page 9 of 11

Image of map of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program CARL Proposal 1992. CARL proposal boundaries represent areas of acquisition interest based on natural communities that are threatened in Brevard county located on the east coast of Central Florida. Brevard County is bordered to the north by Volusia County and to the South by Indian River County and to the East by the Atlantic Ocean.

Map of Brevard county including the county wide Scrub Jay Refugia Project; the core scrub projects in Titusville, Rockledge, Grant, Malabar, and at the Indian River County line; the Northern Indian River Corridor Project (joint proposal with Brevard County, Volusia County and the Saint Johns River Water Management District in the northwest section of Brevard County); the Maritime Hammock Project (properties of interest are west of A1A and link with Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge; and the Florida Communities Trust Project Sites (all are Atlantic Coastal Ridge Scrub Communities).

Image of caption: Figure 3. The distribution of proposed acquisition sites under the Environmentally Endangered Lands program in Brevard County Florida. Kindly compiled by Duane de Freese, Office of Natural Resources Brevard County.

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication. Page 10 of 11.

communities of the northern Indian River lagoon watershed, including the largest hydric hardwood hammock on Florida's east coast and expanses of coastal wetlands and cabbage palm savanna. This watershed protection provides in turn for the protection of the highest density of submerged aquatic vegetation in the lagoon system. This area supports a rich fishery and forms the basis of a regional economy. The northern watershed of the Indian River lagoon incorporates natural functional linkages associated with upland, marsh, and estuarine communities; this serves species such as wading birds which are known to utilize a variety of habitats in this area for feeding, roosting and breeding sites.

This project will help conserve the outstanding biological diversity of the Indian River lagoon, acknowledged to be the most species-diverse estuarine waterbody in the US. The project is contiguous with federal lands on the barrier islands at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and provides for an unfragmented landscape bridge from these areas to the mainland. The area also affords some long-term potential to establish a natural landscape linkage, an east-west connection between the coastal marshes in the east and the Saint Johns River system to the west. From a biogeographical perspective protecting the Indian River lagoon also maintains the north-south connection of the temperate Carolinian biotic province and the tropical-subtropical Caribbean biotic

province.

3. The Scrub Jay Refugia Project was designed to protect the largest remaining and least fragmented areas of mainland scrub along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge in the county. This includes some of the rarest natural community types in the county such as sand pine scrub, xeric oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods. It also provides habitat for the Florida scrub jay, a federally listed threatened species, which was selected as a flagship species to name this project. The Florida scrub jay occurs on all Scrub Jay Refugia sites and some Maritime Hammock Project sites. The acquisition of these sites will form the cornerstone of a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida scrub jay in Brevard County. The Scrub jay Refugia project also protects many other species dependent upon the unique scrub habitat including large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*) and Florida scrub lizard (*Sceloporus woodi*). Since scrub was always limited in distribution in the county and has now been very heavily fragmented, the Scrub Jay Refugia project is a series of disjunct sites; the four largest remaining areas of scrub with the largest scrub jay populations present. The Brevard County Habitat Conservation Plan for the scrub jay will address protection of enough additional areas to attempt viability for the county's scrub jays. The need to manage these sites, particularly with fire management is a top priority and will be the subject of detailed management plans for each site. In addition to biological value the protection of these sites also assists in the protection of critical groundwater re-charge areas.

Partnerships

The strategy that has been developed for the protection of biodiversity at the local level in Brevard County has been the foundation for seeking matching funds to assist in acquisition of these lands. The county has submitted three proposals to the state Conservation and Recreation Lands Program and the Florida Community Trust Program (see also Fig. 3), both of which are funded by an extremely assertive statewide land acquisition initiative, Preservation 2000. This is three years into a ten-year program aimed at raising \$3 billion for acquisition of endangered lands throughout Florida. Our local land acquisition programs have sought partnerships for many acquisitions with the Saint Johns River Water Management District and adjacent county acquisition programs. We have entered into agreements with the Nature Conservancy and

EEL Selection Committee Criteria Publication. Page 11 of 11.

are bidding on properties from the Resolution Trust Corporation. Previous local acquisition programs in Brevard County were successful at getting matching funds from other state programs such as Save Our Coasts. The Endangered Lands Program has applied to other national acquisition programs such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Locally funded programs have also contributed towards completion of projects of national significance, such as participation in acquisition of the proposed Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Brevard County.

It is clear that, cumulatively, local acquisition programs, such as the one in Brevard County, could be very important contributors to the overall protection of biodiversity.

They need expert guidance and will be most successful with a great deal of coordination and a liaison between local initiatives and state and federal programs. Local initiatives engender a strong sense of stewardship in the local community for acquired lands and should be viewed as a growing component of the protected area network.

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the major role the other members of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection Committee - Randy Parkinson, Margaret Hames, Dave Cox, and Ken Friedland have played in formulating the strategy discussed in this paper. In addition, special acknowledgment to Duane De Freese, the outstanding staff coordinator for this program, who takes our plans from the committee meetings to the drawing board and on to acquisition reality; no mean feat! We would also like to thank the many other local, state and federal acquisition programs, and the Nature Conservancy who have given us guidance and assistance throughout this initiative.

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[Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application \(Form EEL 1.97\) Page 1 of 5.](#)

- Application Form
- Owner's Authorized Representative Form
- Authorization to Enter Property

Instructions:

The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program was authorized by the citizens of Brevard County by public referendum in September 1990, 2004 and 2022. The referendum provided ad valorem revenues to support bond funds for the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands. The EEL Program goal is to establish a sanctuary network throughout Brevard County that protects the finest examples of Brevard's natural communities, endangered species and rich biological diversity. Nature sanctuaries established in the program will consider public access, passive recreation and environmental education as components of the

overall

acquisition and conservation objectives of the program.

The Land Acquisition Selection and Management Committee is authorized to review lands for acquisition consideration and to acquire property rights necessary for the protection of environmentally endangered lands in Brevard County. If a parcel or parcels fulfill the resource criteria as established by the EEL Selection and Management Committee, the Committee will consider it for inclusion in its land acquisition plan. All property purchases will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for review prior to initiating a contract purchase.

In order for a property to be considered by the EEL Selection and Management Committee the following three items MUST be completed and submitted to the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program at the address indicated on the letterhead:

1. Application Form
2. Owner's Authorization Representative Form
3. Authorization to Enter Property

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application. Page 2 of 5.

1. Program (see Note 1)
 - A. Property Name: (space to write the property name)
 - B. Property is located in: Township (space to write township); Range (space to write range); Section (space to write section)
 - C. Tax Parcel Number: (space to write tax parcel number)
 - D. Does the Property have a lien? (space to write response) If yes, explain: (space to write explanation)
 - E. Size of Parcel: (space to input response in acres).
 - F. This property is located on the north, south, east, west, side (circle the appropriate direction) (blank space to write name of road), approximately (blank space to write the number of feet or miles) from its intersection with (blank space to write the name of the intersecting road) in the community of (blank space to write the community name). The property is near (blank space to write a recognizable landmark)
 - G. Attach a legal description and survey or map showing the boundaries of the property, existing streets, buildings, watercourses, easements, section lines and any deed restrictions or encumbrances.
 - H. List owner or owners of record: Space to write name, address, telephone number and FAX.
 - I. Attach a copy of the deeds or deeds (if available)
 - J. Briefly describe the character of the parcels or parcels (e.g. wetlands, swamp, scrub, pine forest etc.) Space to write the parcel's description.
 - K. Briefly explain why this parcel or parcels should be considered as environmentally endangered and eligible for purchase in the Brevard County EEL Program: (Blank space to write explanation)

- L. This application is being submitted by owner, owner authorized representative, other (circle one). If other, explain below: Blank space to input other explanation if needed.

Blank line provided to write (print) the APPLICANT'S NAME; ADDRESS; and TELEPHONE

APPLICANT SIGNATURE (space to sign the application)

DATE (space to write the date)

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Application. Page 3 of 5.

1. ATTACHMENTS

- a. Vicinity map at a scale of 1 inch = 20000 miles; with sufficient information to locate the property in the field (i.e. roads, water bodies, landmarks, etc.) (See note 2)
- b. Existing zoning (See note 3)
- c. Land use designation according to the current Brevard County Comprehensive Plan (See note 4)
- d. A topographic quadrangle map (U S G S) with boundaries of property sketched in) (see note 1)
- e. Photographs or video tape representing the characteristics of the property (optional: if available)

2. VALUATION

- a. Fair market value (document with current appraisal, if available or asking price)
- b. Documentation of current assessed value (See note 1)
- c. Documentation of owner's willingness to sell

NOTES:

1. Information available at Property Appraisers Office
2. Information available at Transportation Department
3. Information available at zoning Division
4. Information available at Planning Department

[Field Report: Guideline for EEL Selection and Management Committee Evaluation \(Form EEL 2.97\)](#)

Instructions

Items for inclusion in the field trip report 'include date of trip, names of individuals attending, property name, property location, property acreage, important natural communities on-site, important listed species known from the site, unique natural attributes, comments about management potential and a location map.

EEL Staff Report

Resource Planning Report (Form EEL 3.97)

Instructions

The Resource Planning Report represents a detailed summary of the natural characteristics of the site, site location, biological diversity and ecosystem value. This report is prepared by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management committee as a compilation of available environmental data. It does not have to be in a formal report format.

EEL Staff Report

Project Design Report (Form EEL 4.97)

Instructions

The Project Design Report represents a detailed summary of the land acquisition and real estate values of a site. This report is prepared by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee as a compilation of all of the available data pertinent to a land acquisition. The report does not have to be in a formal report format.

EEL Staff Report

Negotiation Strategy Report (Form EEL 5.97)

Instructions

This report is prepared by EEL staff and the EEL Selection and Management Committee to establish a strategic approach to land negotiations. The report should clearly identify the value of the property as determined by qualified state certified appraisers. The report should describe the property, establish a highest value for the property based on independent appraisals and provide a justification for the negotiation approach. The report can be brief, but thorough.

EEL Staff Report

Negotiation Summary Report (Form EEL 6.97)

Instructions

The Negotiation Summary Report represents a detailed summary of the actions and decisions that occurred during the negotiation. The report will chronicle offers and counter offers.

EEL Staff Report

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands – Land Acquisition Chart

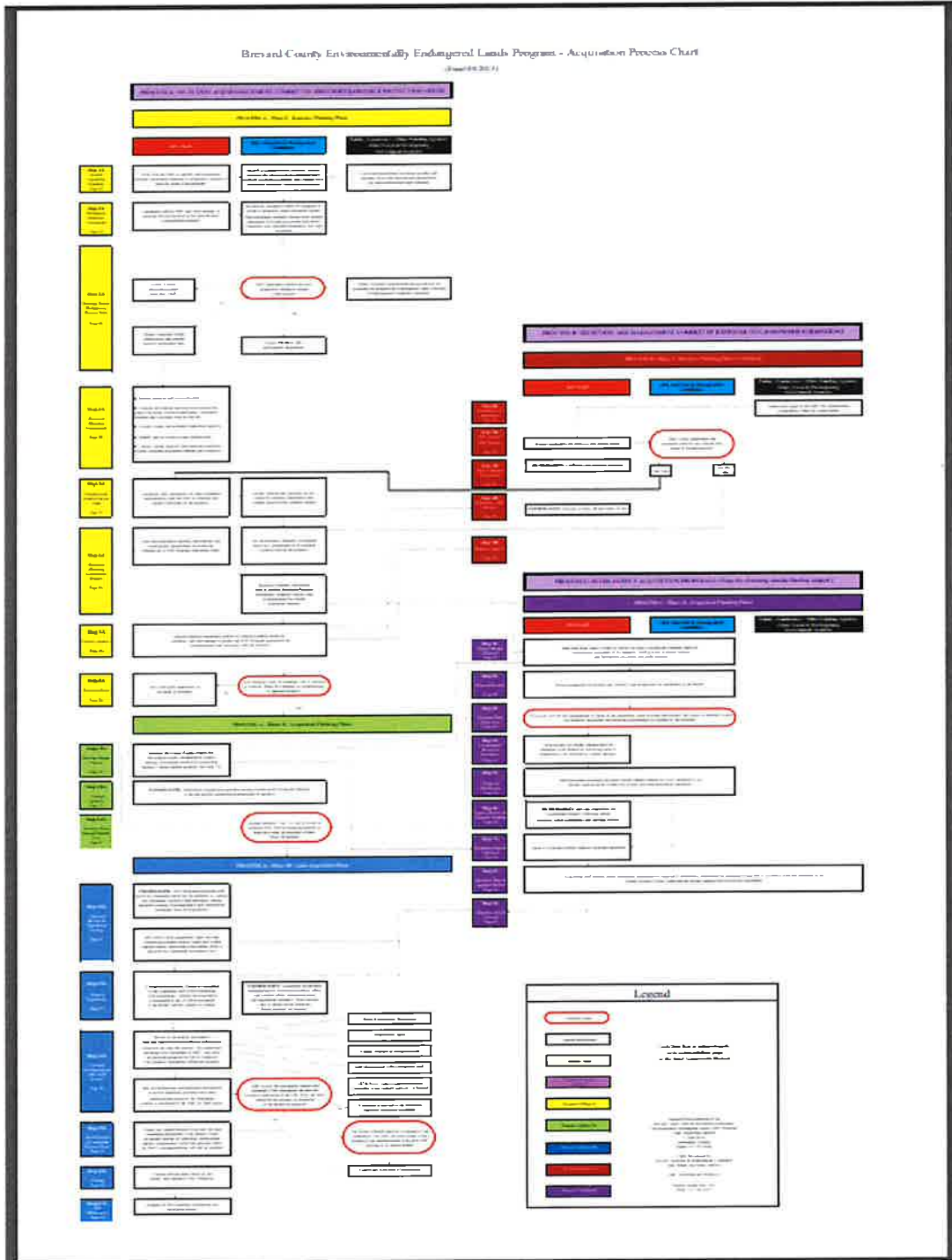


Figure 17: Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands – Land Acquisition Chart

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
Acquisition Process Chart
(Final 08/2013)

Process A: Selection and Management Committee Identifies Resource Protection Needs

Process A – Phase 1: Resource Planning Phase

[Step 1A: Identify Acquisition Priorities Page 40](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Work with the SMC to identify land acquisition priorities, acquisition strategies or alternative strategies to meet the goals of the Program
- **SMC**
 - Identify program priorities or needs. Identify priorities for site-specific acquisitions and/or establish acquisition strategies that consider local, regional, or statewide conservation concerns.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - Local land acquisition decisions consider and integrate local, state and national perspectives for conservation needs and priorities

[Step 2A: Preliminary Resource Assessment Page 40](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Coordinate with the SMC and other persons or agencies that are involved in the identification of acquisition solutions.
- **SMC**
 - Review the ecological values of a property or group of properties using acquisition criteria. This assessment considers species level, natural community level and eco-system level issues. Committee may schedule preliminary site visits as needed.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 3A: Decision Point – Preliminary Review Vote Page 42](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Three options depending on SMC decision whether or not to pursue the acquisition.
 - Option 1 of 3. Project tabled: more information needed from EEL Staff
 - Option 2 of 3. Project accepted: Notify landowners and prepare resource assessment data
 - Option 3 of 3. Project declined: EEL Staff notifies landowners
- **SMC**

- SMC determine whether they are prepared to decline or accept a new project.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - Public comment opportunities are provided at all scheduled Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee Meetings

[Step 4A: Resource Planning Assessment Page 42](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Prepare resource and real estate data.
 - Compile information and data that describe the property location, resource importance, ecological attributes and real estate data for the site.
 - Contact outside and potential acquisition agencies.
 - Identify gaps in resources and compile data.
 - Contact outside agencies and potential acquisition partners regarding acquisition funding and resources.
- **SMC**
 - No action required by the SMC
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 5A: Schedule and Conduct On-site visits Page 42](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Coordinate with landowner (or their designated representative) and the SMC to schedule and conduct field trips on the property.
- **SMC**
 - Further evaluate the resources on site, assess the resource significance and evaluate based on the selection criteria.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 6A Resource Planning Assessment Report Page 42](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Seek land acquisition funding opportunities and multi-agency partnerships to extend the efficient use of EEL Program acquisition funds
- **SMC**
 - File the Resource Planning Assessment report as a compilation of all available resource data on the property.

- Resource Planning Assessment used to prepare Resource Planning Boundaries, summary reports, and as information for outside acquisition funding.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 7A: Contact Agencies Page 42](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Discuss potential acquisition partners to extend available resources. Coordinate with each partner to ensure that EEL Program procedures are complementary and consistent with the partners.
- **SMC**
 - Discuss potential acquisition partners to extend available resources. Coordinate with each partner to ensure that EEL Program procedures are complementary and consistent with the partners.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 8A: Decision Point Page 43](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - EEL Staff notify landowners or his agent of decision.
- **SMC**
 - First Majority Vote: If a majority vote to proceed is reached. Phase 2 is initiated for authorization to appraise property.
 - Option 1 of 2. Project declined. EEL Staff notify landowner or his agent of the decision.
 - Option 2 of 2. Project accepted. Proceed to Process A Phase 2 - Acquisition Planning Process.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Process A – Phase 2: Acquisition Planning Phase

[Step 9A: Develop Design Report Page 43](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Develop the Project Design Report for the property under consideration. Report includes information needed for partnership funding. Contact partner agencies. See Step 7A.
- **SMC**

- No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 10A: Contact Agencies Page 48](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Information: Discussion of potential acquisition partners based on the ecological attributes of the site and the acquisition requirements of partners
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 11A: Decision Point: Second Majority Vote Page 48](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - No action required
- **SMC**
 - Second Majority Vote: A 8 out of 12 votes to authorize EEL Staff to begin negotiations to proceed toward the purchase of land: Phase 3 initiated.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Process A – Phase 3: Land Acquisition Phase

[Step 12A: Appraisal Review & Negotiation Strategy Page 48](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Information: EEL Program acquisition staff and/or the acquisition agent has the authority to: request new appraisals, request a third appraisal, require appraisal revisions from appraisers, and establish the maximum value for negotiation.
 - EEL staff or their acquisitions agent develop a written negotiation strategy report and written response memo authorizing negotiations which is place in the confidential negotiation file.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 13A: Property Negotiations Page 50

- **EEL Staff**
 - Information: Negotiation file includes: appraisal reports, negotiation strategy, offers and counter-offers, negotiation notes and negotiation summary. These become part of the public record when the Board executes the contract.
 - A Negotiation Summary Report is completed by the acquisition staff at the termination of all negotiations, whether the negotiation is successful or not. It will be presented to the Board with the contract or option.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 14A: Contract Development & EEL Staff Review Page 50

- **EEL Staff**
 - Review of all contract documents. Seek any clarification or additional information needed to develop the contract. Any significant problems to be forwarded to the SMC. Any other government programs should be contacted if the property acquisition will impact property.
- **SMC**
 - SMC review the acquisition contract and determine if the acquisition will meet the objectives and needs of the EEL. If so, the SMC authorize the contract be submitted to the Board for final approval. Two options possible.
 - Option 1 of 2, If yes, proceed to EEL Staff step 15A.
 - Option 2 of 2, If property is not sent to the Board for approval, landowner is notified.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - Government Programs to be contacted if property acquisition will impact property
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Negotiations Agent
 - County Attorney or designated staff
 - Risk Management Office designated staff
 - Optional: Land Acquisition Review Committee if the contract amount is greater than \$750,000.

Step 15A: Board Review of Contract & Decision Point Page 51

- **EEL Staff**

- Prepare an Agenda Request to present the land acquisition documents to the Board. These documents include all valuations, justifications, impacts, negotiations, values and purchase price. The SMC's recommendation will also be included
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - The Board officially approve or disapprove the acquisition. The SMC are made aware of the decision by an announcement at the next SMC meeting or by memorandum.

Step 16A: Closing Page 52

- **EEL Staff**
 - Closing will take place based on the contract and meeting of the obligations.
 - Landowner is advised of the decision.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 17A: File Maintenance Page 52

- **EEL Staff**
 - Maintain all files regarding acquisitions and subsequent issues.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

PROCESS B: SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO LANDOWNER SUBMISSIONS

PROCESS B - Phase 1: Resource Planning Phase, Continued

Step1B Submittal and Application Page 52

- **EEL Staff**
 - No action required
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**

- Landowners apply to the SMC for consideration of purchase of land for conservation.

[Step 2B Initial EEL Staff & SMC Review Page 52](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Review application for accuracy and format errors.
- **SMC**
 - SMC review application and determine need for site visit and may accept or decline property.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 3B Data Collection & Synthesis Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - INFORMATION: Staff data collection and synthesis
 - Option 1 of 2 from SMC decision in Step 3A. If yes, schedule a site visit as outlined in Step 5A.
 - Option 2 of 2 from SMC decision in step 3A. If no, no site visit and proceed to Step 6A.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 4B Preliminary SMC Review Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - INFORMATION: Proceed to Steps 5B and Steps 7A-8A
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 5B Return to Step 7A Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Discuss potential acquisition partners to extend available resources. Coordinate with each partner to ensure that EEL Program procedures are complementary and consistent with the partners.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**

- No action required

PROCESS C: INTER-AGENCY ACQUISITION PROPOSALS (Steps for obtaining outside funding support)

PROCESS C - Phase II: Acquisition Planning Phase

[Step 1C Project Design Proposal Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Basic data from Steps 6A and 9A will be the basis of proposals to partner agencies, following the guidelines of the agencies. Staff is urged to attend training with the partners to assure successful funding
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 2C Proposal Review Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - Review proposals for accuracy and format. Final preparation for submission to the Board.
- **SMC**
 - Review proposals for accuracy and format. Final preparation for submission to the Board.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 3C Decision Point \(Step 11A\) Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - No action required
- **SMC**
 - A 6 out of 8 votes for the commitment of funds for an acquisition. Once accepted and funded, the county is expected to meet the financial, acquisition and program commitments as outlined by the proposal.
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 4C Commission Review & Resolution Page 53](#)

- **EEL Staff**

- All proposals for outside funding must be submitted to the Board for full review prior to submission of the proposal to outside partners.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 5C Proposal Submission Page 54

- **EEL Staff**
 - Land acquisition proposals involving outside funding support are to be submitted to the partner agencies in the format they require and with appropriate signatures.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 6C Agency Review & Proposal Tracking Page 54

- **EEL Staff**
 - INFORMATION: Staff are responsible for coordinating support, lobbying, liaison activities, public testimonies and tracking reviews.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 7C Boundary Maps & Appraisal Page 54

- **EEL Staff**
 - County is to prepare all due diligence including appraisals.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Step 8C Boundary Map & Appraisal Review Page 54

- **EEL Staff**
 - Acquisition staff and/or county acquisition consultants are required to implement a procedure for appraisal review that is consistent with and accepted by the Florida Division of State Lands and the partner agencies involved in the acquisition.
- **SMC**

- No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

[Step 9C Return to 13A & Proceed Page 55](#)

- **EEL Staff**
 - A Negotiation Summary Report is completed by the acquisition staff at the termination of all negotiations, whether the negotiation is successful or not. It will be presented to the Board with the contract or option.
- **SMC**
 - No action required
- **Public – Landowner – Other Funding Agencies – Other Local & Participating Government Agencies**
 - No action required

Graphical Representation of the Brevard County Parks & Recreation Department
 Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Land Acquisition Manual
 91 East Drive Melbourne, Florida
 Phone (321) 255-4466

Chart Developed by
 The EEL Selection & Management Committee,
 Mike Knight and Jenny Ashbury with Consulting and Design by
 Paradise Sound Arts, LLC
 Phone (321) 243-4667



Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Qualifying Committee Meeting

February 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes FINAL

Attendance

QUALIFYING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Diana Stees, Procedures Committee

Mike Knight, Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Manager

Melissa Powers, Director of Human Resources

ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM STAFF

Mike Knight

Vanessa Bethauser

GUESTS

Susan Christman, Volunteer SMC Business Applicant

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



Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mike Knight called the meeting to order at 9am.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AGENDA ITEM 1

Overview of Selection and Management Committee (SMC) ranking process.

Mike explained there are seven science openings. We advertised for two weeks and have received all applications. Now we start the ranking process. We collectively review and score each applicant based on their level of experience and education.

The Qualifying Committee (QC) assigns points based on background and availability following the requirements listed in the Land Acquisition Manual (LAM). Once the initial ranking has been completed, the Procedures Committee (PC) will review the initial rankings at the meeting on February 14th and determine the list of qualified applicants that will be presented to BOCC for consideration.

The method of the initial ranking is that all applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as approved by the QC will be assigned 100 points. 5 additional points are assigned for each relevant graduate degree. And/or 2 additional points for each year up to 6 years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences or a closely related conservation field.

Review and ranking of volunteer SMC Applicants.

The QC discussed each applicant's education and relevant professional experience to determine eligibility.

Carol Auer

The Committee felt this applicant was difficult to evaluate since she didn't submit a resume. She has a BS in Biology and MS in Environmental Science; however, the QC couldn't find anything demonstrating knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. The QC agreed Carol does not meet the minimum qualifications.

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 1

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 0 for Carol Auer.

Kathryn Becker

Applicant has BS in Botany and MS in Biology. She's a current SMC member. The QC agrees she has the relevant degrees and experience.

Scoring



- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 5 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 117 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 2

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 117 for Kathryn Becker.

Jim Burney

Applicant has the relevant degrees and experience. He owns his own exotic treatment company. Experience related to restoration with exotic and aquatic environments. He is a current committee member.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 5 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 117 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 3

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 117 for Jim Burney.

Maryann Civil

Applicant has the relevant degrees and experience and is also a current SMC member with extensive historical knowledge of the Program.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 5 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 117



INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 4

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 117 for Maryann Civil.

Jeff Eble

Applicant's professional experience is specific work related to the Lagoon. His experience did not contain enough habitat ecosystem knowledge to upland communities and land management based on his resume. The QC agreed he did not meet the minimum qualifications.

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 5

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 0 for Jeff Eble.

Deborah Hestek

Applicant has a BS in Ecology and Advanced Master Naturalist Certificate. She did not submit a resume, and her application shows she never worked professionally in the field. The QC agreed she does not meet the minimum qualifications for professional experience.

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 6

The QC unanimously assigned a score 0 for Deborah Hestek.

Lorraine Koss

Applicant has an MS in Environmental Management. Her professional experience is 30+ years in water quality management. The QC agrees she does not meet the minimum qualifications.

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 7

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 0 for Lorraine Koss.

Christopher O'Hara

Applicant had the relevant degrees and experience. He's a previous EEL employee, currently employed with St. Johns River Management District. He's a current member of SMC for 4 months as an alternate. He has a BS in Ecology and Marine Biology.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 0 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 112 points



INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 8

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 112 for Christopher O'Hara.

Paul Schmalzer

Applicant has a Ph D. and MS in Ecology, and BS in Biology. 40+ years working professionally in Brevard ecosystems. He's part of the Native Plant Society Board. He's a past SMC member 1990-2021. He has extensive knowledge of the history and operations of the Program. He still attends SMC meetings and provides input.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 10 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 122 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 9

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 122 for Paul Schmalzer.

Jon Shepard

Applicant is current SMC member, appointed in 2023. He's handled a lot of the mitigation donations. 28 years environmental consulting in Brevard. He has the relevant degrees and experience.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 5 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 117 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 10

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 117 for Jon Shepard.

Kenneth Snyder

Applicant has MS Ecology/Conservation Biology, BS Biology/Limnology. Currently employed with St. Johns River Water Management District. The QC agreed Kenneth has the relevant degrees and experience.

Scoring



- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 5 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points
 - 117 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 11

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 117 for Kenneth Snyder.

Jennifer Thompson

Applicant has BS in Biology focus on marine sciences and sustainability. She's a current SMC member, appointed in 2023. Currently employed with Brevard County Natural Resources. She has 3 years of relevant upland habitat experience.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 0 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 6 additional points
- Total Points
 - 106 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 12

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 106 for Jennifer Thompson.

Lisa Toland

Applicant has BS in Chemistry. She has her own environmental consulting company. She's been involved in restoration work related to many mitigation projects. She was the Director of Natural Resources. She's a current SMC member. She has several years of relevant experience.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 0 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 12 additional points
- Total Points



- 112 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 13

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 112 for Lisa Toland.

Karen Weber

Applicant has BS in Environmental Engineering. Her background is in Environmental Site Assessments and stormwater. The QC agreed she did not meet the minimum qualifications.

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 14

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 0 for Karen Weber.

Jennifer White

Applicant has BS and MS in Environmental Science. Currently working as a Biologist for the City of Satellite Beach. The QC agreed she has relevant degrees and experience.

Scoring

- Does candidate meet minimum qualifications?
 - 100 points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional education points?
 - 5 additional points
- Does candidate meet requirements for additional experience points?
 - 6 additional points
- Total Points
 - 111 points

INITIAL RANKING SMC APPLICANT 15

The QC unanimously assigned a score of 111 for Jennifer White.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Auer, Carol

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>unclear - No real information.</i> 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems: <i>N/A</i></p>	<p>Points: <i>0</i></p>
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Brief description: <i>N/A</i></p>	<p>Points: <i>0</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Brief description: <i>unclear</i></p>	<p>Points: <i>0</i></p>
<p>Total Points</p>	<p><i>0</i></p>

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Becker, Kathryn

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems: 	<p>Points: 100</p>
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Brief description: 	<p>Points: 5 Also PhD Candidate</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Brief description: 	<p>Points: 12</p>
<p>Total Points</p>	<p>117</p>

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Burney, James

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i> 	100
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i> 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i> 	12
<p>Total Points</p>	117

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Civil, Maryann

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i></p>	<p>Points: 100</p>
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	<p>Points: 5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	<p>Points: 12</p>
<p>Total Points</p>	<p>117</p>

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Eble, Jeff

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Primarily aquatic/marine systems. (P.C. modification 2/14/15)</i> 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</p>	<p>Points: 0 100</p>
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Brief description:</p>	<p>Points: 0 5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Brief description:</p>	<p>Points: 0</p> <p><i>Primarily aquatic work experience.</i></p>
<p>Total Points</p>	<p>0 105</p>

Revised by PC on 2/14/15

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Hestek, Deborah

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Master Naturalist only</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Yes = 100 points No = 0 points</i> Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems: 	<p>Points: \emptyset</p>
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Brief description: 	<p>Points: \emptyset</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Brief description: 	<p>Points: \emptyset</p>
<p>Total Points</p>	<p>\emptyset</p>

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Koss, Lorraine

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>mostly water Reserves</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <p>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</p>	Points: \emptyset
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>Brief description:</p>	Points:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>Brief description:</p> <p><i>Water quality background only.</i></p>	Points:
<p>Total Points</p>	\emptyset

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: O'Hara, Christopher

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <p>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</p>	Points: 100
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>Brief description:</p>	Points: 0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>Brief description:</p>	Points: 12
<p>Total Points</p>	112

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: **Schmalzer, Paul**

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <p>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</p>	Points: 100
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>Brief description:</p>	Points: 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>Brief description:</p>	Points: 12
<p>Total Points</p>	122

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Shepherd, Jon

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i></p>	<p>Points: 100</p>
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	<p>Points: 5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	<p>Points: 12</p>
<p>Total Points</p>	<p>117</p>

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: **Snyder, Kenneth**

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i></p>	100
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	12
<p style="text-align: right;">Total Points</p>	117

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Thompson, Jennifer

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	100
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points</p> <p><i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i></p>	Points:
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	0
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>Brief description:</i></p>	Points:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	Points:
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>Brief description:</i></p>	26
Total Points	106

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: Toland, Lisa

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i></p>	100
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	
<p>Points:</p>	12
<p>Total Points</p>	112

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: **Weber, Karen**

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points <i>Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</i></p>	0
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Brief description:</i></p>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No N/A <i>Brief description:</i></p>	
<p>Total Points</p>	0

EEL Program Qualifying Committee Initial Ranking

Applicant Name: **White, Jennifer**

	Points
<p>Minimum Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have a post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>But limited experience.</i> 	
<p>❖ Does Applicant Meet Minimum Qualifications? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes = 100 points No = 0 points Brief description of education, professional experience, and demonstrated knowledge of Brevard ecosystems:</p>	Points: 100
<p>Additional Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design. 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Brief description:</p>	Points: 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences, OR a closely related conservation field as described above? 	
<p>❖ Does applicant earn additional points for professional expertise? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Brief description:</p>	Points: 6
<p>Total Points</p>	111

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

I am familiar with ecosystems of Brevard county

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No

Carol Auer

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I served for 2 years on the Cocoa Beach Sustainability committee. I am interested in contributing to environmental protection and progress

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I have a BS in Biology and an MS in Environmental Science. I was federal oceanographer for 36 years for NOAA. The last 12 years of my career, I was a federal program manager

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

None

[Upload a Resume](#)

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Carol Auer

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

	Deborah		Heystek
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

dheystek@bellsouth.net

Email Address

165 Macaw Lane	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Merritt Island	FL	32952
City	State	Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 431-7543	
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

25 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

B.S. degree in Ecology from Florida Institute of Technology. (1979) Continue to take courses at FIT - most recently, Estuarine Ecology (2022) and Invertebrate Biology (2023),

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

Hold a UF/IFAS Advanced Florida Master Naturalist certificate (2019).

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No.

Deborah Heystek

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I own property adjacent to the Indian River lagoon (IRL) and created a 1 acre xeriscape with native plants and a living shoreline with a red mangrove buffer. For 25 years I have been demonstrating best practices for landscaping along the IRL.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

Served as officer of the Brevard county chapter of the Florida Master Naturalists for several years: secretary, president-elect, president, past president.

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Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Deborah Heystek

Brevard County, FL

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Not Submitted

Prefix Lorraine L Koss
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

lorraine.koss@gmail.com
Email Address

2115 N Indian River Drive
Home Address Suite or Apt

Cocoa FL
City State Postal Code

Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

13 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

District 1

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Lorraine L Koss

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

My Master's Degree is in Environmental Management from Duke University. I worked for 30 years in water management, policy and public education. After marrying into Brevard County, I became involved in volunteer organizations to save the Lagoon and was appointed to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee where I have served since 2017. I term out in February, 2025.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

With a background in environmental management, I have come to know Brevard County ecosystems specifically through my work for the Indian River Lagoon. Serving on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon oversight committee has helped me study everything from our unique geography to the diversity of wildlife to marine habitat. Monthly presentations by local and state experts have broadened my environmental management education way beyond the Lagoon.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

My term on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Advisory Committee expires next month, February 2025. I am currently a council member for the City of Cocoa. I will term out in 2026.

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

no

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Growing up near the Mississippi River built an appreciation in me for water and nature that led to my being a life-long advocate for water environment issues. We have one of the most diverse estuaries in the world, with an equally unique geography and variety of ecosystems.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I've sought, and continue to seek, expertise starting with a Masters Degree in Environmental Management from Duke University. My career as Deputy Director of the US Water Alliance and Senior Manager of Public Education for the Water Environment Federation prepared me to take up the cause of the Indian River Lagoon. Early on I mobilized citizens to make Cocoa one of the first municipalities to pass an ordinance banning fertilizer use during the wet season. I also organized a gala fundraiser for the initial funding of the MRC ecological health assessment analysis. In addition, I wrote the business and communications plan for that project. Later I applied and was appointed to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee. Monthly presentations and my own research has expanded my specific knowledge base of Brevard County's ecology and natural resources. Working within the policy of the referendum has taught me to respect restrictions and criteria for making recommendations based on written policy and citizen expectations.

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N/A

[Koss Resume 2025.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Lorraine L Koss

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Lorraine Koss: *A recognized leader with environmental expertise*

PRESENT:

- Elected Council Member, City of Cocoa, 4-year term, 2018 & 2022
- Appointed to the Brevard County Save the IRL Citizen Oversight Committee reporting to County Commissioners with proposal recommendations, 2017-2025
- Appointed to the Florida League of Cities Utilities and Natural Resources Policy Committee, 2019
- Appointed Space Coast Economic Development Commission Board Member, 2021
- Appointed Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization Governing Board 2018

U.S. Water Alliance • Deputy Director • 2010-2016

A policy focused national nonprofit dedicated to green infrastructure and resource recovery.

- Convened four national dialogues of diverse sector leaders, water, business, agriculture (Mississippi River Nutrient Dialogues), to reach consensus on policy recommendations; event management and participant recruitment.
- Developed the One Water Leadership Summit, an annual national conference (300 attendees) for peer exchange and education. Negotiated hotel contracts and met budget goals.
- Generated publicity and drew attention to model programs through the U.S. Water Prize, an annual ceremony and gala attended by 300 at National Geographic headquarters.
- Facilitated the Value of Water Coalition public relations campaign, providing support and development to an industry coalition of leaders to raise profile of need for investment in water infrastructure.

Water Environment Federation • Senior Manager Public Communications • 1993-2010

An education organization of state-level professional associations dedicated to water quality.

- Developed national public education program from its genesis – strategic planning, fundraising (\$250K annual budget), branding, and media relations. Mobilized network of volunteers for advocacy and knowledge sharing. Managed U.S. EPA Biosolids Public Acceptance Campaign grant (250K).
- Created numerous programs and products for target audiences including: *Water Is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen* – awareness campaign for rate-payers on the need to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure; U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize – national high school science competition culminating in annual 3-day event hosting 150 students, teachers, and parents; *WEF Teach* – annual full-day teachers workshop on water issues.
- Liaison to committees, associations and agencies forming national and grassroots coalitions, and partnerships. Extensive public speaking at U.S. Member Association conferences, Australia, Canada and China.

KOSS RESUME

Charlotte Mecklenburg Utility Department • Administrative Officer • 1987-1992

Established CMUD's community relations program. Responsible for the city's involvement in all public outreach programs including school education, National Drinking Water Week, partnerships/sponsorships, watershed festivals and cleanups, xeriscape education, historic designation of properties, community and media relations.

WTVI/Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority • Assistant to Development Director • 1982-1986

Worked under the mentorship of the Development Director assisting in all aspects of fund-raising for public broadcasting. Responsible for membership records; on-air membership drive promotions; recruitment, training, and organization of more than 100 volunteers per drive including solicitation of corporate sponsorships for volunteer expenses. Stage management and camera operation for *After Dark* concert series.

EDUCATION:

Duke University • Durham, N.C. • Masters in Environmental Management

Trinity University • Washington D.C. • Bachelors in Communications

PAST APPOINTMENTS:

Groundwater Foundation Technical Review Board, 2000-2005

Keep America Beautiful National Public Education Advisory Board, 1994-1997

Chair & Founder of the NC Water for People chapter, 1989-1992

AWARDS:

Associations Advance America Honor Roll, *Water Is Life*

National Association of Environmental Professionals, *The Water Sourcebook*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Water Sourcebook* series

American Society of Association Executives, *WEF Teach*

Charlotte Mecklenburg Earth Coalition, *Water Woman*

CERTIFICATIONS:

Keep Brevard Beautiful Lagoon Friendly Lawn

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Master Gardener

Yoga Alliance, registered teacher

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC): Submitted

Ms. Karen A Weber
Prefix First Name Middle initial Last Name

karen_ann514@yahoo.com
Email Address

8500 Rosalind Avenue #8
Home Address Suite or Apt

Cape Canaveral FL 32920
City State Postal Code

Mobile: (406) 671-4568
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

1 year

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
 The EEL Selection and Management Committee serves as an expert volunteer scientific advisory committee to the County Commission on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands with the EEL Program protected area network in Brevard County. **The committee also has two seats for experts in the fields of business, finance or real estate.** Please complete the following information and **include your resume as an attachment** when submitting this application for consideration as a volunteer member of the Selection and Management Committee.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your willingness to serve on the committee for a minimum term of two (2) years.

I agree that I am willing to serve on the committee for two years

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please confirm your ability to attend meetings in-person

You agree that you are available to attend in-person meetings

I Agree

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide a brief overview of your background and expertise related to the following committee member requirements: Four-year postsecondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum of 6 years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design. OR a background and expertise in either business, finance or real estate.

I have a B.S. in Environmental Engineering. I have worked in the environmental field for 25 years. I have experience conducting Environmental Assessments including NEPA consultations for multiple federal, state and private entities. I have prepared and administered MS4 discharge permits, and construction stormwater pollution and prevention plans. I have conducting Phase I and Phase II assessments on properties ranging from an asbestos manufacturing facility to previous large-scale farming operations.

Question applies to Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee (SMC)

Please provide an overview of your knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems, habitat types and conservation land management techniques. NOT required for applicants applying for the positions related to business, finance or real estate.

I am aware that scrub ecosystem in Bevard County is declining providing less natural habitat for native animal species. I know there is an ongoing effort to restore water quality and protect the mangroves, marshes, reefs and dune within the Indian River Lagoon system. Being fairly new to Brevard County I'm still familiarizing myself the with the challenges the county is facing in protecting its natural spaces.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I enjoy, fishing, camping and exploring State Parks.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

As stated above, I have a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and have worked in the environmental field for 25 years and am familiar with federal and state environmental regulation I am also a certified Stormwater Compliance Inspector. I believe this background would be an asset to the Committee. I think it's vital to take an active role in protecting natural spaces.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

No accommodation.

[K. Weber Resume 1.16.25.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

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Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Ms. Karen A Weber

Karen A. Weber

8500 Rosalind Avenue, Cape Canaveral, Florida

406.671.4568

Karen_ann514@yahoo.com

Summary

Performance driven professional with over 25 years' experience in the environmental and engineering fields. Ms. Weber has worked for a variety of clients including federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector, with expertise in sampling, data analysis, environmental site assessment, spill prevention control and countermeasure plans, stormwater pollution prevention plans, construction oversight and project management.

Experience

SCS Engineers, Florida

July 2024-Present

- Responsible for scheduling and conducting Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and NEPA studies.
- Responsible for scheduling and conducting Phase II Environmental Site Assessments
- Brownfields reporting

Terracon Consultants, New Orleans Louisiana

January 2021-April 2024

- Responsible for scheduling and conducting Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and NEPA studies.
- Prepared Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans for commercial and industrial facilities.
- Prepared Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for commercial and industrial facilities.
- Conducted SWPPP and SPCC compliance inspections at commercial and industrial facilities.
- AHERA Certified Asbestos Inspector
- Certified Stormwater Inspector

City of Billings, Billings Montana

May 2016-November 2020

- Administered City of Billings MS4 Stormwater Permit.
- Authored local ordinances addressing illicit discharges to the City's storm drain system
- Conducted community outreach activities educating the public on common pollutant sources
- Drafted Sampling Plans
- Conducted quarterly sampling as required by the General Permit
- Analyzed sampling results for reporting to the Department of Environmental Quality
- Enforced general permit compliance
- Completed dry weather and wet weather monitoring plans
- Certified Stormwater Pollution Plan Administrator
- Region 8 EPA pretreatment board member
- Communication with state and federal agencies as well as the general public regarding discharge permits
- Conducted Public Involvement meetings for proposed public works projects
- State of Montana stormwater planning committee



Karen A. Weber

8500 Rosalind Avenue, Cape Canaveral, Florida

406.671.4568

Karen_ann514@yahoo.com

HDR Engineering Inc., Billings Montana

April 2006- May 2016

- Conducted Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, NEPA studies including agency and land owner consultations
- Prepared Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Reports
- Threatened and endangered species evaluations, and mitigation measures
- Aided in the design of various water and wastewater facilities as well as permit preparation and master plan studies
- Completed Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure plans
- Completed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
- Facility Siting and Permitting
- Construction oversight
- Knowledge of federal and State of Montana discharge standards
- Office Safety Coordinator

Terracon Consultants, Billings Montana

April 2004- April 2006

- Responsible for scheduling and conducting Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and NEPA studies.
- Completed groundwater assessments and monitoring at various MDEQ LUST, oil, and gas facilities
- Conducted NESHAP demolition and remodel Asbestos inspections, as well as final visual inspections and air clearances at the completion of abatement projects
- Performed personal exposure monitoring for chemicals including acetone, lead, and particulate matter
- State certified Asbestos Contractor Supervisor Training instructor.
- Provided assistance in geotechnical lab work, including gradations, Atterberg limits, moisture, resistivity, and MD curves
- Excellent communication with clients and state and federal agencies

Education

Bachelor of Science – Environmental Engineering

Montana Tech – March 2000

References

Provided upon request

Board Meeting Date

3/11/25

Item Number: I.1 - Science applicants paul

Motion By: KA - KD -

Second By: KD - KA -

Nay By: _____

Alternates
KD
TA

Commissioner	DISTRICT	AYE	NAY
Commissioner Delaney	1	✓ ✓ ✓	
Vice Chair Goodson	2	✓ ✓	
Commissioner Adkinson	3	✓ ✓	
Commissioner Altman	5	✓ ✓	
Chairman Feltner	4	✓ ✓ ✓	

Board Meeting Date

3/11/25

Item Number: I-1. Business Finance / Real Estate
Mr. Miller TIC - Burton Miller
 Motion By: KD KA KD
alternates
 Second By: TA / KD TA
 Nay By: _____

Commissioner	DISTRICT	AYE	NAY
Commissioner Delaney	1	✓ ✓ ✓	
Vice Chair Goodson	2	✓ ✓ ✓	
Commissioner Adkinson	3	✓ ✓ ✓	
Commissioner Altman	5	✓ ✓ ✓	
Chairman Feltner	4	✓ ✓ ✓	