

**PINELLAS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL WORKGROUP**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2004**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Environmental Work Group:** James Richter, Jason Mickel, Dianne Wheatley Giliotti, Joyce King, Michael Miller

**Pinellas County Staff:** Gordon Beardslee, Liz Freeman, Samantha Shorr-Zigante, Joe Lupardus, Bruce Rinker, Cliff Still, Eric Fehrmann

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Welcome and Introductions

- Gordon Beardslee, Pinellas County Planning Department Administrator, welcomed everyone and began introductions.
- Joe Lupardus Operations Manager of the Pinellas County Culture, Education and Leisure Department, Bruce Rinker, Environmental Lands Division Administrator of the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management Eric Fehrmann, Program Manager of the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management and Cliff Still, Environmental Manager of the Pinellas County Development Review Services Department were introduced.

Review September 9<sup>th</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Summaries

- There were no revisions made to the September meeting summaries.

Natural Systems and Living Resources Section of the Natural, Historic & Cultural Resources Element Discussion

- The workgroup reviewed and discussed the goals, objectives and policies of the *Natural Systems and Living Resources Section* of the Natural, Historic & Cultural Resources Element.
- Environmental Land vs. Parkland
- Joyce asked for further clarification regarding where the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management stops managing land because it's considered parkland.
  - Eric said staff members from the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management and the Culture, Education and Leisure Department work together to do this.
    - For example, the Environmental Management Department continually provides advice to the Culture, Education and Leisure Department.
    - Eric said the newer parks, especially, are developed with minimal/low environmental impact. Overall, the Culture, Education and Leisure Department staff and Environmental Management Department staff work closely on park development activities.
  - Joyce asked what happens if there is a conflict in goals? She expressed concern about not just active recreation but other uses that impact our parks (e.g. film production).
  - Joe said that there are different policies for different types of parks.
  - Bruce commented appropriate management plans are needed for every park.
  - Dianne added that it seems staff is considering recreation first; environmental balance is important.

Spoil Islands

- Dianne asked whom the new barrier islands forming belong to – whether they belong to the state or are sovereign lands.
- Eric said newly formed spoil islands are sovereign lands.

Review Goals, Objectives and Policies and Make Recommendations

- Gordon suggested that the workgroup please review the recommendations closely because at the next meeting they would be voting on which policies to move forward.

Additional Items

- Gordon told the workgroup that the handout titled *Recreation and Open Space Element Glossary* was open for discussion.
- As the workgroup asked what would happen next, Liz said that they could be on the mailing list as County staff continues the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process.
- Due to Veteran's Day, the next Pinellas County Environmental Workgroup meeting will be held Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Assignments for Next Meeting

- Planning staff will provide the workgroup with some additional information regarding the status of County involvement in managing the Gateway tract that was annexed by the City of St. Petersburg.
- The workgroup will continue to review the goals, objectives and policies and then let staff know what recommendations they have for the Board of County Commissioners.

At this point, with no further questions, the meeting concluded.