

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FORUM**  
**Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center**  
**Thursday, November 2, 2006, 4:30 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Approved by Forum at December 7, 2006 Meeting*

Attendees:

1. Darden Rice	Forum Member, Co-Chair
2. Dr. Gabriel Vargo	Forum Member, Co-Chair
3. Dave Kandz	Forum Member
4. Dr. Jerry Smith	Forum Member
5. Bruce Hasbrouck	Forum Member
6. Barbara Hoffman	Forum Member
7. Lindsay Cross (for Holly Greening)	Forum Member, Alternate
8. Bill Stokes	Forum Member
9. Ray Wunderlich III	Forum Member
10. Jan Allyn (For Bruce Turley)	Forum Member, Alternate
11. Mark Mueller (for Melissa Grigione)	Forum Member, Alternate
12. Tom Muntz	Forum Member
13. Doug Robison	Forum Member
14. Walt Hoskins (with Barbara Hoffman)	Forum Member, Alternate
15. Steve Spratt	County Administrator
16. Elizabeth Warren	Assistant County Administrator
17. Will Davis	Pinellas County Environmental Mgmt.
18. Andy Squires	Pinellas County Environmental Mgmt.
19. Jewel Cole	Pinellas County Attorney
20. Dr. H. Bruce Rinker	Pinellas County Environmental Lands
21. Lisa Baltus	Pinellas County Environmental Lands
22. Dr. Cathy Flegel	Pinellas County Environmental Lands
23. Lynn Smith	Pinellas County Environmental Lands
24. Holly Shiralipour	Pinellas County Environmental Lands
25. Paul Cozzie	Pinellas County CEL
26. Dave Slonena	Pinellas County Utilities
27. Joe Morrissey	Pinellas County Attorney
28. Mathew Poling	Citizen
29. Tom Reese	Citizen
30. Sidney Crawford	Citizen
31. Jim Garvey	Citizen
32. Bob Loos	Citizen
33. Cathie Foster	Citizen
34. Rich McLean	Citizen
35. Mary Burrell	Citizen
36. Barbara Schultz	Citizen
37. Theresa Blackwell	<i>St. Petersburg Times</i>
38. John Miolla	Citizen

**Handouts:** November 2, 2006 Meeting Agenda; Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2006; Project Timetables for Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division and Pinellas County Parks; Southwest Florida Water Management District Memo and Pinellas County Utilities Memo.

**I. Welcome and Introduction:**

- Co-Chair Ms. Darden Rice welcomed Forum Members and the public to the meeting. She pointed out public comments are very important and appreciated. Forms were made available for the public to address agenda items during the meeting during two time periods reserved in the schedule for this purpose. Dr. Gabe Vargo substituted as co-chair for Ms. Holly Greening.
- Forum members and County staff members introduced themselves.

**II. Sunshine Law:**

- Ms. Jewel Cole spoke briefly to ESF members, explaining that the original intent of the Forum was as a fact-finding entity. Since then, she stated that she had witnessed several meetings and much growth and change and that the Forum should function henceforth under the Florida “Sunshine Law.” Ms. Cole pointed out to members that they already operate as a “Sunshine” body via open meetings, public notice, published minutes, and opportunities for public comment. However, discussions between Forum members about issues on the Forum’s agenda should be limited to the Forum at publicly noticed meetings. Further, Ms. Cole directed that the messaging board be removed from the ESF website.
- A lengthy discussion followed with many questions directed to Ms. Cole. Members expressed their concern working as a “Sunshine” body and indicated they may need to resign from the Forum. Several members stated that they would find it difficult to work with colleagues in other advocacy groups since those groups also discuss Forum issues. Such discussion could violate the “Sunshine Law.” Consideration was also given to operating as an independent task force. Mr. Spratt indicated his desire to keep the Forum as County designated and for it to be an embedded entity that becomes part of County policy making. Mr. Davis encouraged the members not to resign, but also asked members to let the County know if they will need to withdraw from the Forum. Based upon the Ms. Cole’s strong recommendation, the Forum accepted that it will now operate in the “Sunshine.”

**III. Announcements:**

- Ms. Rice suggested a short break. She called the meeting back to order at 6:15 p.m. and invited Mr. Davis to make an important announcement about an honor recently bestowed on the County.

- Mr. Davis announced that Pinellas County received the coveted “Green Local Government” designation on October 30, 2006. This is a prestigious award given by the Florida Green Building Coalition. Pinellas County is the first jurisdiction in the State to receive this designation as a silver award-winner.

IV. **Additional Agenda Items:**

- Ms. Rice requested additional items for the agenda. None were offered.

V. **Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2006:**

- Ms. Barbara Hoffman asked that a clarification be made to the October 5, 2006 meeting summary, located on Page 6, Item C. Ms. Hoffman felt strongly that the sentence should read, “Further discussion followed and Ms. Greening charted the preliminary and unofficial pros and cons of such a project.”
- A request was made to correct the spelling of Sidney Crawford’s name.
- Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck made a motion to approve with exceptions noted; it was seconded by Ms. Jan Allyn.

VI. **Forum Business:**

- ESF member replacement:  
Dr. Vargo informed the members that two Eckerd College professors had declined an invitation to join due to time constraints. Mr. Andy Squires added that Mr. Dave Sumpter had withdrawn.
- Review of comments from ESF website message board:  
Ms. Barbara Hoffman said she wished to discuss the pumping issue at Brooker Creek Preserve but would wait for this agenda item.
- Future agenda topics:  
Mr. Doug Robison said the Forum’s issues seem to be focused on the Brooker Creek Preserve but understands that the Forum’s business is countywide. He asked if major environmental permits will be subject to the Forum’s review and discussion before they go before the Board of County Commissioners? Mr. Steve Spratt responded that the Forum will deal with County properties and environmental issues under the County’s jurisdiction. Mr. Robison recommended that the Forum look at TMDL’s (total maximum daily load). Mr. Davis commented that the County is trying not to miss projects on County environmental lands and parks appropriate for the Forum’s review but be cautioned about expanding their purview until they were caught up on the parks and environmental lands projects. Mr. Davis replied that the County will continue to submit projects significant to the preserves and parks at this time.

VII. **Golf Course Irrigation and Well-Pumping at Brooker Creek Preserve:**

- Mr. Spratt clarified that the County has no intention of moving forward until this Forum had a chance to review and discuss.

- Subcommittee report:

Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck reported that, given the lateness, he wished to postpone his 20-minute powerpoint presentation until the next meeting. Ms. Hoffman asked if the subcommittee looked at the legalities pertinent to the golf course irrigation. Mr. Hasbrouck responded that the members of the subcommittee did not feel qualified to discuss the legal aspects and looked at other aspects as shown in the powerpoint presentation. He asked that the matter be tabled until next meeting. Ms. Hoffman referred to her message on the Forum's message board: the Utilities Department wishes to pump from the Preserve to conserve potable water, but the water to be pumped out of the Preserve is also potable. Mr. Ray Wunderlich thought the water from the Preserve would not be the potable sort, but this was corrected in the discussion. Ms. Hoffman replied that the water might be contaminated by saltwater intrusion if too much is pumped.

VIII. **Recreation Fields at Brooker Creek Preserve**

- Mr. Davis provided a brief description of the timeline before work could progress with the recreation fields. Mr. Spratt assured members that the County will not remove the tree plantation for the proposed recreation fields until the Forum has had time to review this issue. Mr. Wunderlich asked about the timeline. Mr. Davis gave an approximate date of September/October 2007.

IX. **Introduction to Wall Springs Tract Project**

- Ms. Rice asked Mr. Paul Cozzie if his presentation was time-sensitive. Mr. Cozzie responded that it was not and agreed that his comments could be postponed until the next meeting.

X. **Time Lines for County Projects**

- Mr. Squires referred to a handout on the timelines for various County projects for the preserves and parks.

XI. **Public Comments**

- Ms. Rice pointed out that the only individual with a request to speak had already left for the evening.
- Ms. Barbara Hoffman thanked the staff of the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center for hosting the Forum and asked about the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm. The next meeting for the Environmental Science Forum will be held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center on December 7, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.