

Environmental Science Forum (ESF)
Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center
St. Petersburg, FL
Thursday, April 3, 2008
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Forum at May 1, 2008 Meeting

Attendees:

1.	Cathy Harrelson	Forum Member, Co-Chair
2.	Doug Robison	Forum Member, Co-Chair
3.	Joe Maier	Forum Member
4.	Tom Muntz	Forum Member
5.	Bruce Hasbrouck	Forum Member
6.	Ann Paul	Forum Member
7.	Barbara Hoffman	Forum Member
8.	Mark Mueller	Forum Member
9.	Dr. Randy Runnels	Forum Member
10.	Elizabeth (Beth) Connor	Alternate for Ray Wunderlich
11.	Robert McConnell	Forum Member
12.	Andy Squires	Pinellas County Environmental Management
13.	Dr. H. Bruce Rinker	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
14.	Dr. Steve Harper	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
15.	Lisa Baltus	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
16.	Lynn Smith	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
17.	Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County Planning Department
18.	Liz Freeman	Pinellas County Planning Department
19.	Tom Crandall	Pinellas County Utilities Department
20.	Melissa Seixas	Progress Energy
21.	Amy Dierolf	Progress Energy
22.	Susanne Ennis	Progress Energy
23.	Gail Simpson	Progress Energy
24.	Sid Crawford	Citizen
25.	Tom Reese	Citizen

Handouts: Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum (ESF) Agenda, ESF Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2008, Timeline for the Update of the Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan, List of Voting Members and Alternates for ESF, Meeting Summary for ESF - Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan Subcommittee, County Staff Consideration of, and Ideas Building upon the Friends of Brooker Creek Proposal to Protect the Brooker Creek Preserve.

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. He welcomed Forum members and the public to the meeting. Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) Connor was introduced as Mr. Ray Wunderlich's alternate for the Forum.

II. Additional Agenda Items:

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison called for additional agenda items.
- Ms. Ann Paul suggested the Forum be provided a briefing on the County's budget reductions for the Environmental Lands Division as well as CEL.
- Mr. Andy Squires explained the County cannot yet provide particulars, but agreed to consider adding this item to next month's Forum agenda.
- Ms. Cathy Harrelson gave a brief update on a fertilizer bill now in the FL Senate.
- Mr. Andy Squires welcomed new Forum member Mr. Robert McConnell who was recently accepted by the Interim County Administrator to serve on the Forum.

III. Approval of March 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous Forum meeting; Ms. Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. BCP Management Plan Subcommittee Report on Land Use/Zoning Proposal:

- Subcommittee chairperson Ms. Barbara Hoffman, Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck, Ms. Ann Paul, and Mr. Jake Stowers meet with Mr. Andy Squires and Ms. Liz Freeman at Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center on March 17, 2008. The subcommittee recommended five (5) considerations to the proposal as provided in the handout for the meeting. A copy of the handout is attached (see below following the minutes).

Ms. Hoffman explained each recommendation after which a brief member discussion followed. The motions were as follows:

- Consideration 1: Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck made a motion to accept Consideration 1 as recommended by the subcommittee. Ms. Cathy Harrelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Considerations 2 and 3: Ms. Ann Paul made a motion to accept Considerations 2 and 3 as recommended by the subcommittee. Ms. Elizabeth Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration 4: Ms. Elizabeth Connor made a motion to accept Consideration 4 as recommended by the subcommittee. Mr. Mark Mueller seconded the motion. Mr. Tom Muntz made a friendly amendment to the motion, moving that the list be alphabetized. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Mueller. Motion passed; 8 for and 1 against.
- Consideration 5: Ms. Elizabeth Connor made a motion to accept Consideration 5 as recommended by the subcommittee. Ms. Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion passed; 9 for, 1 against. Mr. Mark Mueller modified the recommendation to suggest that the word "improvement" be replaced by a more appropriate term from the County's Planning Department. Mr. Beardslee and Ms. Freeman agreed to try and provide such a term.
- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison recognized Interim Director Mr. Tom Crandall with the Utilities Department. Mr. Crandall informed the members that the Department may object to some of the Forum's recommendations due to long-term planning uncertainties. The recommended overlay changes north of Keystone road were of particular concern.

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison asked Ms. Lisa Baltus to provide an update on the timeline for the Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan. Ms. Lisa Baltus reviewed the updated timeline.

V. Progress Energy Transmission Line:

- Dr. H. Bruce Rinker introduced Progress Energy staff members Ms. Melissa Seixas and Ms. Gail Simpson, representing the company's community relations division that has hosted recent meetings with neighborhood associations and conservation organizations. Ms. Seixas introduced Ms. Susanne Ennis, an attorney for Progress Energy, and Ms. Amy Dierolf, an environmental specialist for Progress Energy. Ms. Gail Simpson provided a synopsis of Progress Energy's energy plans and needs for the region along with a timeline for these plans. Much more information can be found on Progress Energy's website.
- Forum members and Progress Energy staff engaged in a discussion about the presentation.

VI. ESF Membership:

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison spoke briefly about the updated membership list for the Forum, calling attention once again to Mr. Robert McConnell as a new member. Mr. Robison also noted that the membership stands at 15 members, in conformance with the Forum's bylaws.
- Mr. Tom Muntz asked if the July meeting might be cancelled due to the July 4th holiday. Mr. Andy Squires noted that if a July meeting is needed, it is currently scheduled to occur one week later (on July 10) to avoid the holiday weekend.

VII. Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Meeting Summary
ESF – Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan Subcommittee

Date & Time: March 17, 2008, 3:00-4:45 pm

Location: Conference Room, Weedon Island Preserve Cultural & Natural History Center

ESF Members Attending: Bruce Hasbrouck, Barbara Hoffman (chair), Ann Paul, Jake Stowers

County Staff Attending: Liz Freeman, Andy Squires

Purpose: To develop recommendations for ESF consideration concerning the *County Staff Consideration of, and Ideas Building upon the Friends of Brooker Creek Proposal to PROTECT THE BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE (As of March 4, 2008)*

Consideration 1

We were concerned that the definitions and descriptions of the PWR-1 and PWR-2 overlays allowed for potential private uses/abuses of Brooker Creek water. We strived to come up with language that would ensure that water pumped from Brooker Creek would be placed into the public water supply system.

Recommendation: Throughout the document, replace the words *facilitate provision of high quality potable water and/or reduce potable water demand* with the phrase *facilitate provision of the public water supply*.

Consideration 2

The land that is the northeastern section of the proposed PWR-2 overlay is one of the more unspoiled areas of the entire preserve. Other than being logged early in this century, it has not been farmed or ranched, and contains upland habitat found nowhere else in the Preserve.

Recommendation: Change the PWR-2 overlay for this area to PWR-1 (see proposed map).

Consideration 3

The area north of Trinity Blvd. is relatively untouched and appears to be too small for vertical structures.

Recommendation: Change the PWR-2 overlay for this area to PWR-1 (see proposed map).

Consideration 4

The “Uses” section of the P-RM Category and PWR overlays (page 1) lists a variety of uses for the lands they depict. Even though these uses are not hierarchical, and every use listed holds the same weight, we were concerned that because wellfield uses were listed first, the perception may be that wellfield uses supercede those for wildlife, management, and passive recreation.

Recommendation: Change the order of uses so that management and passive recreation uses are first and wellfield uses are last.

Consideration 5

Page 2, 2nd bullet, the word *improvements* is used to describe parking and other site plan related developments. Although the word *improvements* in this case may be a planning term, we did not see these activities as improvements, but as developments.

Recommendation: If possible, replace the term *improvements* with the word *developments*.

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE PROPOSED FUTURE LAND USE MAP

(ESF - BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE MGT. PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE SUGGESTED VERSION)

