

**Environmental Science Forum (ESF)**  
**Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center**  
**St. Petersburg, FL**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2008**  
**4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Approved by Forum at June 5, 2008 Meeting

Attendees:

- |     |                   |  |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1.  | Doug Robison      | Forum Member, Co-Chair                       |
| 2.  | Cathy Harrelson   | Forum Member, Co-Chair                       |
| 3.  | Tom Muntz         | Forum Member                                 |
| 4.  | Ann Paul          | Forum Member                                 |
| 5.  | Barbara Hoffman   | Forum Member                                 |
| 6.  | Robert McConnell  | Forum Member                                 |
| 7.  | Ray Wunderlich    | Forum Member                                 |
| 8.  | Mark Mueller      | Forum Member                                 |
| 9.  | Lindsay Cross     | Alternate for Holly Greening                 |
| 10. | Jewel White Cole  | Pinellas County Attorney                     |
| 11. | William Davis     | Pinellas County Environmental Management     |
| 12. | Andy Squires      | Pinellas County Environmental Management     |
| 13. | Dr. Steve Harper  | Pinellas Count Environmental Lands Division  |
| 14. | Lisa Baltus       | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 15. | Lynn Smith        | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 16. | Sid Crawford      | Citizen                                      |
| 17. | Theresa Blackwell | <i>St. Petersburg Times</i>                  |

**Handouts:** Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum Agenda; ESF Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2008, Brooker Creek Preserve Draft Management Plan.

**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.

**II. Additional Agenda Items:**

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison called for addition agenda items.
- Ms. Ann Paul asked for an update on the County's budget reductions for the Environmental Lands Division (ELD) as well as Culture, Education, and Leisure (CEL). Mr. Will Davis provided a brief update of ELD budget reductions as related to mandatory and non-mandatory services. He suggested members go to Pinellas County website (<http://www.pinellascounty.org/budget/presentations09.htm>) for the Office of Budget and Management's April 29th presentation that describes the FY09 budget process.

**III. Approval of April 3, 2008:**

- Ms. Barbara Hoffman made a motion to accept the minutes; Ms. Ann Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Brooker Creek Preserve Draft Management Plan (Lisa Baltus):**

- Mr. Will Davis introduced Ms. Lisa Baltus, reminding members that land use and zoning issues related to Brooker Creek Preserve were discussed last month.
- Ms. Lisa Baltus provided an overview of the management plan to Forum members and public that included the following points. It was noted that the draft plan is now posted on the County's website at [www.pinellascounty.org/BrookerCreekPreservePlan](http://www.pinellascounty.org/BrookerCreekPreservePlan).

i. INTRODUCTION

1. Location and size
2. Management of Natural Resources as primary focus
3. Comparison of 1993 and 2007 boundaries

ii. SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Location of Eldridge-Wilde Wellfield
2. General History
3. Ownership and funding for acquisition
4. Proposed FLUM & Zoning proposed changes
5. FCT-P2000/FL Forever funded parcels
6. BCC Strategic Plan and Strategic Business Plan 2007-2012
7. Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan
8. Pinellas County Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan
9. Ordinance 2-6
10. Wellhead Protection Ordinance 90-2
11. Five BCC resolutions
12. Progress Energy
13. City of Oldsmar
14. Archaeological and Cultural Resources
15. Staffing
16. Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, Inc.
17. Concessions, Leases, Licenses, Rentals, & Permits

iii. SECTION 2. NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Topography
2. Soils and plant communities
3. Basins and watersheds
4. Channels of Brooker Creek
5. State-listed wildlife species
6. State-listed plant species
7. Invasive exotic plant species

iv. SECTION 3. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Completed restoration projects (19 Sites, >200 acres)
2. Future restoration projects (20 Sites, approx. 630 acres)
3. Prescribed burning\
4. Mechanical vegetation thinning

5. Invasive Exotic Species Control
  6. Timber
  7. Research, monitoring, and species inventories
  8. Pinellas County Biological Field Station
  9. Land acquisition
  10. Security including LIMA
- v. SECTION 4. PUBLIC RECREATION
1. Existing resource-based recreation facilities such as trails and campsite
  2. b. Improvements to existing resource-based recreation facilities
  3. New resource-based recreation such as trails and canopy walkway
- vi. SECTION 5. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
1. Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center
- A brief Q/A session followed about the timeline for the plan.
  - Co-Chair Doug Robison led a discussion on how best to review the draft Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan. After a lengthy discussion, the Forum decided that members will read the draft and make notes/comments in the following categories for next month's meeting.
    - i. Editorial or grammatical changes
    - ii. Technical – flaws and inaccuracies
    - iii. Policy issues
    - iv. Omitted items that should be addressed
  - Ms. Barbara Hoffman brought to the attention of the members that items one and two could be done simply by handing staff “red-lined” page corrections to allow the Forum to concentrate on the science and policy aspects of the plan.
  - Co-Chairs Mr. Doug Robison and Ms. Cathy Harrelson will draft a letter to Forum members that outlines the methods to be used to critique the plan. The letter will emphasize the importance of attending the June 5, 2008 meeting at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center. The letter will be distributed by Mr. Andy Squires.

**V. Public Comment: None**

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.