

Environmental Science Forum (ESF)
Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center
Tarpon Springs, FL
Thursday, June 5, 2008
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Forum at July 10, 2008 Meeting

Attendees:

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| 1. | Doug Robison | Forum Member, Co-Chair |
| 2. | Cathy Harrelson | Forum Member, Co-Chair |
| 3. | Ray Wunderlich | Forum Member |
| 4. | Barbara Hoffman | Forum Member |
| 5. | Mark Mueller | Forum Member |
| 6. | Lindsay Cross | Alternate for Holly Greening |
| 7. | Howard Rutherford | Forum Member |
| 8. | Robert McConnell | Forum Member |
| 9. | David Bruzek | Alternate for Tom Muntz |
| 10. | Bruce Hasbrouck | Forum Member |
| 11. | Joseph Maier | Forum Member |
| 12. | Dr. Randy Runnels | Forum Member |
| 13. | Jewel White Cole | Pinellas County Attorney |
| 14. | Andy Squires | Pinellas County Environmental Management |
| 15. | Dr. Bruce Rinker | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 16. | Dr. Steve Harper | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 17. | Lisa Baltus | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 18. | Lynn Smith | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 19. | Theresa Blackwell | <i>St. Petersburg Times</i> |
| 20. | Scott Coulter | Citizen |

Handouts: Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum Agenda; ESF Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2008; List of Voting Members and Alternates; FLERA 2008 Annual Conference information.

I. Welcome and Introduction:

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m. with a general welcome and introductions.

II. Additional Agenda Items:

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison called for additional agenda items.
- Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck brought to the members' attention that Ms. Ann Paul asked about budget updates for the Environmental Lands Division, the

Environmental Lands Unit for the Sheriff's Department (also called LIMA), and the CEL Department (Parks).

- Mr. Andy Squires mentioned there is no additional budget information at this time. Mr. Paul Cozzie, Bureau Director for the CEL Department, offered to provide an update to ESF members in July or August. The Department of Environmental Management will also provide an update as details emerge from the County's budget process.

III. Approval of May 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

- Ms. Lindsay Cross made a motion to accept the minutes from May 1, 2008; Ms. Barbara Hoffman seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. ESF Member Appointments and Reappointments:

- Mr. Andy Squires announced that all original Forum Members appointed two years ago have been officially reappointed by Interim County Administrator Mr. Fred Marquis. A letter stating these reappointments was sent to the Forum Co-Chairs from Mr. Marquis this week. Two members notified Mr. Squires that they can no longer participate as full-time Forum members (viz., Ms. Holly Greening and Mr. Joseph Maier) Ms. Holly Greening recommended Ms. Lindsay Cross, presently her alternate, as her replacement to which Mr. Marquis agreed. Mr. Joseph Maier agreed to be an alternate for the nominee of the League of Women Voters assuming the nominee receives Forum member approval. Ms. Darden Rice has not yet responded to inquiries about her willingness to continue service on the Forum.
- Mr. Squires presented a certificate of recognition and gratitude to each outgoing Forum member to recognize his/her outstanding contributions to Pinellas County Government. In Ms. Holly Greening's absence, Ms. Lindsay Cross accepted the certificate.
- Mr. Squires mentioned that Mr. Jacob Stowers will continue to serve as a Forum member.
- Ms. Cathy Harrelson asked if she might recommend Joseph Dorsey, the director of the Environmental Studies Program at USF St. Petersburg, for membership. Mr. Andy Squires suggested that Ms. Harrelson speak with Dr. Dorsey to gauge his interest, and if interested, request his résumé for review by county staff including the Interim County Administrator (Mr. Marquis).

V. Draft Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan – Comments and Discussion:

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison reviewed the previously agreed-upon criteria for Forum members to evaluate the draft Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan (see previous ESF minutes). Editorial and grammatical "red lined changes" will be handed to ELD staff today without comment. The

three other categories (viz., technical flaws or inaccuracies, policy issues, and omissions) will be discussed during today's meeting.

- Co-Chair Mr. Robison asked for a volunteer scribe to capture members' comments for the record. Ms. Lindsay Cross volunteered to write these on large post-it pages. Mr. Robison then opened the floor for comments and general discussion.
- Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck began the discussion by saying the plan was thorough, complete, and well-organized. He commended Division staff for the document. Mr. Doug Robison agreed, adding that the plan presents information correctly and succinctly with a balance of technical substance.
- Forum members had the following specific comments and discussions on the draft Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan:
 1. Update species lists to reflect current state and federal regulations and listings.
 2. Include only consolidated lists of flora and fauna. Remove listed species and exotic lists.
 3. Quantify/qualify the presence of exotic species (e.g., species shifts and changes over time).
 4. Add a discussion on the Division's draft five-year strategic plan.
 5. Update lists of nuisance species for consistency with references.
 6. Provide proper future land use/zoning designations for all portions of the Wilde-Trust property to be purchased as an acquisition to the Brooker Creek Preserve.
 7. Clarify regulations and expectations for public recreational fishing in the Four Lakes Hammock area of the Preserve.
 8. Provide signage in the Anclothe River area of the Preserve for fishing and boating.
 9. Discussion on mountain biking versus horseback riding inside the Brooker Creek Preserve.
 10. Develop criteria for judging the appropriateness of proposals for future public uses inside the Preserve and, by way of extension, to all parcels managed by the Division.
 11. Provide text on recreational use determinations and limiting access points.
 12. Optimize established trails for the visually impaired.
 13. Discussion on the proposal to establish a public trail in the southernmost section of the Preserve adjacent to Oldsmar, especially considering its remoteness and issues of security and fire risk; a need to discourage new access points for the public into the Preserve.
 14. Consider alternative permeable surfaces for future roads and parking areas.
 15. Indicate the need to provide a comprehensive picture of the Preserve's hydrology and water needs, including its link to ecological restoration and local flooding; also increase the Division's emphasis on community engagement via its educational

16. Question was posed if ongoing scrutiny of the Utilities overlays could occur rather than wait until 2023 as specified in the draft.
 17. Discussion on the ambient water quality monitoring that shows impediments to dissolved oxygen and pH and how this was probably due to the natural wetlands.
 18. Discussion concerning whether the perimeter fencing impedes the movement of some wildlife.
 19. Discussion on the current prescribed fire program.
 20. Consider adding a link in the Plan to climate change
 21. Could note the potential future spur of the Pinellas Trail to the Brooker Creek Preserve Keystone Road entrance.
- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison invited public comment.

VI. Citizen Comments:

- Questions focused on the apparent change in Preserve acreage (due to the correcting the acreage by removing the Progress Energy owned property from the Preserve and the reassignment of parcels to the Anclote Islands Management Area) and on community interest for public access from Oldsmar into the southernmost portion of the Preserve while recognizing county concerns about safety and security, localized flooding, trespass, and wildfire along with already-existing trails at nearby Mobbly Bayou Preserve.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm with a light repast provided through the generosity of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, Inc.