

**SEMINOLE COUNTY LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE/NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING April 28, 2010**

ATTENDANCE:

Members in attendance:

Mark Brandenburg
Barbara Whittier
Trish Walden
Tom Boyko
Wes Borgman, DVM

Staff:

Jim Duby

LOCATION:

Econ River Wilderness Area

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

Mark Brandenburg called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The committee reviewed and approved minutes from meetings in December 2009 as well as January, February and March of 2010.

Mark re-opened the topic of a possible land swap with Mr. Lou Tulp for discussion with new information regarding the presence of a Native American shell midden on site. The group discussed whether this special consideration would change their initial consensus and they agreed it did not.

The possibility of a grazing lease was then discussed. There were concerns and questions regarding whether other Counties practiced this type of land use and what benefits if any the County would realize from such an agreement. The group also discussed length of lease and in-kind services in lieu of payment. Jim shared what he knew regarding the leases and in-kind services such as mowing and exotic species control. He stated that some agencies consider this an interim land use until such time as funds are available to restore the habitat. It was agreed that more information was needed to make a recommendation. Jim agreed to gather information from other agency grazing leases, specifically annual revenues per acre and or associated in-kind services. Jim will also ask Mr. Tulp if there was a minimum time period he would be looking for in the lease. Mark agreed to contact other counties to inquire if they were in fact using grazing leases.

NEW BUSINESS:

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Mark turned things over to Jim who gave an introduction to the Econ River Wilderness Area (ERWA). The properties history and natural systems were discussed and a short tour of the site was conducted. The group stopped at several locations and discussed the use of prescribed fire and mechanical treatment as well as the challenges of land management in an urban setting. The topic of level of use was also discussed. Jim stated this was the most heavily used of the Wilderness Areas because of its proximity to UCF and so many neighborhoods. Jim voiced concern as to determining how much is enough and how to tell when we've reached that magic number. All agreed that people need to know about and experience the sites to really gain an appreciation for them.

Mark led a brief discussion regarding the agenda for next month's meeting which will be held at the Seminole County Softball Complex.

The meeting was **adjourned** at approximately 9:45 a.m.