



Minutes were approved on 6-2-05

**University of Florida Conservation Study Committee  
May 19, 2005 @ 1:00 PM  
Facilities Planning and Construction Conference Room  
226 Stadium  
MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Ms. Linda Dixon, Manager, Planning Office, Facilities Planning & Construction  
Peggy Carr, Landscape Architecture  
Eva Czarnecka, Microbiology & Cell Science  
Chuck Hogan, Physical Plant Division  
Gerald Kidder, IFAS, Soil & Water Science  
Cecile Kiley, College of Nursing  
Erik Lewis, Facilities Planning & Construction  
Jack Putz, Botany  
Erick Smith, Physical Plant Division  
Tom Walker, IFAS, Natural History

**Members Absent:**

Mark Brown, Environmental Engineering Sciences  
Sheri Bryan, IFAS, Facilities Planning & Operations  
Mark Clark, IFAS, Soil & Water Science  
Joyce Dewsbury, Special Collections  
Paula Fussell, Finance and Administration  
Mark Hostetler, IFAS, Wildlife Ecology  
Nancy Menzel, College of Nursing  
Clay Montague, Environmental Engineering Sciences  
Mackenzie Moritz, Student  
Meghan Pressley, Student  
Marty Werts, Physical Plant Division

The University Conservation Study Committee (CSC) met on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at Facilities Planning and Construction Division, 226 Stadium West Conference Room. Linda Dixon, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Linda Dixon welcomed committee members to the May 19, 2005 CSC meeting and members agreed introductions were not necessary.

## **II. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion:** Tom Walker moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

**Second:** Chuck Hogan

Motion carried unanimously

## **III. Adoption of April 21, 2005 Minutes**

**Motion:** Chuck Hogan moved to approve the April 21, 2005 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Peggy Carr

Motion carried unanimously

## **IV. Status Report on April 21<sup>st</sup> Issues**

Linda Dixon gave a brief status report on the request from CSC members at the last CSC meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> for staff to explore the feasibility of a shared-use path connection between Hume Field, Lake Alice Field and University Gardens. A site visit was conducted by Erik Lewis, Erick Smith and Dave Stopka (Recreation Sports). They concluded that it was not feasible due to drainage systems and security concerns. Therefore, it was deleted from the list and maps. Erik Lewis added that they saw opportunities for trails but the trails are more like Nature trails rather than a shared-used path connectivity.

## **V. Open Space Improvement Priorities**

Ms. Linda Dixon presented a draft map of Open Space Improvement Priorities depicting high priority locations for physical improvements in the Urban Park and Buffer land use designations to the CSC members for discussion and recommendations. Some of the areas are:

- In the area between Dauer Hall and Newell Hall, there is some interest in renovating the North and South entrance to Newell Hall and improving some of the landscape components in front of it. On Union Road there is a desire to create a significant pedestrian crossing that would link the entrance to Newell and Dauer that has been renovated as the entrance to the Keen Faculty Center.
- The area around Turlington Hall, the Hub, the Bus stop and the Student Government Information Booth needs a face lift, particularly around the transit service area and the high pedestrian volume.

- The front area North of the Architecture Building and East of the Music Building. There has been some talk about potentially receiving a face lift in conjunction with the Music Building renovations.
- Housing is interested in future renovations of the courtyard around Yulee, Broward and the small area in back of Tolbert.
- JWRU lawn area.
- The space between Mechanical Engineering area could be improved.
- Physical Plant Division recently did a lot of work on Northwest corner of the Ballroom.
- East side of Constans Theater.
- The strip that goes roughly from the Physics Building north of the Benton Hall complex and connecting into a conservation area should be improved.
- Wilmot Garden
- Area between the parking lot and the Bat House.
- SE corner of Stadium Road and Gale Lemerand near the Engineering clock tower.
- Linda stated that she would like to add to the map the hardscape area in front of Gator Dining.

Tom Walker had some concern as to why the Conservation Areas had not been identified as a high priority. Perhaps it is because of the anticipated half-million dollar funds that had been collected from students to work on those areas. He indicated that in some circumstances there has to be priority set in terms of using the conservation money. For instance, Lake Alice which most people identify as the conservation area on campus would be certainly a priority in terms of making it useful to both the public and academic purposes. Linda stated that this map focuses on the areas in Urban Parks and the space between buildings. The committee will deal with the conservation areas in the land management plan. These are two separate lists eligible for different funding sources. Linda agreed to footnote this map explaining it did not include all streetscapes and conservation areas recommendations.

Peggy Carr asked how this map relates to traffic and roadway areas and if adding improvements to primary and secondary roadways would be a part of the Transportation Study Committee (TSC) work. For consistency, she had some concerns with having the road corridor she talked about at the last CSC meeting (Portions of Museum Road and Hull Road between Lake Alice and the Cultural Plaza Complex) on the map and not having all streetscapes on the map. Maybe it should be taken off of the map. Peggy also felt that open space improvements, road improvements and open space connections somehow should be shown on one image.

Linda stated that she could remove it from the map. But, she thought from previous discussions that the CSC members wanted streetscape improvement everywhere on campus but that this piece was somewhat special because of its connection of Lake Alice to NATL and the Cultural Plaza Complex. Linda also indicated that the TSC has been reviewing sidewalks along roadways and looked at the shared-used paths divided into project segments. The Urban Design Element will have maps that can combine the open space improvement priorities with other recommendations.

Erick Smith talked about the open space area south of Bruton-Geer Hall. Linda Dixon asked members if they supported identifying the area south the Law School and raising it to the priority level.

**Motion: Erick Smith made a motion to add the open area south of Bruton-Geer Hall and north of the parking lot as an open space improvement priority.**

**Second: Tom Walker**

**Motion carried unanimously**

## **VI. Conservation Element Data and Analysis Report Draft**

Erik Lewis presented a draft of the Data and Analysis Report for the main campus and Alachua County Satellite Priorities to the CSC members for discussion and approval.

Committee members reviewed the report and had some concerns regarding the land use designation for the Austin Carey area and Lake Wauburg.

Linda Dixon suggested asking a representative who is responsible for managing these properties from IFAS and Rec Sports to come and review the maps of these particular areas.

**Motion: Peggy Carr moved approval of the Draft with the understanding that the Satellite Section was not yet included in the Report.**

**Second: Erick Smith**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **VII. Conservation Element Draft**

Erik Lewis presented a draft of the Conservation Element for the 2005-2015 Campus Master Plan to the CSC members for discussion and approval.

Committee reviewed the draft and made the following comments and suggestions:

- **Objective 2.0:** To protect and conserve the natural functions of creeks, ponds, lakes, sinkholes, floodplains and wetlands on or adjacent to the main campus or satellite properties.
- **Policy 2.1:** An average of 25 feet and minimum of 15 feet upland buffer shall be identified and protected around all wetlands/water bodies that are not within a Conservation Area prior to construction of any **non-agricultural** facility. Where a buffer cannot be provided, mitigation shall be required and reviewed by the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee.
- **Policy 2.3:** All ornamental landscaping improvements within required upland buffers shall use only native plants in a naturalistic way and shall be approved by Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee.

- **Policy 2.4:** All proposed development projects within 50 feet of a wetland shall be submitted **to the appropriate water management district for review** in the design phase of the project.
- **Policy 2.5:** Development within the 100-year floodplain, as mapped for the University's current Master Stormwater Permit should be discouraged unless it can be demonstrated that such development has elevated base floor elevations at least 1 foot above the 100-year floodplain, preferably two feet, and has provided for compensating storage elsewhere on proposed building area site. **If compensating storage is not necessary to protect other structures,** the development may mitigate by funding stormwater enhancements that help address problems within the floodplain. Examples include, in-stream erosion control measures and low impact development techniques as addressed in the Stormwater Element of this Master Plan. **For 100-year floodplains not mapped in the University's current Master Stormwater permit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 100-year floodplain mapping shall be used as best available data.**
- **Policy 2.6:** Encroachments into jurisdictional wetlands shall be required **to** receive prior permit approval from federal and state regulatory agencies. Wetlands, as defined in subsection 373.019(17) of the Florida Statutes and Chapter 62-340.200(19) of the Florida Administrative Code (FAC) include those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency or duration sufficient to support vegetation typically adapted for life in hydric or alluvial soils. The wetland limits shall be delineated utilizing the methodology described in Chapter 62-340.300, FAC. Impacts include any activity which may negatively affect the vegetative composition, water quality, water quantity, hydrologic regime, soil composition or substrate of defined wetlands. All mitigation shall be in conformance with an approved permit from the appropriate Federal and State agencies (including agencies of the State).
- Peggy Carr requested that Staff research City of Gainesville and Alachua County wetland regulations and bring that information to the committee for further discussion of Policies 2.1 and 2.6.
- Due to the lack of time, the remaining policies were deferred to the next meeting for review.

**VIII. Committee members agreed to schedule an extra meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.**

**IX. The Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 pm.**