

Minutes of meeting of Natural Area Advisory Committee: 26 April 2007

Thursday, 2-3pm, NATL pavilion. Members present were Mark Clark (chair), Donald Graetz, Doug Levey, Alan Long, and Tom Walker (admin. asst.).

1. Management activities

Plot D has been cleared and bush hogged in preparation for disking. The trees cut from the plot will be stacked in the center of the plot and eventually burned.

Under the supervision of Alan Long and with help from many sources, the public-area upland pine and the north block of the restricted-area upland pine were burned on 5 March.

The report of the NATL TA for Spring Semester is attached. as Appendix 1.

2. CITF related activities

In spite of NATL's fence needs being assigned first priority among candidates for CITF fence funds and even though any dissent about the specs for these fences was settled months ago, the Administration has yet to release CITF money for this purpose. Efforts to remedy this are underway.

The Hammock Nature Trail, the last of the upland self-guided nature trails, was opened in March. The posters for the three upland trails and the poster that will introduce NATL and its nature trails to those entering NATL using the trail that will pass between Powell Hall and the Phillips Center are ready to be printed; however, the kiosks that will display the posters cannot be built until their design is completed. The design of the roof is the only remaining obstacle, because an engineer must certify that it can withstand a 110 mph wind.

Those who received a NAAC Minigrant for completing the posters and signage for the SEEP Nature trail have completed their work. The route and general specifications for the boardwalk have been established. The detailed specifications that are needed for the project to go to bid are being developed by Chandler Rozear of the Physical Plant Division.

The CITF Minigrant funds for the storage building and Kee mower have recently been released. The PO for the mower has been issued and the one for the storage building is in progress.

3. Fiscal report

Tom Walker reported that the NAAC expense account had a balance of \$542.99 at its last audit (27 Apr 2006). Since that time four expenditures have exceeded \$100: \$210 for wiregrass slips; \$179 for ink and paper for poster printing; \$385 for a Stihl brush cutter, and \$370 for wiregrass and longleaf pines to be transplanted this summer. Income was \$1392 transferred from the TA startup fund. The current balance of the account is \$191.58.

4. Endowment for NATL

The NATL endowment described in Appendix 2 was discussed.

5. Review of NAAC Operating Policies

Mark Clark passed out a copy of the current NAAC Operating Policies and announced that he would appoint a subcommittee to consider revisions in the policies in light of changes since the last revision (2002) and the need to accommodate the increased fiscal responsibilities entailed by the endowment.

6. Membership and 2007 Chair

Considerations of changes in membership and the election of a new Chair were postponed pending the report of the Operating Policies Subcommittee.

Appendix 1

Spring '07 NTAL Assistantship Summary

- Assist with GPS/GIS Mapping of Pine Trees
- Clear 50m Grid Trails with Tim
- Start tree core samples to age Loblolly Pines & Sweet Gum in Hammock
- Maintain Self-guided Trails
- Volunteer Events
 - Feb. 3rd (Wetlands Club, SNRE, Env. Hort, Florida Leadership Academy, Alpha Phi Omega)
 - Plant & mulch 80 native trees behind Center of Performing Arts
 - Dig Permit
 - March 23th (CLS-Raise your Voice Month & APO)
 - Plant & mulch 40 native trees along DPI fenceline
 - April 28th NATL-E Trash Clean-up (Florida 1st)
 - Self-guided event due to late inquire
- Water plants during dry spring
- Minor assistance with Longleaf restoration kiosk information
- Gen. Maintenance
 - Patrol trail for any inappropriate uses of NATL, trash, limbs
 - Kiosk Brochures
- NATL Tours:
 - Wildlife Labs
 - Architecture Class (Tanzer)
 - Restoration Ecology Class
 - Mocha Café Late Class- Ecological detective field vocab game
 - Any chance I get to plug NATL (listserve/class/conversation)
- Provide photo CD of NATL Events & general site documentation
- Attended Prescribed Burn

Appendix 2

Endowment for NATL

Name: The Thomas J. Walker Endowment for UF's Natural Area Teaching Laboratory.

Purpose: To provide funds for the development and enhancement of the teaching and research objectives of the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory.

Authority over the endowment's spendable income: The Natural Area Advisory Committee (NAAC), operating under policies that it establishes and amends, will have sole authority over the spendable income from the endowment.

However, NAAC will annually submit a spending plan to the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee (LVLC) for its approval, and the Chair of NAAC will submit an annual report about the uses of endowment funds to LVLC. If LVLC disapproves of NAAC's use of endowment funds, it may require that NAAC change its operating procedures.

Conditions under which the endowment is permanently transferred to "The Thomas J. and Jane B. Walker Fund" of the University of Florida Foundation:

(1) The University of Florida ceases to support its Natural Area Teaching Laboratory by funding, at minimum, (a) a NATL graduate teaching assistant and (b) \$2,000 (in 2007 dollars) in annual expenses of the Natural Area Advisory Committee.

(2) The Natural Area Advisory Committee cannot win LVLC approval of its operating policies within six months after LVLC requires that NAAC re-evaluate those policies.

Expected spendable income from the endowment

Nothing is guaranteed, but the goals of the UF Foundation are to maintain the value of the endowment in the face of inflation and to transfer "spendable income" from the endowment to the entity that is to benefit from the endowment. The target amount for annual transfers of spendable income is 4% of the value of the endowment. Because the Foundation charges for expenses related to initiating the endowment, the amounts transferred for the first year or so will almost certainly be less than 4% of the donations made to the endowment.

The endowment was initiated with a pledge of \$100,000 (to be paid by 30 May 2007). An additional \$50,000 is planned prior to 30 November 2007. For a number of years the State has provided a 50% match to endowments of \$100,000 or more—after a delay of a year or more. Thus the value of the endowment will soon be \$100,000 and may eventually reach \$225,000

The annual spendable income will start at substantially less than \$4,000 and within five years might become as much as \$9,000 (in 2007 dollars).

Administration of spendable income

The Chair of NAAC, or his designee, can authorize expenditures of spendable income from the endowment but must do so in accordance with NAAC Operating Procedures. IFAS will provide the means of executing these expenditures.

Note: The legal document setting up this endowment is on the Web at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/endow.htm>.