

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

Board Meeting Minutes

9/19/2023

Recorded by Pete Tirrell

Present:

Genessa Mahr, Debbie Meeks, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Peg Hall, John Thalacker, Dan Kline, Debbie Jordan, John McPherson, Jeri Treat, Ron Kamzelski, Denise Feiber, Paul Ramey, Scott Wright, Bill Dummitt, Peter Tirrell

Representing the Refuge: John Stark

Guests: Jay Bushnell, Ed DeHaan

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am

Approval Items

- Agenda accepted without modifications
- Minutes from previous Board Meeting approved
 - [8/1/23 Minutes in Dropbox](#)
- Treasurer's Report
 - [Link to Dropbox with financial documents](#)

Money market currently \$57K, checking \$2K

Peg H brought up effort to streamline finances, will be ongoing

Ron K brought up the question of inventory control in the balance sheet. Boyd currently manages inventory in Excel spreadsheet. Weebly reporting feature is broken, vendor contacted but not responsive.

Refuge Update

- John
 - Shell Mound fishing pier unlikely to be rebuilt before the Winter Solstice.
 - Shell mound closed due to erosion caused by Hurricane Idalia. Ginessa and possibly UF graduate students may be able to assist with mitigation.
 - River walk trail closed, boardwalk repairs now on deferred maintenance list, up to 2 years out unless Congress appropriates funds, which would likely be for repairs only and would not cover extension to Vista. A biological assessment

would be required before extension could begin. John T mentioned possible spur trail to the old cypress stump.

- Shired Island boat dock, toilet destroyed, parking and boat launch okay.

Discussion Items

- Vista Discussions (All)
 - Main house roof is at the end of its life
John Stark has state and federal approval to replace roof in kind (shingles), \$10K in refuge budget for materials, can Friends cover labor costs?
 - Pest treatment at main house
Debbie M has a quote from A1 Pest Control for \$2K that would cover powder post beetle and termite control. John S says refuge can usually cover up to \$2500. Refuge budget (9/20) will determine what funds exist to cover the wishlist
 - Demolition and removal of falling down buildings
Denise F contacted Goodwin Lumber about salvaging materials from demolition of buildings, for purchase or donation to be determined. If other options are not available John S says refuge can demolish and haul away.
- Mobile Trailer (Debbie)
 - Delivery expected Oct. 11. Pieces and parts to outfit it are also courtesy of the Refuge. Possibly ready for seafood festival
 - Debbie M presented an update on graphic wrap progress, looks wicked cool! Covers 3 sides, possible to add more to front V and inside back doors. Requests to emphasize Shell mound and large size of refuge.
 - Defensive driving course to drive refuge truck if your own vehicle won't pull it
 - Debbie M emailed link to online course for those interested in becoming drivers
 - Debbie M, Jay B, Barbara W all capable of towing trailer
- CK Seafood Festival Planning (Debbie, Denise)
 - Move our booth to the NCBS open house area? Determined to be too out of the way and too little parking.
 - Discuss using the mobile outreach trailer at the festival, set up. Discussed position of trailer and ease of positioning
 - Create survey questions for the event: use of the Vista property? Survey discussed, Scott W suggested keeping short and simple with comments option, Scott W "volunteered" to assist with survey.
- EcoRover Demonstration - scheduled for December (Debbie, Boyd)
 - Funding ideas, if not funded by refuge

Wishlist \$ up to \$500, if refuge funding not available Linda and Boyd will donate \$100, Dan K also would donate \$100

Vote to spend up to \$500 from friends funds if refuge cannot fund, approved unanimously

- Governance (Ginessa) **Will be discussed via email**
 - Nominating Committee
 - Timing, when to start, and who will be a non-board member?
 - What skill sets do we need?
 - How many slots will we have?
 - Budget Committee
 - Volunteers needed, will need to develop this committee by next month
 - President, Past President, Treasurer, **MORE**
 - Can this be a year-round committee? We need more support for financials

Subcommittee Reports

- Advocacy (Jay, Peg, Scott, Ron)
- Membership (Debbie, Dan)
 - [Report in Dropbox](#)
- Merchandise (Boyd, Dan, Barbara, Bill, Jeri, John, Peg, Denise)
 - New blue trees hoodie, designed by Debbie M.
- Vista (Debbie, John, Denise, Peg, Ginessa, etc.)
 - Poster Design Team report (Debbie, Denise)
 - Caretaker's mobile home sale and move (Debbie and John M)
 - Partnership idea report (Ginessa)
State indicated that partnering would be challenging
 - Documentation before Deconstruction (John, Debbie)
 - Belinda put Vista forward as a candidate for the UF Landscape Architecture Capstone senior year project. She will also see if the Historical Preservation department is interested in doing something at Vista.
- Butterfly status reported by Scott W on behalf of Barbara W
Most butterfly food sources killed by storm surge along both sides of the river, likely only long range flyers will survive. Barbara's funding coming to end, requests Friends consider some financial support

Reports

Will be discussed via email

- Governance (GiNESSA)
 - Pete T. replacing Paul R. as Secretary
- Outreach and Jr. Ranger (Debbie) [Report in Dropbox.](#)
- Communications (Peg)
- Refuge Support (Scott)
- Finances (Linda)
 - Friends Wish List (GiNESSA)
 - exercise we went through and the need for detailed plans even if we don't have money right away
 - Will need to have specific items with shopping links, not simply general needs
 - See linked spreadsheet below

Open Discussion

- [Wish List Spreadsheet Link](#)
 - Board members may add to list
 - To be added to with specific item name, specs, and cost (i.e. direct shopping link)