

Board Meeting Minutes
Friends of the Lower Suwanee and Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuges
9/15/2016
Submitted by William Dummitt

Board members present: Bill Dummitt, Maria Sgambati, John McPherson, Debbie Meeks, Peg Hall, Russ Hall, Roger McDaniels, Libby Cagle, Margy VanLandingham

The meeting was called to order by Russ Hall. Previous minutes and the agenda were approved.

John McPherson made a treasurer's report. It was noted that it showed \$8920.29 in negative income. The membership and John agreed that this must be an error of some sort. A corrected report released immediately after the meeting showed positive income of \$1079.71. Both reports are attached.

No Communication, Advocacy, or Inventory reports were made.

Libby Cagle showed her Blue Goose passport for all the Wildlife Refuges.

Roger McDaniel reported that Pepper Busting will resume in November, weather permitting.

Bill Dummitt read a report from Anne Lindgren on the status of the Artist-in Residence Program.

Key Elements included:

Mindy Allen (IFAS/UF) agreed that her organization will continue providing transportation, and room and board at the lighthouse for the 2016 resident artist.

Deadline to apply has been moved to Oct 15.

IFAS prefers to change the name to Nature Coast Artist in Residence.

Cedar Key Arts Center prefers to change the name to Cedar Key Artist in Residence.

The sponsors hope to include opportunities for creating art elsewhere in the LSNWR, not only Seahorse Key.

The current selection process will include registrants from last year as well as new registrants. The residence will run (at the chosen artist's preference) between November and March.

CKAC will host the artist's work in the Member's Gallery in the month of April.

CKAC will continue to provide a \$1000 stipend.

The Friends group was asked how they would like to participate and provide feedback on the name change.

The board agreed that we should not be a funding organization. A motion was made by John McPherson, seconded by Bill Dummitt to support the Cedar Key Artist in Residence name. The motion passed by acclamation with one abstention. The group agreed that the vote was based on the understanding that the program would not be based entirely at Seahorse Key as it was in the past.

Debbie Meeks reported on the switch to the Neon software. The effort continues to get Neon running in a way that supports membership. A change from January renewals to 1 year from when membership was first paid was discussed. Everyone will be able to log in to the website and manage his own address and other membership information. There was also discussion on what grace period should be for renewals. A motion by Peg Hall, seconded by Bill Dummitt, and passed by acclamation empowered Debbie Meeks and Margy VanLandingham to make these decisions.

Refuge Update from Larry Woodard and Andrew Gude:

Hurricane Hermine damaged the refuge from one end to the other.

The Main Line reopened Monday, Sept. 12. Refuge management preferred to keep it closed longer but vandals broke down the gates.

There was significant damage to the Atsena Otie boardwalk.

The floating dock at Seahorse Key is now on land. If it can't be fixed in time it will impact the open house in October. Maintenance of this dock is a shared responsibility with the Marine Lab.

Many palmettos are down. The stairway to the beach is eroded underneath. UF will repair with the refuge providing materials.

50 feet of dock was damaged on Shell Mound.

The bridge at Shired island was destroyed.

The loop road is being graded.

Lost all the surface on the Main Line.

Most signs were down, mostly replaced now.

No additional funding is available for storm damage.

Vista:

Was Vista property damaged by the hurricane? No report available.

Andrew Gude mentioned grant programs that are available. Some are available for access to federal land, but can't be used on federal land. Application must come from outside the Federal Government.

There was a discussion of whether these funds could be used for Vista.

Are there wetlands on Vista that require management?

There was discussion of whether we should contribute to a brochure on protection of refuge birds issued by the Nature Coast Biological Lab. Since we weren't a part of the project, our logo can't be included, and we don't want to just be a funding source the group agreed not to do so.

Peg noted that IFAS should emphasize that Seahorse Key is a National Wildlife Refuge, not a UF property.

A suggestion to publish tide tables with Friends logo was discussed. No action was taken. Larry showed the group a table sponsored by Sea Tow.

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 12 pm.

Friends of Refuges Balance Sheet

As of September 15, 2016

	<u>Sep 15, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	110.00
Regular Checking	19,011.50
Savings	10,001.15
Total Checking/Savings	<u>29,122.65</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>29,122.65</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>29,122.65</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	28,042.94
Net Income	1,079.71
Total Equity	<u>29,122.65</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQU...	<u>29,122.65</u>

Friends of Refuges Balance Sheet

As of September 13, 2016

Sep 13, 16

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	110.00
Regular Checking	9,011.50
Savings	10,001.15
Total Checking/Savings	<u>19,122.65</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>19,122.65</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>19,122.65</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	28,042.94
Net Income	-8,920.29
Total Equity	<u>19,122.65</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQU...	<u>19,122.65</u>