

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges November 14, 2017 Minutes

Refuge Headquarters

Present: Board Members--Russ Hall, Bill Dummitt, Maria Sgambati (by phone), John McPherson, Ed DeHaan, Libby Cagle, Peg Hall, Jim Hoy, Kit Lane, Doug Maple, Roger McDaniels, Debbie Meeks, Mackenzie Russell, Linda Tyson, Staff--Larry Woodward

1- call to order and introductions, 10:04 AM

2- approvals: agenda; October meeting minutes; Treasurer's report. Minutes approved without objection; John M's treasurer's report approved after John made a minor correction. Motion by Bill, seconded by Jim to approve treasurer's report.

3- status update on Vista planning - John; others
John reported on a needed survey of Vista buildings to determine whether necessary buildings could be repaired at a reasonable cost. A charrette could be scheduled for January or February as a meeting of the 3 interested parties with the consultant.

Jay made note of our financial resources and suggested that better interest could be received from the Sun Coast Credit Union. The issue was deferred for discussion under new business.

4- volunteer visitor contact program; progress; next steps - Bill

Currently we have 29 volunteers who are scheduled for November and December. Russ outlined the expectations for these refuge office volunteers. Andrew Gude has "cleared bureaucratic hurdles" for the first weekend after Thanksgiving. Debbie has set up software for logging volunteer hours. It was noted that through the volunteer program this refuge is already doing some of Secretary Zinke's objectives.

5- reports

a. Refuge report - Larry

The cooperators lunch will be December 1, 11 AM - 2 PM. John moved and Peg seconded a motion for the Friends paying for the food for the luncheon. Kenny M is providing the food. Motion passed unanimously.

The burn season is about to start. Larry is working on the Snake Key closure and Seahorse Key opening. Daniel B is being stretched by setting up forestry sales at St. Mark's. Our refuge's family hunt is this weekend.

b. Communications Committee - Peg, Debbie
Shell Mound

The committee is planning a walk through with Ken Sassaman and Ron Black. The committee is working on 2 different guides and 1 panel. A clickable map is being designed.

c. Advocacy-Jay

The threat of a lawsuit from the Southern Alliance has gotten Duke Energy to revise its reports. Florida Forever is being better funded but not fully funded.

d. Pepper Busting-Roger

Training and the first working session was yesterday.

e. Festival Booth

John reported an income of \$325.

6- Artist in Residence Program

This has been suspended for 2017-2018, but is planned for 2018-2019. A Cedar Key Artist in Residence would be a possibility. We need a champion for this project.

7. Nominating Committee

Russ, Bill and non-board member Jim Wortham are the current Friends members.

8. Annual Meeting 2/24/2018

Please let the officers know of any ideas for the meeting. Peg suggested an art auction/raffle. A speaker has not been chosen. We could easily offer \$100 honorarium.

9. Priorities and financial review

Bill, Russ and Maria are working on priorities and Linda Tyson volunteered to assist. Mac Cox will be asked to assist on the financial review as he has in the past.

10. New Business

John will check on the advisability of Jay's suggestion (see #3).

Our refuge has many fine assets. Guided trips would better display these assets to the public. Dan Kline is a possible resource. A night time trip would be exciting.

11. Adjourn 11:57 AM

Next board meeting December 20.