

Present:

Roger McDaniels- Libby Cagle- John Thallacker - John McPherson. - Bill Dummitt - Kit Lane - Jay Bushnell - Russ Hall- Dan Kline - Linda Kimball - Boyd Kimball - Bob Lewis

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuges  
January 16, 2019 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

10am- call to order and introduction of guests - Joe Hand

1-Approved: previous minutes, agenda, any committee and financial reports

2-Committee Reports:

Refuge Report and government shutdown –(*no refuge staff present*)

Vista: John McPherson - ***Making progress. John has some drafts but Belinda needs the report from the Government inspection last April to finish. The final report can include a grant application to hire a consultant to have the property listed on National Register.***

Visitor contact- Kit Lane - ***December response was good. January no action because the Refuge is closed by lapse in funding due to no budget.***

Pepper Busting- Roger McDaniels - ***Working every Thursday at 9. Concentrating on Cedar Key while Refuge is closed. There has been good turn out with several new folks consistently showing up.***

Communications: ***Debbie was absent but submitted a written report -***

Financial Review: John McPherson - ***Mac Cox has agreed to be a part of review. Bank balance remains steady.***

Nominating Committee- Bill Dummitt - ***Still don't have anyone wanting to fill the president elect slot. Three current board members will be leaving at end of their terms but we still have enough to sustain board according to by-laws.***

Advocacy- Jay Bushnell - ***In a grant received by Lauren Day the Friends agreed to do a river clean up on Dixie side. That still needs to happen. Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve ownership is in flux and board will be updated if any advocacy action would help.***

3)- Annual meeting prep- finalize details of Feb 23 event - ***Refuge will be made available even in shutdown. Sherry Clark from the Florida Bat Conservancy will be the speaker. Kenny will cook. Bill will order chairs and port-a-potties. We will use table from Refuge and Fowler's Bluff FD. Jay, Bill, and Bob offered to be guides on River, Dennis Creek, and Shell Mound Trails. Set up is scheduled for 2 pm on 22 Feb.***

4)-Earth Day event- should we host this event again in 2019? If so, what are our goals and budget? ***The goal of this event is to use the Refuge to host an program in line with the***

**mission of the USFWS and Friends. This program will familiarize the attendees on natural environment, various habitats, and try to instill a conservation ethic. Motion was made and approved for Bob Lewis to come up with a concept plan that will give Levy County students priority.**

5) Proposed budget - **a few minor changes were made to the proposed budget. Motion to accept made by John T and seconded by Kit. Approved.**

6) Purchase proposal from merchandising committee - **Committee is authorized to purchase inventory for sale at the annual meeting.**

7) New Business - **John T. Sign for South Entrance to Loop Drive has been vandalized and John T. offered to try to clean it up. Also he would like to get a work group together to refurbish the gates and signs to all the fire roads. Motion was made and approved.**

**Jay would like to get something going on planting milkweed.**

**By-law review - We will have some minor changes ready for the annual meeting but will then take a year to review for major changes to include potential issues when Vista comes on line. A suggestion was made to possibly get Kathy Allen as a consultant since she is an expert on capacity building. There may be grants available to pay her.**

Adjourned at 12 pm

Prepared by Libby Cagle