

Minutes
Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges September
20th, 2017 Meeting Agenda
Refuge Headquarters

Present:

Board Members at headquarters: Peg Hall, Russ Hall, John McPherson, Libby Cagle, Maria Sgambati, Mackenzie Russell, Roger McDaniels, Doug Maple, Bill Dummitt, Dan Kline, Jim Hoy

Visitor: Jay Bushnell

Refuge Manager: Andrew Gude

1. The meeting was convened at 10 a.m. by Russ.
2. **Agenda** was moved, seconded, passed.
3. **July meeting minutes** were moved, seconded, passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed and moved, seconded, passed.
5. **Vista Planning Update:**
The USFWS cultural survey, which will be performed by Rick Kanaski, has been delayed. The hope is that the survey of the property will happen in late October with the planned charrette with USFWS, Friends group, and family that controls access to the Vista property occurring sometime in November. Belinda Nettles continues research on future plan for property.
6. **Volunteer visitor contact program:**
Contacts and consultants have been recommended to several members of the Friends board, who will be reaching out to them regarding how to best run a volunteer visitor contact program. It was decided that a test "poll" e-mail be sent out to Friends members in order to "test the waters" and determine the level of interest in volunteering for this program. The response to that appeal will affect how this program moves forward.
7. **Postponed visit from St. Vincent Friends:**
Meet & greet will now occur in conjunction with our November board meeting.
8. **Jointly sponsored events with CK Audubon:**
There is continued support from Friends board members to jointly sponsor events with the Cedar Key Audubon chapter. The board discussed possible plans for joint activities that can be regularly scheduled.
9. **Refuge Report (Andrew):**
Refuge staff still cleaning up from Hurricane Irma. All public access roads are opened and clean. Refuge staff members are looking into multiple potential grants

for projects on refuge land. Planning is moving forward for the Levy County side of the hydrological restoration project.

10. Clyde Butcher visit:

Mr. Butcher visited during August. He took photos at various locations in the refuge and Lukens Tract. Future plan is for him and his wife to come for a longer stay, as this visit was a sight seeing/scouting opportunity. The exhibit of his photographs will occur in March/April of 2018. There may be requested Friends assistance in the future for his next visit, especially use of boats for photography and possible advertisement for the exhibit.

11. Advocacy Report (Jay):

The board discussed various opportunities for advocacy for the Refuge including partnering with in-kind volunteer hours from the Friends on projects with private groups.

12. Communications Committee:

The Sandfly Creek panel is currently being converted to a brochure and a reprint/update is set for the Barnett Creek hiking trail brochure. The September news brief was delayed due to Hurricane Irma. Dr. Ken Sassaman's self-guided Shell Mound tour PDF was viewed and it was discussed how to better convert it into a folding booklet-type brochure for visitors at Shell Mound.

13. New Business:

Board members discussed the upcoming Suwannee Friends meeting on October 18th. Refuge will be provided boat rides for Friends from Fowler's Bluff to Suwannee. The Suwannee Community clean up is that morning from 8:30-Noon. There was also discussion of leading a Fowler's Bluff clean up in the near future. Committees, such as a nominating committee and financial review committee, will be formed soon to identify open board positions, funding allocations, and a FY 2017 review. More will be discussed on these various committees at the next board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM
Next meeting will be on October 18th in conjunction with the Suwannee Community clean up.