

**MINUTE NOTES**  
**Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday December 3, 2012 10:00 a.m.

The regular board meeting of the Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges was called to order by Peg Hall, President, at 10:10 a.m. at Refuge Headquarters.

The following board members were present: Peg Hall, Jerry Salamon, Carmelo Echevarria, John Thalacker, Bob Hudson, Ed DeHaan, Jay Bushnell, Russ Hall, Kirby Alexander (by telephone).

Also present: Andrew Gude, Refuge Manager; Larry Woodward, Deputy Refuge Manager; Donna Thalacker, member; Jane Connors, member and prospective board member; Steve and Jan Stackhouse, interested parties; Mandy Offerle, member and prospective board member.

**APPROVAL ITEMS**

1. Approval of Minutes- It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2012, board meeting. Motion carried.
2. Treasurers Report- Jerry Salamon distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's Report, noting that the cash balance as of November 31, 2012, was \$14,985.63. A copy of the report is attached. Jerry noted that the donations category includes proceeds from the silent auction at the Annual Meeting. Following review and discussion, it was moved and seconded to receive the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.
3. Next Board Meeting- Following discussion, it was agreed to hold the next board meeting of the Friends Group on January 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Refuge Headquarters.

**DISCUSSION AND DECISION ITEMS**

1. Nominating Committee Recommendations- Jay Bushnell provided a report and recommendations from the Nominating Committee. Extensive discussion ensued. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to recommend the following to the full Membership at the Annual Meeting, that:
  - a. the Bylaws be changed to one-year terms for Friends Group officer positions, to include President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer and Secretary. Non-officer board member would remain as two-year terms.
  - b. the size of the board of directors be increased to a maximum of twenty members.
  - c. the title of the Vice President position be changed to President Elect, to more accurately reflect the role of the position.

- d. Greg Lang and Jane Connors be appointed as new members of the board.
- e. Ed DeHaan and Richard Herman be reappointed as members of the board.
- f. officer nominations for 2013 be Jay Bushnell, President; Bob Hudson, President Elect; and Richard Herman, Treasurer.

Following further discussion, it was moved and seconded to amend the above motion as follows:

- a. the officer positions of President, President Elect and Past President be changed to one-year terms. The officer positions of Treasurer and Secretary remain as two-year terms, and, non-officer board members remain as two-year terms.

The motions, including the original motion as amended, carried.

Following discussion of potential additional members, it was moved and seconded to recommend appointment of Frank Offerle to the board, subject to his commitment to serving on the board. Motion carried.

2. Budget Committee- Russ reviewed a report from the Budget Committee outlining ten potential initiatives/projects for the Friends Group in 2013. There are two main themes of the report: 1) Priorities and champion/manpower, and 2) Cost of the initiative/project. The board reviewed and discussed the list in detail, a copy of which is attached. Following extensive discussion it was recommended that two additional initiatives/projects be added:

- a. Jay Bushnell recommended adding "Advocacy."
- b. Jane Connors recommended adding "Increased activity, awareness and membership in Dixie County."

With regard to next steps, Russ will update the list from today's discussion, including the new recommended items, and distribute it to the board. The Budget Committee will meet again, populate the cost estimates, and begin the process of seeking champions for each initiative/project.

3. Proposal to be a host organization for the Florida Big Bend Science Symposium- Russ reviewed a proposal for the Friends Group to be a host organization for the Florida Big Bend Science Symposium, to be held in Cedar Key on January 31 and February 1, 2013. Responsibilities would including funding one luncheon and providing volunteers to assist with logistics of the symposium. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to support the symposium with volunteers, and to fund one luncheon at a cost not to exceed \$500. Motion carried.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Refuge Report- Larry and Andrew reported the following:

- a. Hunting season activity, to include the successful Youth Hunts and upcoming Family Hunts. Posting of signs at Refuge entrances notifying the public of hunting activity was discussed.

b. The potential for developing Self-Guided Tours of the Refuge was discussed. They would include detailed maps and points of interest, and historical information. The areas to be included would be Levy, Dixie and Shell Mound areas of the Refuge.

c. There will be a timber harvest, and replanting of native trees and vegetation, along Highway 347.

d. Interagency Luncheon will be January 24, 2013, at Refuge Headquarters. Friends Group board members are invited to attend.

2. River Cleanup December 1- Peg reported that the River Cleanup on December 1 was successful. Approximately 75 volunteers turned out for the effort. It was suggested that days with very low tides be avoided in the future. Jim Hess and Jay Bushnell were recognized for their hard work and coordination of the Camp Azalea and Fowler's Bluff areas respectively. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded that recognition such as a hat or tee-shirt be given to the people who provided their boats for the river cleanup. Motion carried.

3. Board member- Peg reported that Sean Dowie, board member, has asked to step off the board, but would serve as champion for a photography project.

4. Membership report- Kirby and Peg are working on a reminder process for membership renewals for 2013.

5. Communications Report- Peg reviewed the communications report, noting that 375 individuals are on our electronic newsletter distribution of which 186 are members, and that the number of subscribers is growing each month.

6. Nature Walk- There will be a Nature Walk on December 4, 2012. Donna Thalacker will lead the walk.

7. Financial Review Committee- Peg reported that the Financial Review Committee will meet upon Richard Herman's return from vacation.

8. Ibis- Jay asked that information and/or photographs for the Ibis be sent to him by the end of next week.

9. Conservation Partners Coordination Committee- John Thalacker reported that he is attending the Conservation Partners Coordination Committee next week. This group of local agencies meets to develop and coordinate a schedule of speakers, generally held for the public at the Cedar Key Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.