

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

October Board Meeting Minutes

10/17/2023

Recorded by Pete Tirrell

Present:

Ginessa Mahar, Debbie Meeks, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Peg Hall, John Thalacker, Dan Kline, Debbie Jordan, John McPherson, Ron Kamzelski, Denise Feiber, Barbara Woodmansee, Scott Wright, Bill Dummitt, Peter Tirrell

Representing the Refuge: Andrew Gude

Guests: Jay Bushnell

Meeting called to order 10:04 am 2023.10.17

Approval Items

- Accept or modify the agenda **Vote: Accepted**
- Approve Minutes from previous Board Meeting **Vote: Approved**
 - [Link to September Minutes](#)
- Treasurer's Report **Vote: Accepted**
 - [Link to Dropbox with financial documents](#)
 - Money market account: \$55K, checking: \$3612
 - Peg: anomaly in balance sheet to be addressed, restricted vs unrestricted funds
 - Debbie M add asset of trailer
 - Recommend adding treasurers procedure guide for festival to dropbox
 - Sales tax is due quarterly

Refuge Update

- Andrew
 - Vista:
 - septic pumped and inspected, renewal filed with county
 - After approval: concrete pad, comfort station, eventual pole barn
 - Removed old concrete pads
 - Knocked down fry shed, wood shed and two story barn
 - A couple of pecky cypress boards removed from barn and saved
 - Idalia damage:

Refuge issued permit Suwannee refuge to move building that floated into refuge marsh north of Suwannee town, process documented by film crew

River trail closed

Shell mound road closed until dock rebuilt, can walk in. Dennis creek much debris

Atsena Otie trail boardwalk is gone

Fishbone creek compromised platform floated away ended up in tree

Shired island road closed, but signs torn down. Restroom closed

Lack of law enforcement personnel:

Daniel et al do not feel safe in Dixie county with all lawlessness

Next hunt season may need to be shortened

Other:

Daniel in woods masticating and spraying, contractors working in Dixie county. Clearing sides of roads should be good for pollinators.

Refuge budget has been spent down, spent last years money

USDA will be starting hog control project to control African swine fever. Will include trapping, on ground shooting perhaps helicopters. Should be outside of hunting season

Hydrologic restoration received word from FI trustee implementation group looking favorably to increase funding

As trailer stuff comes in it will be stored in refuge shed

Author Cynthia Barnett will assist Debbie M with Junior Ranger book

October Seahorse open house drew 39 people, low attendance likely due to less people in

Cedar Key post storm

Shell mound cleanup will be in winter dates TBA

Discussion Items

- Shell Mound - post-Idalia site visit (Ginessa)
 - Scheduling clean up day, volunteers needed; during winter workday?
No archaeological remediation required, will recruit grad students for cleanup day, maybe around solstice?
 - Boardwalk repairs?
Dennis creek trail will need skid steer work to clear, but walkable
 - Solstice?
Road will be closed until dock rebuilt date TBD
- Mobile Trailer (Debbie)
 - Graphic wrap progress report. DONE!
 - Damage, theft insurance- **VOTE** when a quote is ready (John M.)
Quote coming Friday

- Specialty license plate- **VOTE: Butterfly design no special letters use what is assigned**
\$15 extra annually, review in future
- Volunteers needed to outfit trailer
Post seafood festival
- CK Seafood Festival Planning (Peg)
 - Schedule
Debbie M will drive and park trailer, Jay available to assist. Ginessa will remove Sun Peg, Jeri, Debbie, Denise set up crew
Butterfly books from Barbara to Debbie M
 - Merchandise Plan (Boyd)
Boyd put out price list
Maintain inventory sheet
Square users Peg and Debbie
Keep donations and memberships separate from retail
Peg will provide \$200 cash and reimburse from sales
QR code sign for store
 - Survey (Scott)
What to ask? Goals? Leave Vista questions off, still too new. John M keep it short, too many surveys. Ginessa will finalize with Scott
 - Vista poster and/or show-and-tell (Debbie and Denise)
Denise poster needs printing but not ready for festival, ready for annual meeting
- Junior Ranger Events in November
Needs a toilet for event Nov 8, Andrew will provide toilet at River trail parking lot
5 volunteers already, any additional volunteers should contact Debbie M
- EcoRover Demonstration (Boyd)
 - Canceled 😞
 - Unlimited States of Ability
 - Demo at the Annual Meeting?

Alternative plan

Andrew provided new contact for accessibility, Brandon Emhoff

Possible demo at annual meeting, wheelchairs for trail use. Boyd will work out more details

Funding of \$500 is on wishlist. Funding of \$300 of \$500, **approved by board earlier**, Kimballs and Dan Kline will donate \$100 each if necessary

Ginessa had to leave at 11:30, Denise and Debbie M now leading

- Philanthropy Hub application (Peg) <https://www.thephilanthropyhub.org/>
Peg will get Friends added to list of orgs, potential source for recruiting future board members
- Vista Discussions (John, Debbie)
 - Workday and lecture combinations? The CK Library lecture series is cancelled so we could host the refuge related ones.

Library meets in December about lecture series, series usually starts in Jan, where and if series will occur.

John T remains as library contact

- Resurrection fern rescue
 - Governance (Ginessa)
 - Report on terms
 - [Please fill out this spreadsheet with your term dates](#)
 - Nominating Committee
 - Names for non-board member?
nomination committee present and future president and non board member
Possible names for non board member: Ian Mackie, Ann Miller, Mendy Allen, Chuck Adams
 - Treasurer Nomination
 - Any names?
 - Budget Committee
 - Peg: possible all day board meeting/event in near future
 - Volunteers needed, will need to develop this committee **ASAP**
 - President, Past President, Treasurer, **MORE**
 - Can this be a year-round committee? We need more support for financials
 - **Need volunteer to cull through past meeting minutes and create log of past votes and results.**
 - Secretary can add to this moving forward
- Additional discussion needed, tabled for presidents call

Subcommittee Reports

- Advocacy (Jay, Peg, Scott, Ron)
 - Law Enforcement Update
 - National problem, Jay to contact Commack staff to discuss and possible tour
 - Reach out to other organizations in similar situation
- Membership (Debbie, Dan)
 - [Report in Dropbox](#)
- Merchandise (Boyd, Dan, Barbara, Bill, Jeri, John, Peg, Denise)
 - Previously discussed
- Vista (Debbie, John, Denise, Peg, Ginessa, etc.)
 - Roof update
 - Final plan submitted to state
 - Refuge cannot pay for labor but may be able to buy materials, will need a quote
 - Pest update
 - UF Landscape Architecture update
 - Demolition and wood sale update

- Camper volunteer accommodation update

Reports

- Governance (Ginessa)
- Outreach and Jr. Ranger (Debbie) [Report in Dropbox.](#)
- Communications (Peg)
 - Dan Chapman may come and do another story, possible topics: law enforcement, hurricane damage, recovery money
 - Hunters brief newsletter
 - Most interest in refuge staff doing cleanup
- Refuge Support (Scott)
- Finances (Linda)

Open Discussion

- [Wish List Spreadsheet Link](#)
 - To be added to with specific item name, specs, and cost (i.e. direct shopping link)

Action Items

Nomination suggestions
Philanthropy hub update
Seafood fest
Junior ranger volunteers
Insurance for trailer

Meeting adjourned 12:04 am 2023.10.17