

Board Meeting Minutes
Friends of the Lower Suwanee and Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuges
7/21/2016
Submitted by William Dummitt

Board members present: Margy VanLandingham, Greg Lang, John McPherson, Russ Hall, Peg Hall, Maria Sgambati, Jamie Jerrels, Bill Dummitt (by phone)

Guests: Anne Lindgren, Jay Bushnell, Cathy Allen

Refuge Staff: Larry Woodward, Andrew Gude

Thanks to Anne Lindgren for serving as secretary for this meeting.

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM. Jamie Jerrels moved to approve agenda, passed by acclamation.

Minutes of the previous meeting were also accepted by acclamation.

Treasurers report: little to report since last month

Communications report (attached): 600 served by Facebook, 1600 unique visitors to webpage, 3200 page views

Inventory: OK till fall

Membership: 1 new member

Lauren Day Grant update: no news to report.

As an aside, Jay mentioned that the City wants to charge the Art Center \$2200 for use of streets, same for Seafood Festival.

Seahorse Key artist in residence: UF station under new management. Mindy Allen is looking for grant money to continue the Artist in Residence program.

Greg Lang: Dept of Environmental Protection Springs Funding Grant: \$56 million, \$23 million for Suwanee.

Outreach: The open house at Seahorse Key was washed out by rain. Only two boatloads of visitors showed up. Maria asked if we should continue to support Seahorse Key open house. All agree yes, it is a Refuge event on refuge property. The refuge should have a strong presence so the public will not think UF is the primary entity there.

Vista: Proceeding with application for National Register of Historic Places. Meeting with Peggy Carr to proceed with registration and get access to grants.

Refuge update (Larry): Culvert work in progress on Cabin Road.

Tram ridge trail boardwalk construction on E side wet area (about 200 feet of walk).

Friends brochure making it possible to promote to visitors.

Debbie's signs are going up.

Dixie Mainline closed for up to two months for bridge repair.

1 gone from fire crew for Merritt island prescribed burn.

Intern is in Colorado for training.

Vic attended first Black Bear project meeting. 35-40 are present on both sides of the Suwanee. Plan for more transparency on future releases. 7 orphan cubs released last year.

FWS seaside sparrow project is underway. Tags can be detected by the refuge's tower.

Hog Hunt expanded to Thanksgiving week.

Wounded Warrior event – include hunt or river ride.

Pokemon Go is attracting players to Shell Mound. There is a Gym site that may be a safety issue.

Handicapped access area behind office has been switched to Archery only for safety reasons.

Barnett Creek sign was stolen.

Overflights by Warthog fighters- the Air Force says airplanes were out of bounds and at only 250 feet when filmed by Seahorse Key observers.

Russ: Cooperative efforts with other Friends Groups: Plan to meet with Dan Fritz, Complex Manager at St. Marks Aug 17-18. Otherwise no progress.

Oct 20 meeting is in Dixie Co in conjunction with Suwanee cleanup. Need input from Debbie Meeks and Jan regarding specifics. Andrew is checking on borrowing Crystal River Refuge Pontoon boat to ferry CK volunteers to Suwanee.

Future sources of Grant money- Peer to Peer, \$12k, once a year.

Ding Darling will use their Peer to Peer money for an event next June.

Still investigating grant to have event with other Big Bend Groups here.

Next meeting Sept 15.

Communications Team Report July 2016

Achievements during the past month –

- Debbie drove to Alaska
- Kit went to Machu Picchu and Vermont, and is headed to Alaska
- Paul went to Alaska
- Peg survived having a puppy

In the works –

- We have forgotten

Facebook Page

- 1 New fans. Total now is 415.
- 3 Posts and 1 Share since the last report. Bob, Maria, Peg
- 600 Number of people to whom our posts were “served” by Facebook in since the last report.

Friends Website

- 1 post, by Peg, in the past month
- About 1600 visitors in the past month, down about 100 from the previous month
- About 8200 pageviews in the past month, down about 1,500