

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR
February 19, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Prepared by: Debbie Meeks

Present: John McPherson, Libby Cagle, Ed DeHaan, Bill Dummitt, Joe Hand, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Dan Kline, Roger McDaniels, Debbie Meeks

By phone: Debbie Jordan

Potential future board members: Matt Chatowsky, Denise Feiber, Carol McQueen, Travis Thomas, Barbara Woodmansee

Guests: Jay Bushnell, Andrew Gude, Peg Hall, Russ Hall, Victoria Koachie (sp?), Mattie (sp?),

10am- call to order

- 1- The agenda was adopted by consensus.
- 2- A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the January minutes.
- 3- Treasurer Report- No questions on the end-of-year report. Linda Kimball answered budget report questions from the last meeting and there were no further questions. There followed a spending and budget discussion with widespread agreement that funds are being spent for worthy projects that further our mission and we should continue without modification. It was noted that the grant revenue and payments for the Vista project should be included in our accounting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the budget with the inclusion of the Vista grant.
- 4- Refuge report- Andrew Gude
 - a. Vic received the Employee of the Year award.
 - b. Sterling is working nights with FWC which is an effective partnership.
 - c. Hog season ended Sunday. Andrew is applying for an invasive species grant to trap hogs.
 - d. Staff is staging floating docks on the inside cove at Seahorse Key fitted with speakers, gravel and decoys to attract nesting shorebirds.
 - e. M-CORES discussion with possible Friends involvement.
- 5- Annual Meeting- the To Do list was reviewed, tasks are progressing according to schedule.
- 6- Nominating Committee
 - a. The slate was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the slate with the addition of Carol McQueen should she accept the position.
- 7- Project Reports and Discussions
 - a. Visitor Contact- Bill Dummitt reported that most shifts are covered and we have a few new volunteers. Visitors, Victoria and Mattie gave a summary of their work on the Refuge sponsored by the American Conservation Experience.
 - b. Interpretive media- Debbie Meeks reported that the Top 10 brochure was reprinted. Membership- the report was discussed, Debbie will try sending a different format.
 - c. Online Communications- Peg Hall summarized her written report and noted there were two News Briefs last month, a special one highlighted Vic's award and a wildlife program on PBS.
 - d. Inventory and Sales- Bill Dummitt reported that the swallow-tailed kite designs shirts are here. He also has new earring and hats.
 - e. Kite Project- Debbie Jordan is making a fundraising poster for the annual meeting with a goal of \$2250. Debbie reported that transmitters have an expected life of 2 years so another payment won't be due until the current transmitter fails.
 - f. Pepper Busting- The group has been working on Lukens. Scott Wright is taking over the trailer. This is Roger's last report after Pepper Busting for 12 years. IFAS is releasing biocontrol thrips on Cedar Key Water Department land and will monitor the effect.
 - g. Trails- no report
 - h. Advocacy- Jay Bushnell reported that the FL Wildlife Federation will recognize George Wilson. Jack Davis, author of The Gulf, will speak at the library. M-CORES discussion.
 - i. Vista- John McPherson reported that the Bender & Associates draft report was submitted to the board and the first payment is due.
- 8- Open Discussion- nothing

Adjourned at 11:55am.