

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR
June 15, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Prepared by: Debbie Meeks

In-person at Cedar Key Library: Peg Hall, Denise Feiber, Joe Hand, John McPherson, Barbara Woodmansee

Remote:, Matt Chatowsky, Ed Dehaan, Debbie Jordan, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Ginessa Mahar, Debbie Meeks, Paul Ramey, Travis Thomas

Remote guests: Ann Webster

In-person guests: Andrew Gude

10:05am- call to order

- 1- The agenda was adopted by consensus.
- 2- May's meeting minutes were accepted by consensus.
- 3- The treasurer's report was presented by Linda Kimball and accepted by consensus after a short discussion about the donations we make to other organizations.
- 4- Refuge Update.
 - a. Daniel is brokering the first timber sale at St. Marks.
 - b. Larry is working on coon control on the islands with nesting birds.
 - c. The YCC positions are all filled.
 - d. The Discovery Channel is going to film Jim Wortham and his airplane.
 - e. The Center for Biological Diversity sent a letter about airboat noise and wildlife disturbance, Dan Frisk is replying. There was a discussion about airboat noise probably falling under state regulations vs. airboat scars over marsh grass which is likely trespass on refuge property. Andrew also clarified that the bay bottom is state property so prop damage is not refuge jurisdiction.
 - f. Andrew is working on a special use permit and a grant for Mark Clark's team to place shotcrete stabilization bags on eroding areas such as Corrigan's reef.
- 5- Summer Solstice
 - a. Ginessa reported that plans are finalized. There was discussion about where the event has been advertised and some new suggestions were made. Ginessa will ask to borrow a 15 passenger van if we need it for shuttling people from remote parking.
- 6- Banking- Credit Card and Signatory
 - a. Linda made a motion that the Friends of Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges has two accounts with Drummond Bank, a checking and a Money Market account. The signatories to both accounts are to be: Margarete (Peg) Hall, President; Linda Kimball, Treasurer; John McPherson, Immediate Past President. William Dummitt shall be removed as a signatory from both accounts. The motion passed.
 - b. Ginessa made a motion to apply for a credit card. Discussion followed about having a board executive's name attached to the card vs no name but with less security. There was also discussion about using a personal credit card and getting reimbursed- the card's perks benefit the card owner and could be viewed as compenstion. The need for a card was debated since all recurring charges are currently being paid with PayPal or bank transfer and miscellaneous purchases can be paid by check. The motion failed.
- 7- Gift Acceptance Policy
 - a. Peg presented that we need to think about having one. A background document with a link to an example is in the Dropbox folder for this meeting. Ginessa sent the following links during the meeting: [Controversial Donors: A Guide to Ethical Gift Acceptance for](#)

[Nonprofit Organizations](#) [Sample Gift Acceptance Policies](#) [A gift acceptance policy can help nonprofits decline unsuitable donations](#) A committee will be established to write one.

8- Vista

- a. John M gave a project overview and stated that the deadline for the special category grant was May 31 and Belinda submitted it on time. The proposal focuses on stabilizing the cook's house and houseboat and funds would be released in 2023-2024. The grant's guidelines and the submitted grant are in the Dropbox folder for this meeting. There was discussion about the 25% match Friends would be responsible for. John is gathering support letters from local organizations to help our ranking. Appropriations are awarded in the Spring according to ranking. A motion passed to ratify the submission of the proposal.

9- Partnership Agreement

- a. There is a background document in the Dropbox folder for this meeting. Peg summarized where we are on different points. The final agreement has not been presented to us.

10- Trivent Choice

- a. There is a background document in the Dropbox folder for this meeting. Paul noted that Trivent is not a Lutheran organization. A motion was made to apply for a listing with Trivent. There was discussion about waiting until the gift acceptance policy is written. Paul abstained from the roll call vote because he is a Trivent employee. The motion failed.

11- Information Items

- a. Membership
 - i. Debbie M. reported that donor retention is down compared to this time last year.
- b. Welcome Desk in Cedar Key
 - i. Denise reported that the desk is a success, Cedar Key visitors sometimes don't know about the refuge. We need signage for the desk. A committee will be formed to recruit and manage desk volunteers.
- c. Dropbox Photo Project
 - i. Boyd is working on reorganizing the photos and welcomes new photos sent to his email.
- d. Online Communications
 - i. Peg sent a May/June issue which had a 40% open rate. Notes from Andrew and hunting and fishing are the most popular.
 - ii. There were 11 new articles on the web blog.
- e. Inventory and Sales
 - i. No sales, we need a marketing drive. Ideas were discussed such as posters around Suwannee and at the Shell Mound event. Adding a new item might boost sales, Barbara offered a butterfly poster she would design.
 - ii. Debbie J is moving toward using one local vendor because they have better pricing.
- f. Kite Project
 - i. Debbie J. reported that Suwannee's tracker is working and he has a nest but it is not known if it is successful. There was brief discussion about a new tracker and fundraising for it.

- g. Guidestar- Peg reported that Bill will upgrade our profile. He was absent from this meeting.

12- Open Discussion

- a. Peg stated that we need to revise the April minutes to reflect that we discussed applying for the Vista grant. There was consensus to revise the minutes.
- b. Debbie M announced that our free GoDaddy email is being replaced with Microsoft 365 at \$28.68/year. There was discussion about going with Microsoft or using our free gmail address. A motion to keep our existing email address with Microsoft 365 was passed by consensus.

Adjourned at noon