

Minutes
Board Meeting Agenda
Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges
Monday January 14, 2013

Board Members: Peg Hall, Russ Hall, Jay Bushnell, Mark Gluckman, John McPherson, Jerry Salamon, Bob Hudson, John Thalacker, Ed DeHann, Greg Lang. Attending by phone: Kirby Alexander.

Staff: Andrew Gude, Pam Darty, Christine _____, Daniel Barrand.

Others: Greg Lang, Roger McDaniel, Jane Connors.

Call to Order.

Meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. by Peg Hall, Chair.

Approval Items:

1. Minutes from December 3, 2012 Board Meeting.

Motion to Accept: Bob Hudson; Second: Jerry Salamon. Passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report.

A treasurer's report was provided by Jerry Salamon, Treasurer, and is attached. Motion to accept: Bob Hudson. Second: John Thalacker. Passed unanimously.

3. The Board agreed upon the following date and time for the next meeting: Tuesday, February 19, 10 a.m.

Discussion and Decision Items

1. Nominating Committee

Jay presented a report. Slate as discussed at previous meeting will be taken to the annual meeting. Peg talked to Jennifer Seavey about being a board member, and she is thinking about it. If the possible members who Peg and Jay have talked to have not decided by the time the slate is published, others could be nominated from the floor. The Board agreed.

2. Bylaws changes

Peg reported that the bylaws changes will be presented at the annual meeting. Bob pointed out a typo, and asked whether a portion of the bylaws relating to officers and directors needed to be clarified. It was agreed that clarification is needed and that the following change be made in the first sentence of Article V, Section 1: add “additional” so that it reads “and at least 3 *additional* Directors.” Jay will put proposed changes in the Ibis.

3. Budget Committee

Russ reported that the budget committee recommends that Assumption 5, relating to keeping track of volunteer hours, be deleted. There was discussion, and the Board agreed to take it off the budget document. Russ reported that he used very conservative numbers for income and carry over, and that he had created a chart (attached) showing initiatives, each of which could be budgeted for. Discussion of the projects and initiatives ensued, with Russ stating that “champions” are needed for each of these. The initiatives and projects were arrived at at a meeting between Andrew and the budget committee.

Jay discussed his ideas about the artist participation project. Ann Camizowski offered to help on the art initiative.

Dixie County enhancement: Jane Connors made suggestions for getting the word out in Dixie County.

Dixie County Refuge Expansion: Greg Lang was suggested as the champion. Andrew discussed the public possibilities for the purchase/expansion. Only 3 private landowners between Lower Suwannee and St. Marks refuges. Work is underway with an NGO to bring the landowners on board. Discussion ensued on ways in which a refuge can be expanded. Right now easements are being considered for the private land. Jane Connors reported that the impetus for the expansion is coming from Dixie County, which sees this as consistent with the way County wants to move forward. At some point Friends will need to lobby Fish and Wildlife. It was reported that the Chief of Refuges will be at the annual meeting.

Education Enhancements: Russ described and Donna Bushnell was mentioned as possible of champion.

Andrew listed the Refuge staff champions for each initiative.

Nature Coast Conservancy Cedar Key Marshes: Andrew is going to prepare a new MOU with Florida’s Nature Coast Conservancy. Jerry will be the champion and contact for FNCC.

Paddling Initiative: Mark reported that there are three projects being considered for next year: (1) Paddling Festival in Cedar Key. \$300 suggested for support by Friends. (2) The addition of a 13th panel to the paddling panels which would be focused on Lukens tract and area around Cedar Key. \$300 was suggested as Friends expenditure to create the pdf file, leaving \$900 for printing panels. Alternatives discussed for coordination with Paddling Festival, such as printing a map for the paddling festival. Mark suggested using the money for the Paddle Festival map, rather than the 13th panel. Motion to do both the paddle festival map and the 13th panel: Jay Bushnell. Second: Jerry Salamon. Motion passed unanimously. (3) Future of Paddle Panels: Renting is difficult because no one wants to deal with the aggravation. Mark suggested that we give away the ones that the Refuge paid for, and then when re-print new panels which we could sell. It was agreed to add paddling issues to the February agenda.

River Trail Enhancement: John Thalacker is the champion and discussed the proposals for improvement. John described the proposed improvements which include parking, ADA compliance, signage, and kiosk. John asked that refuge staff check on a tree leaning over the path. Andrew agreed that he would take care of this.

Science Symposium: Russ reported on progress.

Science–Inventories and Surveys: Russ reported on progress, and his work with Jennifer Seavey on this.

Shell Mound Visitor Enhancements: Russ reported that a champion is needed for this project. Andrew discussed needs to improve visitor experience and protection of site. Roger McDaniel offered to be champion. Ron Black will be asked if he wants to help.

Tearsheets: Russ described this project as maps of refuges with self-guided tours, and that a champion is needed.

Vista Property: Russ discussed this project, and the need for funding. Kirby is the champion.

Jerry asked whether the treasurer's report should be coordinated with the budget documents. The Board agreed that this a very good idea. Jerry also asked about whether we need to make inventory purchases. Peg will talk to Carmelo about this.

Motion to approve the budget as submitted by Russ, subject to final tweaking: Bob Hudson. Second: Mark Gluckman. Motion passed unanimously. It was clarified that the amounts shown in the budget may be spent by the champion without bringing back to the Board for approval.

4. Christine reported on the Cooperator's Lunch on January 24, and asked what Friends can help with. Peg reported that Friends has allocated \$500. The Board agrees that it should be catered by Ada Blue. It was clarified who from the Board would be attending.

5. Annual Meeting, Silent Auction, and Refuge Open House.

Peg sent last year's program to the Board members. Peg reported that she thinks morning went well; but the afternoon with the presentations not so well due to lack of audience. Peg suggested that we go back to boat rides, hay rides, nature walks. Peg reported that the speaker will be Peter Frederick on oysters and oyster catchers. The Regional Chief of Refuges will be coming, and it was agreed that there should be a slide show on initiatives, with focus on getting people to volunteer. It was agreed that the start should be at 9:30 so people will have more time for silent auction. Peg, Jay, Bob and Andrew will work on the schedule to be brought back to the next Board meeting. Mark suggested the need for a limit on the Sandfly Creek paddle. Jay reported on the need silent auction items and volunteers. Jane stated that she will do some publicity: Suwannee Connection, etc. Peg suggested that silent auction be nature-related. Jay suggested the need to have a minimum bid.

6. Library Lecture Series

John Thalacker reported that he had a meeting with Molly from the library, and others, to establish dates, times and speakers. Next coming up: 1/17th Florida's Land and Water Legacy: Constitutional Amendment. Speaker: Pegeen Hanrahan. 1/19: Magician and ventriloquist. 1/31: Team from Refuge: Intro to the Refuge. 2/2: Invasive plants; also open house at light house. 2/7: Grand Canyon. 2/9: Doug Maple: Birds. 2/14: Nothing scheduled. 2/16: nothing scheduled. Need suggestions to fill in the dates, especially in April.

7. Information Items

a. Refuge Update

Andrew gave an brief update on progress on various projects. Daniel reported that 100,000 plants and wiregrass plugs had been planted. He described how it was done and the benefits of wiregrass. Dates of inhouse planting: 21,000 pines, 30,000 wiregrass plugs: now through the summer. 2/9 UF Forestry and Wildlife clubs; 2/4 and 2/5 staff plant days: Friends volunteers welcome for 5 to 6 hours of work in the field. Andrew needs to know volunteers now, and will be identifying additional dates.

b. Membership Renewal Initiative. Peg reported that 100 out of 200 have renewed.

c. The Ibis. It was reported that there is a need to respond to Jay's email about articles. Jay reported that he need pictures with people in them, and that Articles can be very short. Bob agreed to do an article on fishing. The deadline is next week.

- d. Nature Walks. Nine attended the walk on this morning, and photos will be provided.
- e. Communication Report. Attached.
- f. Financial Review Committee (Richard, Carmelo, Bob, Jerry as ex officio) has been unable to meet to date and will report at the February meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.