

Friends of LSNWR Board Meeting  
May 16, 2018

Members present : Bob Lewis, Debbie Meeks, Margy Van Landingham, Bill Dummitt, Russ Hall, John McPherson, Doug Maple, Dan Kline, Peg Hall. Calling in: John Thalacker and Ed Dehaan

Refuge and FWS Staff: none

Guests: none

Meeting began at 10:00 AM

1- Meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2- Committee Reports

- a. Vista- Belinda has not sent her report yet.
- b. Visitor contacts – the formal program has ended. Some volunteers will continue to work the desk on occasion.
- c. Communication – Debbie reported that interest in the web site, news brief and Facebook page continues to go up despite there being few posts. Volunteer hours for the year have been totaled and are ready to submit to Andrew and Larry. Almost 1200 total hours including 50 hours of maintenance and trail work, 85 booth hours, 790 visitor contact hours and 262 communications and outreach.
- d. Financial- no monthly summary available at the meeting, although one was sent out after the meeting.
- e. Refuge report- Andrew emailed a written report prior to the meeting. See attached.

3- Open positions. A few names were suggested to fill the 2 empty board positions, Bill will make inquiries. John McPherson will take back the treasurer position temporarily.

4- John Thalacker gave a history of the Cedar Key Drummond bank donation. Drummond is willing to make a donation without recognition in a brochure. In response to a question about whether businesses could be members, Debbie reported that the Friends has a corporate member already and the structure is in place. Margy suggested we form a committee to form a policy. Russ has a template he will email to the board. John Thalacker moved to form a of board and non-board members to develop a draft policy on contributions and recognition of business entities. John McPerson seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation. Committee members are: Debbie, Doug, Bill, Dan, and John Thalacker.

5- Earth Day review- Bob Lewis said it went very well despite the buses arriving 20 minutes late.

6- Vandalism in Dixie county. Debbie reported that Clint Wynns wildlife murals on the Dixie Mainline were defaced last weekend. She submitted an article to the Dixie county papers. Larry will

possibly install some wildlife cameras.

7- Jay purchased some Gopher Tortoise signs personally. John Thalacker expressed concern that the signs should not call attention to active tortoise burrows due to potential molestation. Sign installation will be up to the Refuge staff.

8- New business.

- a. Debbie mentioned the upcoming Friends Peer to Peer Workshop in Kentucky and encouraged board members to attend.
- b. Bob Lewis suggested applying for the upcoming NPS grant to buy a boat for tours from Fowlers Bluff.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00

Debbie Meeks

(one time acting Secretary) for Ed DeHaan

Bill and Friends Board, my Refuge Report:

Mackenzie as a refuge office colleague and friend will be missed, and we wish her the best in her new endeavours.

The refuge is hosting a regional and refuge complex team in to review forest and fire management on the Dixie County side of the refuge on Wednesday 16 May. Sorry that I can't be here in person.

Dixie Mainline Bridges; graffiti. Refuge Volunteer's public art was recently vandalized. On the notion of the Friends offering a reward for tips leading to identifying the perpetrators; both our Law Enforcement and Visitor Services regional staff said this was ok to do, if the Friends wished to do so.

Snake Key - we have the authorization to close the waters but we are hesitant to install the poles/signs for fear of disturbing the nesting birds this late in the season.

Seahorse Key - no nesting activity.

Fire danger is gone, for now. May is often the driest month and we are fortunately wet. Vic is looking for burning opportunities once this wet weather passes.

Vic reports that the Pepper Busters are done for the season. They had a great crew and slaughtered lots of Brazilian Pepper.

Visitor loads have decreased and the refuge staff is grateful to Bill and our wonderful Front Desk Volunteers for their support and dedication.

No word or any surity on when/if we can replace our Law Enforcement position.

On the item of Friends and Business Partners, we are supportive of the Friends partnering with private entities on projects that benefit the refuge, public use, etc. We have coordinated with our regional folks on policies regarding such donations and recognition of donors.

If I missed anything I can follow up.

Thank you, Friends Board.

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