

Friends of Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

July 20, 2021 Board Meeting (By Zoom)

Board Members present: Peg Hall, Joe Hand, John McPherson; Debbie Meeks; Dan Kline, Ginessa Mahar; Debbie Jordan; Denise Feiber; Boyd Kimball; Linda Kimball; Paul Ramey

Members present: Jay Bushnell

Representing the Refuge: Andrew Gude

The meeting was called to order by President Peg Hall at 10:00 am EDT. The agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, and treasurer's report were accepted by voice vote.

Partnership agreement with FWS

After years of waiting for a final version of what signing the partnership agreement with FWS would entail, the document is available and available for review. Some of the more objectionable items are no longer present- there is no longer a requirement to hand over every penny in the treasury to the government if the organization dissolves. Most of the other requirements appear to fit our bylaws. After considerable discussion, there was a motion to sign the agreement by Peg Hall, seconded by Bill Dummitt. The motion passed unanimously. Debbie Meeks will be the signatory.

There was a discussion of whether to approve a grant application for Vista for \$10,000. (Because of a tight deadline, the application has already been filed.) The decision was approved by a show of hands.

Peg Hall had recently asked for someone to draft a gift acceptance policy. Such a policy was actually adopted in 2018. The policy was reviewed, discussed, and left as written. The group agreed that we have no formal policy to preserve policies adopted other than bylaws, and that this issue must be addressed.

Thrivent Application

After a short discussion, the group agreed to apply for funds from the Thrivent charity, by roll call vote.

Denise Feiber reported on visitor contact at the Cedar Key Welcome Center. Many more people are contacted there than were ever seen when visitor contact was at the refuge. Signage is needed. There was a motion by Peg Hall, seconded by Denise Feiber to allocate \$300 for signage. Motion passed by voice vote.

Refuge report: Andrew Gude

A new biotech is present on the refuge working on amphibians.

Swallowtail kites are massing in fallow fields north of the refuge.

Clint Wynns has volunteered to repaint vandalized bridges in Dixie county.

Vic Doig has been called away to work on western fires. George may also be called for the same purpose.

Vista turnover will be at the end of the calendar year. There are many items of historical interest in the garage and barn. Andrew plans to use language in the paperwork to make Friends the owners of these items. If they become government property it may be impossible to dispose of items of no value.

Larry Woodward is leaving the refuge at the end of September to accept a position at Okefenokee NWR. The refuge is planning an employee and family event for him. Friends may wish to have a separate event.

The refuge must respond to complaints about noise from airboats on the refuge and trespassing. Airboats sometimes shortcut through marshes.