

Present:

Roger McDaniels- Libby Cagle- John McPherson. - Bill Dummitt - Kit Lane - Jay Bushnell - Dan Kline - Linda Kimball - Boyd Kimball - Joe Hand - From Refuge: Larry and Jason, on phone Debbie Meeks and Debbie Jordan

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuges
April 17, 2019 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

10am- call to order

1-Approved: ***previous minutes with correction, agenda with correction.***

2-Treasurer Report: ***Will be sent out before meeting in future. Drummond is offering 2% interest on money market accounts and the board has agreed to move funds from savings, which earns very little, to a money market and will have the three current officers as signatories (John McPherson, Linda Kimball, and Bill Dummit).***

3- Refuge Report: ***Atsena Otie platform has been rebuilt but needs a better substrate. NWR has approached CK City about obtaining the old floating dock and using it or possibly using some smaller pieces that can be strapped together. Birds are being recorded for use next year in attracting nesters to the Snake Key and the platform. Snake Key rookery is looking good. Open house on Seahorse attracted 120 visitors.***

Work is progressing on Shell Mound board walk and the staff will ask for help installing the decking once the frame is ready. Friends voted unanimously to fund the interpretive map signs. Debbie Meeks has been instrumental in the development of this and many other signs on the refuge.

There was a long discussion on the use and purpose of the pontoon boat with no resolution. A committee of Refuge staff and Friends will be formed to figure out the logistics and legal aspects.

River trail - ***John Thalacker and Mat Sky identified accessibility issues on the trail. Jason has tried to address some of them. However, when a bump is removed, it usually leaves a hole. Now the holes need to be filled requiring the help of Friends to tote buckets of lime rock.***

4-Vista - ***John McPherson met with Belinda and expressed his displeasure in the lack of progress. The final report was due a year ago and we still do not have a valid draft. He will be working intently with her this month trying to get somewhere. She still has not been paid and won't be until a usable final report is provided.***

5-Visitor contact - ***Kit Lane - There were about 130 visitors sign in the book. Many of the seasonal volunteers have gone north but we will continue to staff the desk as much as possible with the remaining volunteers throughout the summer.***

6-Pepper Busting - Roger McDaniels - ***Finished for the season. Too many bugs already and too few workers.***

7-Online Communications - ***Peg Hall was absent but submitted a written report . Peg has expressed her desire several times to find someone else to take over this job. The question came up about hiring someone and this will be pursued. If anyone has any suggestions, pass them to John McPherson.***

8-Interpretive media - Debbie Meeks - ***New panel for Shell Mound as discussed in 3 above will be ordered. Next project will be on where to find butterflies on Refuge. See 13 below.***

9-Inventory and Sales - Bill Dummitt - ***Sales at OFCA were close to \$400 but Audubon in next booth sold over \$900. Using their idea on displaying the merchandise, a clothes rack will be purchased for use in visitor center and at festivals. Bill will send some earrings back that have not been good sellers and restock others that have been.***

10-Advocacy- Jay Bushnell - ***Suwannee River Water Management District has put in to acquire land adjoining Long Pond.. They are also working on the issue of Valdosta GA sewage discharge into the river. Gopher Tortoise signs are being installed - slowly.***

11- Events - Bob Lewis - ***Items tabled until next meeting when Bob Lewis will be there.***

12- By-law review - John McPherson - ***John will re-send the draft for us all to review any input should be directed to him. Completion needs to be by end of year so it can be presented to the members at the annual meeting in February.***

13-Open Discussion - ***Jason asked about the butterfly garden. He is tired of seeing the mess that is designated as our current spot and suggested that instead we just direct folks to specific areas on the Refuge that are commonly filled with butterflies. Roger updated on his efforts to get the Master Gardeners involved. During this discussion the idea of a brochure on butterfly spots came up.***

After the meeting several attendees went out and surveyed the area.

Adjourned at 11:35 pm

Prepared by Libby Cagle