

**Minutes**  
**Friends of Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys NWRs**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 21, 2021**  
**10 a.m. to noon**

**Attendance:**

In-Person: Board members -- Peg H, Barbara W. Refuge Manager -- Andrew G.

On Zoom: Board members -- Denise F, Linda K, Boyd K, John T, Paul R, Dan K, Ed D, Debbie J, GiNESSA M, Joe H. Friends past president Jay B.

**Welcome Back** from August board meeting break. Special travel:

- Barbara W. – Yellow Stone, Grand Tetons – huge impact by the fires, bears!
- John T. – honor flight, for veterans to the memorials in DC

Approval Items:

- Agenda accepted by consensus
- July Minutes
  - Accepted by consensus, assuming no errors
  - Treasurer report through Aug 2021 - Linda
    - Questions and discussion
      - Does “Transfer” refer to a restricted fund?  
No, it is money moved from from Money Market to Operating acct. Not restricted, but that is how Faye displays it on the balance sheet
      - On the Deposit Detail sheet, what are “collection fees”?  
They are collection fees the State returns to us when we send sales tax.
      - Why is there no interest on the Money Market account?  
Interest is only paid quarterly. \$3509.70 in operating acct as of this morning
  - Report accepted by consensus
- Budget Committee - Linda
  - Linda –Both Peg and Debbie (current and incoming Pres) are working w Linda to develop the budget for next year. Looking for additional committee member to join this committee
  - Have to vote on the budget in December
  - Let Linda know if you are willing to serve on the committee
- Refuge Update – Andrew
  - Open again after the flooding, road work continuing, mowing is difficult due to flooding, flies are bad
  - Opening of archery season, over 120 hunters on the refuge. Getting lots of calls and texts, have many new hunters, very popular. Handing out Sterling’s number
  - Hog hunt, additional 2 days due to popularity of refuge. MLK weekend, this is the first special hunt request.
  - No formal request for disabled hunters, have recently refined the process
  - Ron Black is retiring this week, done after this coming Friday. Replacement Mike Caulking rides an electric bike around town

- Hydro restoration project assessment is complete, water under roads and culverts.
- Biden initiative 30/30 conservation initiative, put in 4 projects. 1) Marine conservation area, eastern Gulf of Mexico. There is some interest, but would be a huge area, likely would be a Federally managed project. 2) Suwannee River/Watershed work with locals to do landscape protection, tourism, outreach. Coastal and River mgmt. will take this over, outside of Andrew's jurisdiction. 3) CK island project, find a way to retain the islands, working with UF Seahorse, Snake, and oyster reefs. Corrigen's reef is owned by the refuges, how to restore? Jute mat substrate. 4) Refuge infrastructure that would improve public access to the refuge. Clearing and repairs, includes Vista project.
- Larry is gone to his new position at Okefenokee NWR. Vic is retiring in December. Have a spreadsheet of the ongoing and historic data from the flight live data collection. Trying to find folks to do these surveys now that they are leaving. Looking for volunteers. Refuge would run the boats. John Andrew is a contender, retired from the service lives in Sarasota.
- Seahorse Key open house in July was missed. Should we host one for the Seafood Festival? Maybe not, things are very busy. Maybe a 9-3 event
- Vista – Charles and Glenda, caretakers. They will be moving soon to Folwers Bluff as they are building a house. Are assessing how to manage that. Will likely have someone live there as a resident caretaker. No stiped but some sort of agreement. Too much risk to not have a regular supervisor. Need to think through the logistics and begin to chip away at it. McPherson and Andrew went there recently, needs to be cleaned out, critical repairs needed. Some buildings will be falling down soon. Need to take care of materials that will be staying and what the family will be taking. The Friends would be able to keep/manage some things. The main house will the be the museum, local history interpretation from PreColumbian through logging through today and refuge history – using some of the materials that are now housed there. There is other stuff not going on display and we have to figure out what to do with it. Perhaps Friends could have an auction to raise funds.
  - Peg – any inventory would have to show in the Friends assets, due to new partnership agreement. But would be in the next fiscal year, have to ask Faye
  - Thalacker – community auction?
  - Andrew – need to reach out to connections about enhancing the museum at Vista, involve other stakeholders like in ranching and logging
  - Peg – Although the proposal for funding to move from strategic planning, which is completed, to logistical and tactical planning was not funded, Friends may want to self-fund this planning effort. The proposal would be a starting point.
- Have to develop an overarching plan that guides us, even before we get any implementation money. We have to refine the refuge plan anyway soon, which is a public process. Airboat disturbance has grown since the editorial about birds/boats/refuges. Will have to do an assessment.
- Seafood Festival Booth
  - Dates October 16-17
  - Should we have a booth?

- Going to be very busy, we have to get our inventory together, can make a few hundred dollars
  - Logistics, folks to staff it
    - Have a volunteer for Sunday morning, Denise can help on the front end to set up, very few people can help with the staffing, few are back
    - What about setting up an unmanned booth, or having some signage?
      - What about a COVID protocol? Some tents will not be having masks, can enforce masking in your own tent
    - Alternatives?
      - A one day event? An unmanned tent? Display at the welcome center?
      - Peg will determine what will work best
      - Denise will contact Anna Hodges to reserve a spot in case we want it
- Fall Activities?
  - Do we want to plan for something, or should we wait this out due to the COVID surge?
    - Butterfly walk, Archaeo-kayak tour
  - Winter Solstice - Denise
    - A few months away, time to plan, could also be impacted by the Christmas holiday
  - Archaeo-kayak tour - Ginessa
    - This fall? Not on the solstice but another time. Ginessa will reach out to FPAN to see about scheduling
  - Guided tours - Peg
    - Set up predetermined times/places. Each month a different place. Something that is regularly scheduled and so therefore predictable.
    - How often? Weekly? Monthly?
    - Have a schedule posted at the Welcome center
    - Regular monthly walks, and additional walks depending on migrations or if there is an expert in town. First weekend of each month?
    - Barbara – 3 butterfly walks Sept, Apr, July. Have to be on Tuesdays
    - Some good ideas for sure, we can continue to develop this
  - Retirements – Larry and Ron Black
    - How to commemorate? Pictures?
    - Shutterfly album? Use the dropbox photos that have been collected
    - Will continue to work on this
    - Gift will have to be under \$25, he cannot accept anything more than that
- Policies and Procedures
  - We need to find a place to have all of these together so that we don't forget that we have them
  - We need to have an index (finding aid) as well – Ginessa
  - John thought to have everything adopted into the by laws, he has been working on this
  - Issues: if in by laws than it will be harder to change policies bc you would have to get a vote from the membership, the board is here to do just that. Administratively it would be better to keep them separate.
- Vista

- Our proposal was rejected, we need to think about what to do now. The funds are still needed.
- Wanted to hire a few experts to advise the project. If we could ID these folks by January and find the rates for these people, get quotes. Maybe we need to think about how to find these people and go from there.

**Information Items Reported:**

- Butterfly Life List and other website updates
- Online Store on
- Membership “committee” change of leadership
- Dropbox Photo project
- Partnership Agreement is signed and in effect. *It is in the Dropbox for future reference.*
- CORFA request for a newsletter submission from us
- Online Communication

Meeting adjourned at 12:00

FLSNWR Notes 9/21/2021 Mahar notetaker