

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges
Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Board Members Present: Bill Dummitt, Margy VanLandingham, John McPherson, Debbie Meeks, Russ Hall, Bob Lewis, John Thalacker, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Kit Lane, Libby Cagle, Roger McDaniel, Doug Maple, Ed DeHaan, Debbie Jordan (on phone)

Guest: Greg Lang, Jay Bushnell

Staff: Larry Woodward

Meeting called to order by Bill Dummitt at 10:02.

Motion by John T. seconded by Kit to approve minutes, agenda, and any committee reports.

Vista Report: John Mc. Belinda is behind on her consultant report, but we anticipate it by the January Board meeting. State grant proposal is still out and will be worked on next year.

Staff Report: Larry W. All refuge staff law enforcement will be lost at the end of the year. Larry asked about the possibility of a brochure regarding the bat house. Jay and Debbie will work on that. Shell Mound panels are ready to install. Refuge staff will need volunteers to help. We need to involve Ken Sassaman. The refuge just ended the gun hunt. Family hunt is upcoming. Refuge staff had a meeting recently with hunters and emphasized staff desire to cooperate with hunters. University research on the salt marsh vole is ongoing. The refuge now has a luxury 31 foot pontoon boat that was donated by the Minnesota Audubon NWR. Larry will lose his dual purpose law enforcement certification in December. National Fish and Wildlife pushes this idea. There is a national FWC hotline that can be called if illegal activity is seen on the refuge. The number is 1-844-FWS-TIPS. We are encouraged to use that number. Greg Lang discussed the possibility of a hang-tag asking refuge users to report illegal activities. Greg agreed to work on a draft proposal. Motion by John T, seconded by Margy to empower Greg and the communications team to produce a flier or hang tag was passed.

Pepper Busting: Roger Hasn't started yet. Roger is planning a butterfly garden.

Visitor Program: There is enough flow of visitors to justify continuing this program. A call for help will be sent to the membership.

Communication: Debbie reports that we have exceeded our brochure budget. John Mc moves to authorize up to \$700 more for brochures. Bob seconded. Motion carried. Bill is preparing a draft for the end of the year report. A request for donations may be included.

Treasurer's Report: Presented in written form by John Mc. No concerns.

Merchandising Report: A committee consisting of Margy, Bill, and Jay scouted ideas from the Crystal River Refuge. They displayed some shirts. Crystal River's suppliers appear to give better prices.

Gift and Donor Recognition: Draft proposal for gifts was presented by Bill. We agreed that the "shoulds" will be changed to "wills".

Annual Meeting Planning: Checklist per Debbie is available in drop box. We need to find volunteers by next month.

Winter Solstice: Russ presented the plans and moved that we plan a Solstice gathering on December 21st and that the friends donate \$200 towards that activity at Shell Mound. The public is invited. Motion was seconded by Libby and passed unanimously.

River Trail Report: John T has listed the tasks that will be required to make the trail up to our standards. The needs were listed in an email sent to board members. John T will organize a work crew.

Earth Day: Bob reports that the school involvement from Old Town and Chiefland is very positive. A Monday near Easter will be chosen. There will be 2 hours of presentations. Bob wants to present the 5th graders with caps. The event might be extended to the afternoon if the schools can provide bag lunches. We need to provide port-a-potties for this event.

Advocacy: Jay presented an article by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Announcement: Collaborator Luncheon is coming up December 7th. As usual we are invited.

Adjournment: 12:03