

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuges
December 19, 2018 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees - Bill Dummitt - John McPherson - Roger McDaniels - Dan Kline - Kit Lane - Debbie Meeks - Debbie Jordan - Linda Kimball - Russ Hall - Margy Van Landingham - Dan Frisk - Andrew Gude - Jay Bushnell - John Thalacker (via telephone) - Libby Cagle

10am- call to order and introduction of guests

1-Approvals: previous minutes, agenda, any committee and financial reports - Motion by Kit, Second by Russ - Adopted

2-Committee Reports:

Refuge Report -Andrew Gude and Dan Frisk - Thank you to desk volunteers. Camper volunteers for both sides are in place for the season. Refuge (and complex) has a Tiger Cat (forestry mulcher) that is being used to great success in clearing vegetation preparing for burns and thus improving habitat. It is a share resource with other refuges. Cost was over \$400K. Hunts are over for year. First one scheduled in 2019 is wounded warriors and will be on Dixie side the second week of January.

Plans for BP spill money - hydrologic restoration and conservation easements on islands in Cedar Keys. The new pontoon boat is available for use but needs a certified driver. Jay Bushnell is planning on obtaining the cert.. Shell Mound signs are up but further work is needed to create better waling paths. The new skid steer will be used for that and a boardwalk will be built. All trails off CR 347 have been mowed and are ready for hikers. Cabin Road handicap access needs work after it dries out.

Jay, Larry, and Debbie Meeks are working on a bat brochure. Approval has been given to hire an LEO but because of training requirements and other administrative issues it will take until next fall before the person will be on sight. If DC can't get its act together and there is a shut down, the Refuge will remain open but not be staffed.

Vista: John McPherson - Report from Belinda Nettles due in January. It turns out that only the developed portion of the property is in life estate. The remaining acreage is in clear title to the Refuge.

Visitor contact- Kit Lane - The program has been a success and will continue. After a discussion was held about the process for volunteer sign up, those who attended the meeting and help staff the desk agreed that the current process is working well and Kit will continue using email to set the schedule.

Pepper Busting- Roger McDaniels - The last two weeks were spent working on Lukens. This week's schedule was to work on Cedar Key but because the weather is predicted to be so bad it will have to wait until next week.

Communications: Debbie Meeks - New Dennis Creek brochure available. Top Ten things to do is replacing Advocacy and Adventure brochures and will be ready soon. Bat brochure in work.

Financial Report: John McPherson - We currently have about \$32K. Report will be emailed to board members and is attached with these minutes.

Merchandising- Margy Van Landingham - Nothing new to report. A list of possible items was provided and is attached. She and Jay are still reviewing options to add to our "store".

Nominating Committee- Bill Dummitt along with John McPherson and Greg Lang make up the committee. Linda Kimball has agreed to step into the Treasurer position. They are still looking for a president elect and for a few people to replace at least three board members whose term expires this year.

Advocacy- Jay Bushnell - Nothing to report.

Law Enforcement on Refuge- Greg Lang and/or the Communications Team - Nothing to report

Announcements-

Winter Solstice Event Dec 21

President of Florida Bat Conservancy visits Refuge on Dec 23

Request from Ken Melton for articles on LS&CK wildlife for Explore Cedar Key publication. - Cedar Keys Audubon will pass the word for this to its members and meeting attendees.

3)-Gift and Donor Recognition - a copy of the revised draft policy is attached. Unless further revisions are requested, a vote is in order. Motion made by John Thalacker and seconded by John McPherson to adopt the plan once all "will" are changed to shall".

4)-Annual meeting prep- need volunteers to handle various aspects of meeting- physical preparation of the site, find speaker, arrange catering, registration, etc. Quite a bit of time was spent on this subject that included a good discussion on whether we are paying too much for the event. We decided that it is money well spent and John McPherson made a motion to include \$2300 in next year's budget which will allow us to continue with our past practice. Dan Kline seconded and the motion passed. Bill provided a planning document and volunteers have stepped forward to take on some tasks. Do we want to do a photo contest this year? Bill will talk to Ann Kamzelski and Anne Lindgren. Further planning will be discussed at next meeting.

6)-Earth Day event- should we host this event again in 2019? If so, what are our goals and budget? Another subject that generated considerable conversation. This was tabled until next month so we can get a clear, strong proposal. Whatever the program is, it must be tied in some way to the Friends of the Refuges' mission and goals.

7)-Financial Review committee - John McPherson will bring 2019 budget to next meeting. In the mean time a financial review will take place. Motion made by John M for Linda K as incoming treasurer, Bill Dummitt and Mac Cox to comprise the review board. Kit seconded the motion and it was approved.

8)-Bylaw revision - Bill, Russ, and Margy will attempt to revise the by-laws to be ready for a vote by the annual meeting in Feb.

9)-Meetup group - Didn't have a lot of time to discuss this so it will be on next month's agenda.

10)- Moved to announcements -

11)- New Business Margy has developed a sample calendar of many Cedar Key events.

Adjourned at 12:10 pm Kit motion - Russ seconded.

Prepared by Libby for Ed DeHaan