

**Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 31, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM. Attending: Jay Brenner, Cynthia Plockelman, Joan Davis, Jean Poleshuck, John Marshall, Steve Horowitz, Rolf Olson, David Underwood, Mitch Rosenheim, Tom Poulson, Elinor Williams. Excused Absence: Sid Rotter

Reading of the Minutes of the April 26, 2008, meeting was waived.

Rolf Olson reported on the proposed Solid Waste Authority Landfill. As of 6/4/08, there were 3 possible alternate sites, but the original site on the western boarder of LNWR is still listed. One is next to STA1W and 2 others are 20 miles west of Refuge and 1 in the "flowway" zone. Private use of area for 2nd landfill wanted. A train for bringing materials to the landfill is a possibility. The Regional Director is officially asking for the original site to be taken OFF the list.

On the "move" to new building: furniture is here "this week"; a 2nd week will be used to pack up; "movers" here on June 9, 2008. Rolf is on vacation June 9-26, 2008; Michael Lusk will be here June to help and be acting manager for the 2 weeks Rolf is gone. He is to be chief of the "exotics" program.

Part of filming of the Friends video is underway, and helicopter was used. They will come back for interviews. John Wallace and Grant Gefford assisted.

Rock mining in EAA was also approved by the PB Co. Board of County Commission.

Welcome letter to the new Refuge Manager, Sylvia Pelizza, due here in July, will be written by Jay Brenner. Sid Rotter will write Cindy Bartosek a letter of thanks for all her years of managing/staging the annual photography contest. Cindy also did an outline of procedures for future photo contests.

On the Treasurer's Report, Jean Poleshuck handed out the balance and expense sheets: \$69,000 in accounts and \$23,000 in C.D. Renewal date is July 19, 2008 and these are the funds pledged for the exhibits. She reported store sales are down, due to season, gas prices, etc. Donations to the Refuge are \$8,486.00 to date. Ledger in the office includes background and records of the Friends contributions. It was announced Herb Teitler is to be Assistant Treasurer and work with the new store in V.C.

Steve Horowitz discussed the move of the Friends store to the new visitor center. Packing begins 6/4/08 with boxes available from movers. Everything is to be labeled as to destination. Hal and Harvey will finish up in store 6/6/08. Steve will meet with Herb Teitler on the new cash register/computer that will be used to manage store accounts. Back up information on the new system was provided to the board. It should enable better controls and ease of accounting (see New Business).

Jean Poleshuck proposed honoring Lester Nelinson by buying a brick in his honor @ \$100.00. It was 2nd by Tom Poulson, and passed. Discussion ensued of how to honor exceptional volunteers/service—some place in the new Visitor's Center. Rolf supports it. Specific proposals are needed, per Steve H. and a committee to address the subject, appointed by Pres. Jay Brenner. It was moved by Jean P., 2nd by Mitch Rosenheim and passed.

The collection of photos/slides of George Forest has been retrieved by Jeanne Forest, due to questions about preservation, management, use, etc. There was a long discussion as to use, preserving on disk/computer/terminal access in Visitor Center. Rolf agreed that there had been no clear definition of the donation, originally. David Underwood is to take charge and materials are locked up in Rolf's office for now. There would be a large cost to pursue digital copies/professional processing. That would be a cost to Friends, per Jean P. Need for clear understanding on what the slides are for, usage allowed, management, etc.

Jay B. announced that we are now full members of the Everglades Coalition and he is getting all emails/announcements.

Forest Hill Community High School (Environmental Academy) is fund raising for Leah Schad memorial. They are not donating to other organizations –supporting the Refuge only, per Mitch R.

On exhibits fund raising for new Visitor Center, the \$20,000.00 check was presented by Audubon Society of the Everglades, at their May, 2008 meeting. Rolf Olson and Jay Brenner attended received it for FWS. All monies are needed NOW in order to get construction done. Over \$390,000 is coming from South region of FWS and the Florida Legislature just voted \$300,000. (We need to be sure it stays in the budget!). Steve H. discussed that the total amount is over the needs and part should be designated for repair and maintenance as needed.”

Under New Business, there was a note from Nancy Marshall, about a \$100,000.00 from the Batchelor Fdn., for video and multipurpose funds. She suggested the Friends apply their donation/funds elsewhere. Long discussion on not “putting the B. Fdn.donation at risk. Mitch Rosenheim moved that the Friends “reconsider” the \$20,000.00 donation on the video and explore alternatives. It was 2nd by Jean P and passed. Possibility is \$17,000 for exhibit managing the Refuge – would be partnering with Refuge on it. Mitch is going to get back with Nancy, on this.

Steve H. discussed the proposed new register/computer for the store: see handout for details. Offers manage advantages, including touch screen; ties in with Quik Books software, ease of use. Herb Teitler did the research. They are proposing a 36 month lease, at end FLR will “own” it, warranty included. It passed.

Joan Davis reported on the proposed violation of the Agricultural Preserve for a private, religious school. League of Conservation Voters opposed and met with Co. Administrator, Bob Weismann, on another matter of “discretionary” fund use by Aaronson for a road extension in Ag Reserve. Motion by Mitch Rosenheim for letter to Board of County Comm., opposing use of preserved land in Agricultural Preserve and any changes to the County Comprehensive Plan, that would allow such “civic” or private use there. Jean P. seconded & passed. Joan D will draft letter and get it submitted.

Elinor Williams discussed the “stunt” plane issue, which routinely violates LNWR every Saturday and Sunday, and has been protested. Rolf said the “training” zone is above 2000 feet and is routinely violated – very hard to enforce. Video documentation by a refuge visitor during a 3 day visit in March is available.

Elinor W also discussed the “calendar” from last year. Wants to re-do, get costs down and advertising as needed. Photos from the contest will be used.

Jean P. mentioned a “rack of cards ”as a promotional tool in the new V.C. Could use a variety of sources, including from photos and calendar, with FLR helping distribution.

No meeting was planned for June, lacking a quorum, due to vacations, etc.  
Next meeting is July 12, 2008, 9 AM, at the new V.C.  
Meeting adjourned. 10:40 AM, EDT.

Cynthia Plockelman