

Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 24, 2009

The Board of Directors (“BOD”) of the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Friends”) met on Saturday, January 24, 2009 in the Conference Room at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Refuge”).

Attendees: Steve Horowitz, John Marshall, Jay Brenner, Mitch Rosenheim, Joan Davis, Judy Colvard, Elinor Williams, Tom Poulson, Herb Teitler, and Kim Edoff. Absent were Lance Warley and Cynthia Plockelman

The meeting opened at 9:18 am. Steve asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the December 20, 2008 meeting. Mitch moved to waive the reading and approve the minutes. Jay seconded the motion. The minutes as circulated for the December 20, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved. Steve asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the January 18, 2009, Annual Meeting. Jay moved to waive the reading and approve the minutes. Herb seconded the motion. The minutes as circulated for the January 18, 2009 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.

President’s message: Steve thanked the Board for their support now and for the challenges ahead. He will post his monthly column on the website and challenges all Friends to:

- Bring in 2 new members this year
- come to the Refuge regularly, visit the gift shop, and go on a tour
- visit the website regularly
- respond back to him directly using his email address as posted in his monthly column on the website ([we have a new email address: loxahatcheefriends@armnwr.fdn.com](mailto:loxahatcheefriends@armnwr.fdn.com), however, [Steve will probably use an address based on our loxahatcheefriends.com email](#))

His challenges to the BOD include knowing how the store and cash register operate and work a shift once per month, especially with the new exhibits coming in. Significant Board discussion followed regarding the BOD challenge as well as challenges in general of staffing the gift shop and increasing the size and training of our volunteer base overall. The Visitor’s Center is now open 7 days a week and will continue those hours throughout the summer. The second challenge is that each Board member has at least one if not more significant on-going assignments. The third challenge is that every Board member who attends a meeting that at all affects the Refuge or the Friends should report back to the BOD on what happens at those meetings so that the BOD is up-to-date. Furthermore, any Board member who goes to a meeting as a representative of the Friends needs to be wholly supportive of the Friend’s BOD positions on issues and policies even if you disagree personally (or privately). Steve reiterated that these are all challenges, not requirements.

Monthly Refuge Staff meeting: Steve reported on the monthly staff meeting at the Refuge (January 13). He thanked the staff for all of their work and asked if a staff member could write a monthly column for our website describing what they do at the Refuge. They are also having fire extinguisher training of staff.

Reports by Board members:

John reported that he and Joan recently attended a meeting in which the Everglades Coalition (of which the Friends is a member), has drafted a resolution in support of the December, 2008 draft of the U.S. Department of Interior Vision and Plan for Successful Everglades Restoration. The Arthur R. Marshall Foundation &

Florida Environmental Institute (“Marshall Foundation”) will be working to gain more support for this resolution among all Coalition members. The Science and Technology committee at the Marshall Foundation have concluded that it is possible to restore/revegetate the River of Grass which supports the governor’s proposal to restore this gravity driven flow path to the Everglades. With the purchase of the sugar lands, it does now open the possibility to restoring these flow paths and make these proposals seem more realistic. This resolution has the endorsement of U.S. Fish and Wildlife as well. Mitch moved that the Friends support the Everglades Coalition resolution in support of the U.S. Department of Interior Vision and Plan for Successful Everglades Restoration. Tom Poulson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by all BOD present; with one abstention (Joan sits on the Water Resources Advisory Commission – (“WRAC”). Tom reported on a symposium of the Everglades Coalition about issues regarding reservoirs. John (who talked about the economics) and Tom (who addressed the mechanics of taking flow paths and reservoirs and making them better), were part of the panel. Some great ideas were generated.

Judy reported that she and Steve recently met for a preliminary meeting with Nancy Marshall regarding the 2010 Everglades Conference (hosted by the Marshall Foundation) and the Friends hosting a reception for the Friends of Florida in conjunction with the Everglades Coalition the Thursday night (1/7/10) before the conference begins. We are investigating the possibility of hosting an all-day meeting at the Refuge for the Friends of Florida with speakers, activities, etc. on Friday (1/8/10).

Joan reported on her recent involvement with WRAC which advises the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District (“SFWMD”). There was a Phase I Planning meeting recently discussing what we would do with the land we would get on September 25 when the U.S. Sugar purchase closes. There are currently 16 other offers to buy the land. U.S. Sugar has accepted an amendment that if the Florida government cannot afford the purchase, we can get out of the deal. The SFWMD website has all the recent minutes from their meetings. Discussion followed on how much land the Everglades needs and how is the purchase being financed (Florida Forever funding). Joan also reported on a Solid Waste Authority meeting regarding the options available for places to house a landfill (one of which is next to the Refuge). They’ve delayed the decision pending more information but it looks like it won’t go next to the Refuge.

New Business:

Sylvia is going to the National Friends meeting in Washington D.C. with Steve and Judy.

Herb demonstrated a new training program available for the new register point of sale system. Several members of the Refuge staff will be receiving this training so that they can troubleshoot if a volunteer cashier has issues or problems using the system. Volunteers will receive one-on-one training on the system either from Herb or Judy.

We have a grant application going out from Sylvia and Serena to get funding to upgrade the education programs at the Refuge. The Friends have submitted 2 letters in support of this application.

Kim will form a committee to develop programs that will bring families and children to the Refuge on a regular basis. Serena will be a Refuge staff member on the committee. The committee will consist of other Friends members who have interests in this area.

Jay will coordinate work on reviving the Speakers Bureau (along with Harvey and Hal). They will work to recruit new speakers to go out on an as needed basis with Jay facilitating the execution of this. Because everyone saw Jay’s excellent swamp stroll at the Annual Meeting, there was discussion on preparing a video recording of all of the tour guides on their tours. Webmaster, George Berman indicated that posting them on our website was no problem. We should also investigate upgrading the promotion and advertising of our speaker’s bureau.

Still in process - George Forrest's slide collection

Hal Wiedemann's daughter has offered to donate to us his library of reference materials

Mitch will chair a By-Law revision committee. Please contact him if you have any suggestions on the By-Laws.

The BOD had some discussion around information dissemination - do we need a coordinator who can summarize it monthly, do we need Board members to email short summaries to all the BOD of their meetings. Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

Publicity: Elinor discussed the possibility of funding a promotional brochure. It was decided that she will explore all costs associated with the creative set-up and printing costs and bring it to a future meeting for BOD review.

Joan moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am. The next BOD meeting is February 28, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Edoff