

**Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 5, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Friends Board”) met on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Refuge”).

**Attendees:** President Steve Horowitz, Vice-President John Marshall, Treasurer Herb Teitler, Director Cynthia Plockelman, Director Joan Davis, Director Elinor Williams, Director Mitch Rosenheim, Director Lance Warley, Director Tom Poulson, and Secretary Kim Edoff. Rolf Olson attended representing the Refuge.

Absent were Director Stephanie Wright, Director George Berman, Director David Lurie, and Director Judy Colvard.

**The meeting opened at 9:00 am. A quorum was established.**

President Horowitz opened the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the addition of a new Director, Jeff Kramer, to the Board of Directors to serve out the unexpired term of Director Jay Brenner who resigned last month. There was some discussion regarding policy and protocol for adding a new Director to the Board. Mr. Horowitz indicated that he received many positive responses when he asked Board members about appointing Jeff Kramer to the Board. A general point was made that going forward, perhaps we can have some voting done via email. **Tom Poulson moved to approve the appointment of Jeff Kramer to the Board of Directors. Mitch Rosenheim seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.** Jeff Kramer, was then brought into the meeting and introduced to current Directors.

**Motion: Mitch Rosenheim moved to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2009 meeting. Cynthia Plockelman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Motion: Joan Davis moved to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2009 meeting. Herb Teitler seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

President’s message: Mr. Horowitz reported that David Underwood currently has a flyer available of the Refuge’s regular activities and it includes volunteer training times as well. The photo contest has started and the entry forms are available in the Visitor Center. Mr. Horowitz reported that he was recently involved in a training video for the Atlanta Regional Office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Correspondence from the Audubon Society was read thanking the Friends. In the past, we have taken the excess Everglades Day t-shirts and sold them in the gift shop. Cynthia Plockelman asked if we could include the Everglades Day volunteer training schedule on David Underwood’s master volunteer training schedule. Rolf Olson will investigate the appropriateness of the inclusion on the master schedule.

Tom Poulson reported on the Everglades Day Committee. The last meeting included a lengthy discussion of the t-shirt design and its focus on the arts. The t-shirt cost can only cover 3 colors. They are looking for a better design than in the past. The better the design, the more sales the Friends will have in the gift shop post event. John Marshall asked if we could add the wording “2010 year of the Everglades” on the shirt if the Marshall Foundation would be willing to fund it. Tom will follow up with Serena on that idea. Tom also suggested that the Friends and the Marshall Foundation team up to buy compostable items for general use at our events in the future.

Mitch Rosenheim reported on the Everglades Coalition Conference paddling trip. There will be 12 core

paddlers camping out along the way for the River of Grass expedition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Everglades Coalition. On January 7, a flotilla of canoes will paddle out to greet the core group and paddle to Grassy Waters Preserve. Canoes for the day are being donated by Loxahatchee Canoes and Grassy Waters Preserve. Mitch is working on getting additional canoe donations from sponsors.

Steve Horowitz discussed the Friends Conference at the Refuge on January 8. We are in the process of getting volunteers for that day. Jeff Kramer will handle canoe expeditions. Elinor Williams and Kim Edoff will help at the registration table in the morning. Lunch will be platters of cold cuts on the pavilion. The Everglades Coalition Conference will end with a field trip to the Refuge on Sunday, January 10, with the keynote speaker being Sam Hamilton.

Mr. Horowitz discussed the Friends Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24 at 1:00 pm. We will have a keynote speaker and a registration table for members to pay past due membership dues. **Elinor Williams moved to hold the Annual Meeting at the Refuge with the guest speaker followed by some type of refreshments. Lance Warley seconded the motion. Vote was taken and the motion carried 8:2.** The Board discussed having light refreshments catered by Lynn Dorsey for a few hundred dollars of cost. Mitch Rosenheim made a point of order and moved that this execution process be handled by the executive committee. The execution discussion was quickly finished and the next report was given.

Treasurer Herb Teitler gave the financial report. Our checking account has approximately \$7,200 with all current invoiced paid. Our CDs total around \$25,340. He recently did an analysis of our lost income of closing the shop during the exhibit construction period. We lost approximately \$1,700 in profit during those 4 weeks. Steve is checking with the insurance company to see if we can put in a claim for business loss using our business interruption insurance coverage. Our Profit and Loss statement for the year shows a \$5,700 loss for the year. However, this includes \$7,000 in non-recurring store improvements and \$1,500 non-recurring store consultant fee.

Discussion occurred on our CD and the proposal of funding the exhibit account CD every year. Treasurer Teitler questioned whether or not it was necessary to move money from one CD to another to cover the exhibit maintenance fund. Herb discussed the warranty on the exhibits and that our warranty is just beginning now. Therefore, there is no need to begin funding immediately as we will have no cash outlay for at least one year. **Herb moved to delay the funding of the exhibit maintenance account for one year.** Mitch Rosenheim asked if the Marshall Foundation or the Refuge had any funds set-aside that could be devoted to the maintenance fund and until we know that answer, we should make no decision on funding at present. The pros and cons of funding the account now were discussed. **Mitch Rosenheim moved to table the funding decision until more information can be provided on funds available and warranty details. Cynthia Plockelman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved 9:1.** Rolf Olson will obtain more information on the warranty and what exactly is covered and for how long.

Elinor Williams discussed our membership funding levels including offering a lifetime membership option. John Marshall also requested that as a matter of policy, all Board members should be making some standard level of contribution to the Friends group. **Joan Davis moved to add a "lifetime" membership category of \$500. John Marshall seconded the motion. The motion carried 9:1.** Discussion on revisiting our entire schedule of membership fees was tabled until a future meeting. Also discussed was the topic of placing some of our basic financial information on the web. Steve and Herb will send to the BOD our detailed financial information for review. We will work on getting some basic graphs on our site for members and other visitors to the site to understand where our income comes from and how we spend our money.

Rolf Olson gave an update of Refuge activities. We've recently had a 6,000 acre prescribed burn, a science initiative video has been produced, and the Sheik of Omar came for a tour. In January, the Refuge will be hosting regional directors for a visit. Currently the Hadassah art show is going on and the Refuge will be doing some training with the Palm Beach County Fire Department.

Steve reported that the Turtle River Times would soon be going out. Marta Isaacson and Serena Rinker recently wrote a grant and received some funding for some educational materials which we agreed to store in Friends space. Tom Poulson will again be working with the Envirothon scheduled at the Refuge for April 8, 2010. If any Board members have interest in attending the Southeast Regional Conference in Crystal River, FL, please let Steve know.

Steve asked if the Board would agree to sponsor Tom Poulson to give a 4 week Saturday course in the Refuge auditorium entitled "Our Threatened Everglades: Plans for Restoration". **Cynthia Plockelman moved to approve the sponsorship of Tom Poulson to teach a four week Saturday course at the Refuge. Joan Davis seconded the motion. Vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Joan Davis updated the Board on her work with WRAC. Recently there was a joint WRAC and Okeechobee webcast in which the Army Corps gave a report on restoration. They covered all current Everglades restoration projects in their report. For those who would like to view the entire webcast, you can go onto the SFWMD website. They also gave a presentation on climate change and the rising sea levels and how it relates to the Florida coastline. As the sea level rises, more salt will go into the aquifers and affect our drinking water supply. It was a very informative webcast.

Steve asked for a motion to join the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau at a cost of \$250 per year. **Tom Poulson moved to join the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau at an annual cost of \$250. Herb Teitler seconded the motion. Vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.** Steve also discussed the possibility of funding a 30 second professional video to produce a public service announcement (PSA) which would air on 4 local television stations for free for a 12 month period. We have a volunteer who would be willing to produce it for us but we need to cover the costs of materials for approximately \$200. **Herb Teitler moved to approve the funding of materials up to \$500 for a professional video public service announcement. Lance Warley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Future meetings:

Tuesday, January 5 at 2:00 pm

Saturday, February 27 at 9:00 am

Steve will prepare an email vote on how we should book our future meeting dates in 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Edoff

Secretary

December 5, 2009