

**Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Friends Board”) met on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 2:00 p.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 George Berman, Director Joan Davis, Director Elinor Williams, Director Jeff Kramer, Director David Lurie, Director Mitch Rosenheim, Director Judy Colvard, and Director Tom Poulson. Rolf Olson and Serena Rinker attended representing the Refuge.

Absent were Secretary Kim Edoff, Director Stephanie Wright, and Director Lance Warley.

The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

Motion: Herb Teitler moved to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2009 meeting. Joan Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Steve Horowitz announced special guest, Serena Rinker, from the Refuge to give an update on a special project she is working on. She and Marta Isaacson, an educational consultant volunteer, were fortunate to receive 4 grants for 4 different projects for the Refuge. Serena asked for funding help from the Friends group. Grant projects include the purchase of an education computer devoted for education project prep. Another grant was for a resource library to remain at the Refuge for use at the Refuge by educators. The third grant is for educational trunks for teachers to use here initially but eventually they can travel. The last grant is for 3 fieldtrip educational sites – one at the boardwalk, one at the marsh trail and the third to be installed at the old administration site. These sites would have informational materials for teachers to use on their fieldtrips at those sites. Discussion, question and answer session followed.

Mitch Rosenheim moved to select a committee to research Serena’s projects and return to the Board of Directors with a recommendation for funding. The motion was seconded by Joan Davis. Discussion followed. Vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

The committee members selected were Jeff Kramer and Mitch Rosenheim.

Rolf Olson gave his Refuge report. The highest ranking Obama cabinet member on environmental issues from the Center for Environmental Quality and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Strickland will both be out to tour the Refuge shortly in the next few days. Fire training and prescribed burns will occur on the Refuge shortly. On January 27, US Fish and Wildlife Directors from all different regions will be here for a tour. We currently have six camper volunteers (3 couples) plus one single living on the Refuge. They travel from refuge to refuge working as volunteers. A VIP meals budget is currently in process. The Refuge may be asking for a contribution from the Friends.

Discussion occurred around the status of Board members and their level of involvement.

Treasurer’s report: This is Herb Teitler’s last meeting with David Lurie stepping in fulfilling those Treasurer responsibilities going forward. In 2009, we show a loss of approximately \$5,000 but that includes approximately \$8,000 in expenses which are non-recurring. Considering that the store was closed for approximately 6-7 weeks, our sales levels were high. Due to the Visitor Center being open and increased publicity, it appears we are in a steady increasing sales pattern. We are now on Pay Pal on our website and we are already receiving contributions through that web tool. Questions arose regarding whether or not we

have a 2010 budget. Financial information for our website will be beneficial for potential donors. Work is in process on getting financial graphs on the website. There are some issues surrounding our current ability to accurately project our income stream and cash flow for the coming year. This is due to our inconsistent revenue streams over the last few years due to store openings and closings from renovations and exhibit installation. Treasurer, David Lurie, will begin to investigate how we can work toward our financial reporting goals.

Mr. Horowitz reported that we are prepared for the Florida Friends Conference and we will have airboats available for Friends. Our pre-registration is currently around 25-30 but we expect more. It's open to any staff member or Friends member from any Florida Refuge. We have a great line-up of speakers including Charlie Pelizza, Mark Musaus, and Dudley Edmondson. Activities at the Refuge such as bird walks, airboat rides, cypress swamp walks, canoe trips, etc. will be held in the afternoon.

Lace-Blue McLean from the Crystal River area refuge will be attending our conference and is working with the southeast region on the Friends Southeast Region Conference occurring in April. This Sunday the 10th, the Marshall Foundation is sponsoring events at the Refuge to conclude the Everglades Coalition Conference.

Mr. Horowitz discussed the Friends Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24 at 1:00 pm. We will have a keynote speaker (Professor Berry) and a registration table for members to pay past due membership dues. The agenda will include electing Board Members.

February 6 is Everglades Day. Tom Poulson is our representative to that committee. There will be two more meetings before the event.

Judy Colvard reported on our volunteer planning for upcoming events. She continues to work with Chuck Ryan to ensure that all event and staffing needs are being met. She is working on ensuring that we have qualified people working the register. We need to look into increasing the training components for all volunteers (such as cash register training). She indicated that there is a need for increased orientation time that includes in the field training such as getting tours of the Refuge (marsh trails, boat ramp, boardwalk, etc.)

Mr. Horowitz reported on the recent filming for the public service announcement last Saturday. We should have it ready to go shortly.

He reported that the entries for the photo contest are slowly starting to come in.

George Berman reported on the photo corps recently formed with 12 photographers that will cover various Refuge events. These photos will be moved onto our website. George will be working on obtaining additional technical support for moving photos onto our website.

John Marshall reported on the upcoming Everglades Coalition Conference. He discussed concerns around management of the Conference and the Coalition itself, and the coordination between the host committee and the planning committee of the Conference. The Marshall Foundation is working to rectify any inefficiency drawn to their attention. Steve Horowitz also noticed some disconnect between the Coalition and the Marshall Foundation. There will be significant radio coverage of the canoe trip and Conference events on WXEL.

Mr. Horowitz handed out the most recent Refuge monthly calendar that David Underwood now distributes.

Elinor Williams discussed membership donations via the web payment system and Board discussion ensued regarding the process from payment on the web to end in our account. Any issues that need to be addressed in the future with this payment method such as recurring vs. non-recurring payments will be worked on by Elinor Williams, David Lurie and George Berman amendments in payment protocols will be made as necessary.

She also discussed the mail payment process for new memberships and renewals.

Tom Poulson played a recording that described Everglades's renewal and restoration efforts by the Federal Government and various other State of Florida and private agencies. The recording included music and commentary.

Mitch Rosenheim reported on the recent issue of the National Wildlife Refuge Association's recent magazine issue which includes an article on the Refuge and the new exhibits.

Discussion occurred around last month's motion to transfer payment into the exhibits account. **Herb moved to delay the transfer of the payment into the exhibits account until the Board decides to move it. Mitch Rosenheim seconded the motion. Vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Kudos were given to Herb Teitler for all of his work as Treasurer. John Marshall will be installing bricks honoring Herb Teitler and Jay Brenner.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Edoff
Secretary
January 5, 2010