

Notes on the Friends Board Meeting:
May 1, 2018

Attendees: Steve Henry, Harvey Lee, David Lurie, Peter McKelvy, Cathy Patterson, Tom Poulson, Steve Schwartz, Elinor Williams, Mike Winokur

Absent: John Cole, Jay Paredes, Bruce Rosenberg, Sue Rowe, John Siegel, Barry Willette

Minutes of previously meeting submitted. David Lurie motion to accept, 2nded by Harvey Lee. All in favor. Minutes accepted

Refuge report: see written report from Steve Henry.

- Personnel
 - Low Hecker is in out-patient rehab and will not return to work until fall
 - Garrett Wong is leaving at end of May
 - Dale Klco from Hobe is retiring soon
 - Will be hiring 2 new fee collectors - 1 to replace Dale and a 3rd at Lox
 - Roger & Janice Brooks leaving in a few weeks
- Airboater work day on Sat was a big success
 - Thanks to Mike Winokur & Friends for helping with food for lunch
- Cooperative Agreement with SFWMD to fund the new License Agreement was finalized last week
 - One of the first coop agreements in the new administration
- Planning 2 Rx burns for end of week for total of about 35K acres
 - W unit to be burned on TH
 - E unit burned on FR - will need to close canoe trail
- Expanded public uses
 - Refuge will host several public scoping meetings in May
 - 5/19 am @ Mounts Botanical Garden
 - 5/22 in pm @ South County Civic Center
- Serena Rinker gave final Learning @ Lox lecture presentation for the season last TH
- May staff meeting is this Thursday 5/3

Two fee collectors to be hired by 3rd Q one for Hobe Sound and one for Loxahatchee Rd. Revenue increased from Loxahatchee Rd. fee booth.

Garrett Wong a volunteer is leaving in May

Last of Resident Volunteers leaving this week.

Florida Sportsman's Conservation Association, Air boater Work Day, 4/28/18. Fifty members w/ 20 boats participated. Structure removed from Refuge. Steve thanked the Friends for the lunch for the group.

Work Agreement with the FWC completed. 100% of the License agreement goes to invasive control.

Planning prescribed burns at the end of the week.

Public Use meetings will be held 5/19 at Mounts from 10-2. The second meeting will be held in June. FWS will be in a listening mode at these meetings and participants are encouraged to make their opinions known.

Thursday monthly staff meeting @ 8:30am.

Finalizing MOU with NRWA and Friends. This will allow for the funding of \$25K from NWRA for the Education and Outreach Associate position.

Treasurer Report:

The report for March was distributed

Mike W. suggested that we look at laddering some CDs to increase returns. Treasurer has reviewed the opportunities and does not see the benefit of doing the work. Increased returns of \$200 estimated.

Elinor and David both indicated that the work to do the evaluation was not worth the possible returns

Store Report

Cathy does not have the actuals from the Nature Store for April. Estimates for April sales provided, not yet reported from the Store.

Photo Contest Report

Not successful in getting youth involvement in the contest. Revenue for 43 entries was \$1250 Gross.

Great American Clean up

43 people showed up. It was a good day

Proposed Budget:

Discussion on funding request.

Recurring expenses in the report from Rolf. Most of the requests are already funded in the 2018 proposed budget.

Everglades Day Funding	\$7,900
Refuge Managers Discretionary Fund	\$1,500
Exhibit Maintenance	\$3,000
Wildlife Habitat (pocket refuge)	\$2,000-\$5,000

Wide discussion on the Proposed Budget, recommendations noted. Revised budget to be submitted for review by the board at the next meeting.

	PROPOSED	REVISED
NWRA	\$100	\$1000
WEBSITE	\$1000	\$ 150
VIDEO PROJECT	\$2500	\$ 0

UPDATE BUDGET FOR EVERGLADES DAYS IN FORMAT

Discussion around the QR Code and the resolution was to review statistics and bring information back to board for a discussion.

Mike Winokur brought up the proposal for a 10 passenger golf cart. Feels that this should be a priority for a Grant. Elinor asked Steve Henry what would be the priority for the Refuge.

Steve feels that access is an important priority for the Refuge and the Public use. Steve stated that they are other priorities other than expanding an existing service. Harvey Lee stated that Board should advocate more strongly for the priorities for the Refuge.

There was a Discussion around the funding priorities for the Friends vs the Refuge. No resolution was offered and the discussion ended.

There was then a discussion around the Grant Task force and prioritizing the review of Grant opportunities. Elinor Williams indicated that she will be pursuing Grant opportunities for Everglades Day. Discussion around prioritizing grants applications. Proposal submitted to the National Environmental Education Foundation for a grant for the Strategic Review project in the amount of \$5K.

Everglades Summit; update from Peter McKelvy on the recent meeting in DC. Tom Poulson voiced his concern that the Everglades Foundation is focused too narrowly on the EAA reservoir and not paying enough attention to the implementation of CERP/CEPP. Peter stated that the Summit was focused on getting federal funding for the EAA.

Peter provided an update on behalf of the task force on the Strategic Review planning. The task force has been working on the plan. We now have two proposals for a facilitator. Research and outreach to other organizations that have undergone the process including Ding Darling and a conservation group in Philadelphia. Peter is researching a third consultant located in Melbourne Florida to determine if they would be a good fit. The Board and Refuge Management again reiterated its support for the process.

Tom Poulson reported that the Sierra Club meeting was successful

Mike Winokur reported on the Membership lunch. He has located at least one facility that would be good, the Iberia Grill. Elinor suggested there would be another person that would be in a position to help Mike with the planning for this event in December. The objective of the Luncheon is to connect with our members and build relationships. Learning at Lox has become a very successful speakers event.

Elinor introduced a discussion on the Public Use and the process. Steve indicated that he would encourage the individuals to voice their opinion during the Public hearing process. The discussion then turned to how the Friends should formulate a position on the various Public Uses. Elinor then invited the Board to members to voice their viewpoints on the specifics of the proposed Public Use. Various members voiced individual views.

Recent Donations to Friends - Nat Reed \$200, Sierra Club \$50, Charles & Diana Martin - Biology book
Donation from Friends to Refuge - \$25 gift certificate for Garrett Wong's farewell

Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, June 26, 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to an end.