



## FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

November 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Bonnie Anderson, Dawn Carovano, Alan Christensen, Tom Hartz, Michelle Miller, Sharon Miller, Michelle Scholz, Willem Stoeller, Irene Vlach.

Excused: Gary Fawver, Cheryl Hart, Keith Mays, Mark Newell, Peter Paquet.

Staff: Natalie Balkam, Larry Klimek.

Guests: Phyllis Millan, Louie Olivares.

We have a quorum (minimum 8).

I. Call to Order (6:45pm)

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of Natalie's report.

1. Michelle
2. Dawn

Passed, with all in favor.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

B. Financial Reports  
Reports were provided electronically.

C. Visitor Services Report  
Report was submitted electronically.

D. Photo Society Report  
Report was submitted electronically.

E. Restoration Report  
Report was submitted electronically.

F. Membership Committee Report  
Report was provided electronically.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. Tom
2. Willem

Passed, with all in favor.

#### IV. New Business

A. Introduction on addition of a new Board member: Louie Olivares. Introduction of Phyllis Millan as a candidate for the Board.

Motion to elect Louie to the Board, to be ratified at the Annual meeting:

1. Tom
2. Bonnie

Passed, with all in favor

B. Natalie's restoration report.

She had been on staff at the Refuge since May 2019. Her tasks included mapping purple loosestrife at Wapato as well as plant and bird surveys. Currently she is focused on work parties for plantings. The next planting will take place on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, including planting Nelson's checkermallow, a threatened species in Oregon. Clean Water Services and Ash Creek are planting in 1P and 2P, as well as on Chicken Creek. The controlled burn at Wapato was featured in the press – resulting in a woman from Gaston contacting the Refuge to ask for volunteer opportunities. To prevent the new plants from drowning, 1P and 2P will not be filled with water until spring. Information will be posted on the Refuge 2020 website. Andrew and Curt are working on information for the public.

B. Existing Committees, possible changes to them: Board committee membership and duties.

The suggested plan is to review and possibly revise the existing committees in terms of name and responsibility. The following discussion raised suggestions about name changes (eg, Budget to Financial). Tom will collaborate with Eric Sage and Todd McKinney to revise the charter of the EE Committee.

### C. Volunteer awards and the 1000 Points of Light Program

Bonnie proposed that we disengage from the 1000 Points of Light Program (Presidential Award) and develop our own internal rewards program. It is complicated and inaccurate. It is difficult to track the volunteer hours and it looks like the program might be terminated.

It was decided to disengage from 1000 Points of Light program and to create our own volunteer recognition (no formal motion, no vote).

### D. Review and discussion of DEI training

Larry will look for funding for a second session.

### E. Wapato Planting on February 8, 2020 Plans and logistics.

The 1<sup>st</sup> restoration planting at Wapato will be open to the public. The Grande Ronde Tribe will do a blessing/prayer. Parking will be difficult and we may need a shuttle service. A second planting will take place on February 15. A more elaborate celebration is planned in August or September for the opening of Wapato. The beginning of the celebration will be exclusively for Friends and Tribal members and eventually be opened to the public. There will also be a public event in the summer or the fall for the completion of the Chicken Creek project.

Larry reported that 2 bridges are currently being built. The replacing of the pump house is contracted for next spring. He is working with the city of Gaston to acquire some city land for parking.

Tonquin Quarry: Larry received the comments from the proponents of the project in response to the comments from the public. Bonnie will send the document to Board members.

The Refuge is currently operating under last year's budget; the annual work plan will soon be finalized. The SOW is nearly completed and Larry will present it to us soon. It will be effective for the next 5 years.

## V. Unfinished Business

## VI. Announcements

A. December 7: Planting, Social event, Holiday Store.

The planting will take place from 9am to 1pm. Natalie is currently doing outreach. New Seasons is donating coffee and donuts.

Social Event: the invitation was extended to USFW staff and the planting volunteers. It will take place from 2-4pm in the Riparian room and will involve a cookie exchange, music and sing-along.

Visitor Center Open House: 10-4pm. Friends members get a 20% discount. We are providing cookies and free gift wrapping. We are again participating in the Sherwood for Kids gift program which runs until Dec. 12.

A Birding 101 class is offered in the morning.

B. E-newsletter articles and deadline. Articles due!

C. No Board meeting in December. Next meeting: Jan 28, 2020, 6:45pm. Please let Alan know if you will not be attending.

Congratulations to Sharon for becoming a life long member.

VII. Adjourn (8:40)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Michelle S.

2. Willem

Passed, with all in favor.