



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

February 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Excused: Keith Mays, Michelle Miller, Louie Olivarez, Peter Paquet.

Staff: Eva Kristofik.

Guest: Joe Edgerton, Mark Newell, Bob Swanson.

We have a quorum (8 directors required).

I. Call to Order (6:45pm)

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda:

1. Cheryl
2. Dawn

Passed, all in favor.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of January Meeting Minutes

B. Financial Reports
Reports were submitted 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

Cheryl made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exclusion of the Restoration report because it had not been received by all Board members;

2. Willem

Passed, with all in favor.

IV. New Business

A. A Short History of Friends-Understanding our Roots; information on the DC fly-in training and lobbying: Cheryl

Cheryl gave an overview of the history of the Friends of the Refuge. She reminded us that we can find the history of the establishment of the Refuge in the green binders.

The Fly-in of the National Wildlife Refuge Association will be on March 31 (travel day). Training of participants will take place in the morning of April 1 and lobbying will be in the afternoon. The awards gala is scheduled for April 2. Let Cheryl know ASAP if you are interested in going. We have budgeted funding for two persons to attend the event. Cheryl is planning on going.

Alan will call both Michelle M. and Louie to let them know about this opportunity.

B. Refuge Update – Eva

- Eva circulated a map with the proposed additional parking (40 spaces) at the Atfalati unit. She will print a larger map and post it in the administrative building. Send comments about the additional parking to Larry or Eva.
- The template for cooperative farming in the uplands at Wapato is ready.
- Chicken Creek restoration is now in phase 2.
- Site preparation is in progress for Wapato restoration.
- During the 2nd week of March USFWS will be meeting with NGOs to discuss hunting at Wapato. Pat is working on communication.
- Multiple meetings are being held with the Grande Ronde tribe about the proposed plantings and hunting. The next planting will take place on March 7. Carpools are organized from Atfalati to Wapato. Contact Natalie if you are planning on attending the planting.
- The Wapato bridges and pump house will be completed in the summer.
- Eva is working with Bonnie and Tom on options for Visitor Services. Going forward only 3 schools will be able to visit the Refuge each week.

C. Friends Employee Update and Future Direction – Bonnie

It is easier for FOR to hire staff than for USFWS, as we are more nimble. Funding has been received from the USFWS for those positions in the past. Currently the positions don't offer a competitive wage in the Portland area market place. Therefore it is very difficult to fill the positions and recently the hired staff leave as soon as they find a more lucrative position.

Currently, Carly works in Andrew's position. The EE position is open, with Jenna and Andrew helping 2 days/week. Natalie is currently the restoration tech employed by Friends. She works on invasive plants removal and also does some EE work. At this point she is funded until September.

Larry is advocating for USFWS to hire 2 employees to fulfill the EE and Visitor Services programs rather than providing funding for Friends to employ the two positions.

Alan signed a letter to Kevin Foster, Regional Chief, supporting the idea that the USFWS hire two positions to meet EE and Visitor Services activities that have been fulfilled by Friends employees in the past. If this is not possible then Friends requests an increase to \$150,000 in order to hire to fill those needs but with a more competitive salary and benefits.

Dawn inquired about what liability both the FOR Directors and the organization itself have for these positions. Bonnie will send us copies of the D&O insurance policy.

D. Board Committee Configuration/Functions - Michelle

Alan proposed we hold a half day retreat on a Saturday to discuss committees, their charters, and membership of committees. We will circulate a Doodle Poll to schedule this retreat.

E. Bird Festival Update – Bonnie

Birdfest will take place on May 16; the plant sale will be on April 18 (presale on the 17th). Todd no longer co-chairs Birdfest. Parking will be set up at the Langer Family Fun Center. We will have 3 busses running from 9:30am to 5pm, staffed by Board members to promote FOR. Next year will be the 25th anniversary of Birdfest. Board members are encouraged to become patrons of Birdfest by making a donation of \$100.

F. Mentor Call Notes – Alan

Robin wants feed-back on her notes from the last call. If you were on the call, please send your feed-back to Bonnie within a week.

G. Web Seminar Handout - Bonnie

Bonnie handed-out documents about the urban program, to be added to the green binders. Larry needs feedback before March 13. Send your comments and responses to the questions to Bonnie.

V. Unfinished Business

Michelle reminded us to use her new email address: Min.scholz@gmail.com.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjourn (9:15)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Phyllis

2. Dawn

Passed, with all in favor.