



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

May 24, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Bonnie Anderson, Dawn Carovano, Alan Christensen, Cheryl Hart, Tom Hartz, Phyllis Millan, Michelle Miller, Sharon Miller, Louie Olivares, Keith Palevsky, Tom Stibolt, Irene Vlach.

Staff: Larry Klimek, Eva Kristofik, Curt Mycut

I. Quorum

We have a quorum (8 directors required).

II. Excused Absences

Keith Mays, Willem Stoeller

III. Call to Order (6:30pm)

IV. Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction

V. Approval of Agenda

VI. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Motion to approve the minutes:

1. Alan
2. Tom S.

Passed.

VII. Committee Reports Consent Agenda

A. Financial Reports
Reports were submitted electronically.

B. Finance Committee
N/A

C. Restoration Report
Report was submitted electronically.

- D. Photo Society Report
Report was submitted electronically.
- E. Governance Report
Committee did not meet.
- F. IT Report
Report was submitted electronically.
- G. Membership Committee Report
Report was submitted electronically.
- H. Store/Visitor Services report
Report was submitted electronically.
- I. Visitor Services Report
Report was submitted electronically.
- J. Advocacy Report
No report submitted.
- K. Tualatin River Bird Festival Report
Report was submitted electronically.
- L. Community Asset Funds
No report submitted.
- M. Any additions/supplements to reports.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the Reports:

1. Phyllis
2. Tom S.

Passed. (Irene recused herself)

VIII. Reports

a. President:

- Michelle thanked Bonnie, Alan, Todd McKinney, Carly Hirschmann and others for their work on Bird Festival.
- Michelle is attending DEI training at Intertwine, along with Carly and Todd.
- She has been interviewed by Derron Coles in preparation for the Board/FWS Staff DEI training this summer.
- Michelle announced that Keith Palevsky is leaving the Board at the end of September to tend to family concerns, and thanked him for his work on the Board. He was scheduled to take over Treasurer duties in October, but Willem has agreed to remain in that role.

b. Project Leader – Larry Klimek:

- Larry clarified the changing directions about Covid masking. Masks are still required outside when social distancing is not possible.
- There is still no plan for opening the Visitor Center, but that will hopefully happen later this summer.
- The grand opening at Wapato Lake NWR is still being planned for September, specific date to be announced.
- Public comment period is open through June 1 for changes to the waterfowl hunting program at Wapato Lake. Changes include the use of non-motorized watercraft for waterfowl hunting.

c. Refuge Biologist – Curt Mycut:

- Chicken Creek construction planned for mid-June has been rescheduled for early August.
- There will be trail closures at times due to heavy machinery being used for the construction.
- Pearlshell mussels found in the creek will be relocated to the headwaters of Chicken Creek on land held by Metro, about 5 miles upstream.
- Coho, Cutthroat and other fish will be relocated to the Tualatin River, probably via “bucket brigade.”
- Vegetation reestablishment is progressing very well in the 1P and 2P wetlands.
- Curt and Carly will start the summer field surveys this week.

d. Recap Virtual Bird Festival – Bonnie

- Bonnie thanked Todd and the BF Committee for a successful festival.
- Sessions were very well received although, probably because of the beautiful weather, the numbers of viewers were not as high as hoped. There will be other opportunities to use the videos for rebroadcast or posting online, so more people will have an opportunity to view them. Videos are being edited now.
- Technology worked well and could be used for a speaker series or other events in the future.

IX. Old Business

a. Action Items from previous meetings:

- Michelle offered to reach out to Natalie about the status of the volunteer program interviews. Still on Michelle’s “to do” list.
- Status of FLAP grant request – Michelle talked to Keith Mays.
- Update on King City Planning – Tom S. is continuing to attend the meetings and will report back to the Board.
- No date yet for the Friends’ Annual Meeting, which will be scheduled after the date for the Wapato Lake opening is set. The Annual Meeting can be held anytime in September, per the bylaws.

b. Update on First In-Person Board Meeting

Alan indicated this could be in July, and held in either the Riparian Room (if the VC is open) or outdoors in the Environmental Education shelter. More details to come.

c. Reminder About Upcoming DEI Training

No dates have been set for the DEI training from Derron Coles. The first session of the monthly Community of Practice workshops led by Jenna Mendenhall and Charissa Jones will be this Wednesday, May 26.

d. Targeted Goals to Address Fundraising, Marketing and Outreach

Michelle led a discussion around the need to create a structure to accomplish fundraising, marketing and outreach. That could be in the form of separate committees for each of those functions, or one overarching committee with smaller subcommittees. The Board had agreed several months ago to get its committee structure in place before moving forward with a strategic planning process. These areas are the ones not yet addressed within the new committee structure.

Although there was agreement about the need to address these issues, there were differing ideas about how fundraising, marketing and outreach are defined and how they might be supported within existing Board capacity. Since there was limited time at the meeting for a longer discussion, Keith offered to prepare a proposal for further exploration at the next Board meeting

e. Any other old business

X. New Business

a. National Wildlife Refuge Association – Cheryl

Cheryl presented information about NWRA, its mission and its role with advocacy and as the leading defender of the National Wildlife Refuge system. Our Friends' group makes a financial contribution to NWRA each year, and she asked that members consider a personal contribution as well. Cheryl agreed to share a copy of the presentation script and slide deck with members.

b. Award Agreement with USFWS

Bonnie will be working with Eva on an Award Agreement to fund Carly's position for FY2021-22.

c. Any other new business

XI. Announcements

XI. Adjourn (8:35pm)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Tom S.
2. Keith

Passed.