



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

January 24, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person.

Present: Michael Boering, Dawn Carovano, Alan Christensen, Cheryl Hart, Phyllis Millan, Sharon Miller, Tom Stibolt, Willem Stoeller, Irene Vlach.

Friends Staff: Bonnie Anderson.

USFWS: Natalie Balkam, Rebecca Gómez-Chuck, Eva Kristofik.

Guests: Eric Holmstrom, Steven Perry, Karen Strickland, Jane Vankuren.

I. Quorum

We have a quorum (6 directors required).

II. Excused Absences: Tom Hartz, Keith Mays.

III. Call to Order (2:00pm)

IV. Welcome and Introductions

V. Kudos

VI. Approval of Agenda

VII. Consent Agenda

1. Standing Committee Reports
 - Advocacy Report
 - Financial Reports
 - Store Report
2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 11-22-22

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the Reports:

1. Willem

2. Tom

Passed.

VIII. Reports

a. President – Cheryl Hart

i. 30th anniversary

Share with the Board any ideas on how to celebrate and publicize this milestone.

ii. Treats?

A sign-up sheet for bringing treat to future board meetings was passed around.

b. Executive Director – Bonnie Anderson

- Carly offered to work for us a few hours per week until April, helping with plantings on weekends, and doing egg mass surveys. The Cooperative Agreement requires us to staff the position for which we have funding to the end of the calendar year.
- The announcement of the winners of the 2nd Oregon Chinese Coalition Youth Art Contest will take place on March 11, in the Riparian Room.
- Bonnie is working with Cheryl on a Youth Summit, an effort by high school youth, to be held at the Refuge.
- The Wapato Lake Opening event will take place on March 18 in Gaston.

c. Deputy Project Leader Eva Kristofik and Refuge Manager Rebecca Gómez Chuck: Refuge Updates

- Eva reported on the construction of more parking spaces, including additional spaces for disabled people and charging stations for EVs.
- Rebecca is working with the Wapato Lake managing partners on alternatives to retain water in the lakebed. She asked the board for ideas on how to deal with groups and organizations that charge for leading public outings on the Refuge. She is looking for alternatives to issuing a special use permit and charging the associated fee, as it would cost USFWS more to collect the fees than the amount of said fees.

d. Refuge Staff: Natalie

Natalie reported on plans for the Wapato Lake Opening event.

IX. Old Business

a. Action Items from last meeting:

- DEI training with Derron: we don't know whether his contract with us still is ongoing.
- Beer Festival Planning Committee: Michael and Bonnie will meet with Langers next week to discuss a proposal. Langers is interested in hosting an event for us. They would supply the beer. Our responsibility would be to find enough volunteers to serve the beer. A silent auction would be an option. At this point Sherwood doesn't have a Beer Festival and therefore our event would not compete with another event. Langers would assume liability, parking, the liquor license. Such an event would attract a younger population who would learn about the Friends. Bonnie will look for volunteers beyond the Friends members. Send questions and issues to Bonnie and Michael before Friday. Jane offered to publicize the event and to help recruit volunteers.
- Did we raise the balance needed for the plants (\$1,545)? Bonnie is still working on raising additional funds.
- January mini retreat to discuss Michael's findings? See below.
- Tonquin Quarry update: we are not expecting a decision before spring.

b. Address Board Meeting Time Change moving forward

Motion to hold future board meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm, in person, in the Riparian room at the Refuge:

1. Tom
2. Michael

Passed.

c. Planning – Michael Boreing

Michael had extensive conversations with each of the board members. He will share a document describing the main themes of these conversations as well as send a Doodle poll to set a time to discuss his findings and come up with a plan on how we can best support USFWS's work plan.

d. Conflict of Interest Forms signed

All directors signed and submitted their forms.

e. Any other old business

N/A

X. New Business

a. Friends Agreement (vote)

Motion: to approve the updated Friends Agreement so it can be forwarded to the Regional Friends Coordinator for their signature:

1. Willem
2. Alan

Discussion: the content of the present Agreement is identical to what we signed last year, with some changes in wording. Our concerns with respect to dissolution of the Corporation and lobbying are addressed in the Clarification document, which will also be submitted to the Regional Coordinator.

Passed.

Fundraising Agreement: as drafted, the Fundraising Agreement is generic, to give us the flexibility to fundraise over the next 5 years, including submitting grant applications for specific projects.

Motion to submit the Fundraising Agreement for approval by the Regional Friends Coordinator:

1. Tom
2. Phyllis

Passed.

b. New/Revised Policies (vote) – Willem

Motion to approve the following policies and to forward them to the Secretary for their signature:

- Duties of Board Members
- Duties of the Board President
- Duties of the Board Vice President
- Duties of the Board Treasurer
- Duties of the Board Secretary
- Duties of the Board Parliamentarian
- Email Voting

1. Willem
2. Phyllis

Passed with one abstention.

c. New HomeStreet Bank policies – Dawn Carovano

HomeStreet Bank is now charging \$24/month per account. However, with the exception of 1, all our other accounts meet the minimum amount for the monthly charge to be waived. Given that changing bank is time consuming and that the location of the HomeStreet branch is convenient, no action was taken.

d. Understanding the Financial Reports

Dawn and Willem will be available before future board meetings to answer questions about financial reports.

e. Any other New Business

Tom reported his efforts dealing with the King City Expansion Planning Committee. He has concerns about 5 major drainages going into Tualatin from the side of the river where the expansion will take place. Tom proposed that we send official comments because they are not addressing the unavoidable degradation in water quality. Tom will draft the comments to the King City Planning Committee and submit the document for review to the board by email.

XI. Announcements

The Membership Committee is planning a family-friendly BBQ in June at the Dennis Unit.

Board Members are encouraged to attend the lecture by Prof. Emeritus Rob Wiedenmann on insects on February 7th at 7pm in the Riparian Room.

XII. Adjourn_(3:50)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Tom
2. Phyllis