November Board Meeting Minutes

Apalachee Audubon Society

November 7, 2018

6:30 – 8:15

Florida Audubon Office, 308 North Monroe Street

Submitted by Donna Legare, Secretary

**Attendees:** Donna, Peter, Harvey, Rob, Jake, Howard, Kathleen, Elizabeth G.

**Objectives Are In Bold**

6:30 – 6:45

General Updates (Peter)

* Introduction
  + October minutes were approved with one change and will be posted by Elizabeth
* Audubon Assembly Report: AAS won the Education Program Award for chapters with over 500 members. Peter won a leadership award. Peter and Rob report that there were many great conversations and encourage other board members to attend in the future. Alachua Audubon won Chapter of the Year – Debbie Segal (President) informed them about a grant possibility from Subaru for $300 per car sold. They used the money partially for sponsorship of signage and white board at Sweetwater Park in Gainesville. Two of our interns attended Assembly under leadership scholarships and were very excited and inspired. Peter gave a talk about Diversity and Inclusion – well received and a favorite program of many participants.
* Regional priorities were set at the Assembly for our Panhandle chapters to promote strategic land conservation in the Panhandle (special concern for the future of Tyndall Air Force Base land). We will support designation of Sentinel Lands – green space for armed forces – Federal conservation dollars are more available for sentinel lands. We will look into Heritage Land Designation as well. We will support ecotourism such as the bike trail that will run from Pensacola to Wakulla. We will support water preservation through work with water districts.
* July – National Assembly – Milwaukee – Peter plans to attend.

6:45-7:25

Education Updates (Peter, Donna, Jake)

* Tall Timbers Course
  + Peter planned and happening on November 10 – Conservation Leadership Course for college students to learn about real world conservation opportunities. Jim Cox will be banding birds.
  + Anyone welcome to attend
* Pineview
  + Up to 11 Species
  + Interest in Lake Elberta Trip – could really increase their species count!
  + Bussing discussion
    - A motion was passed to provide funding for the after school Bird Club at Pineview to travel by school bus for a field trip to Lake Elberta.
    - A motion was passed to provide up to $1250 in funding to St. Marks NWR for bussing students from Title I schools to attend environmental education field trips at the refuge. One class from Pineview has already scheduled a trip. **Harvey will send a check after he finds out if they used the entire $1250 last year.**
* Lake Elberta
  + Sunday November 25, 3pm – 6pm (time set by interns – will be dark at 6)
    - Overview – wildflower planting and invasive plant removal. Interns have planned music and refreshments.
    - Need Supplies – Native Nurseries and Donna and Jody will lend hand saws and loppers and Peter will keep track of the tools. Donna will provide the herbicide brushes and pots to create a safe application process. The grant will cover the cost of the herbicide. Wildflowers have already been paid for from grant.
    - **Will it be possible to get supplies donated and/or purchased? – see fundraising section at end of outline**
    - **We need volunteers to help.** Donna, Jody, Elizabeth and Lilly all have to work that day so cannot help. **Please sign up to help**.
    - **We need to keep track of our volunteer hours for the grant and how the money is spent. Donna has started this – please report your hours to her.**
  + Interns Extremely Impressive
    - Pursuing additional funding for them – Peter would like to double their money because of all the work they are doing. The have conducted a survey of how people are using the park.
  + Youth Christmas Bird Count
    - Sunday, December 16
    - Purple Martin Gourd Installation – **Jody will help install this. Peter will try to get a Master Wildlife volunteer to adopt this future martin colony for long term monitoring**
    - **Who is able to help out with this?**
* Bond Elementary
  + Elizabeth P., and John working on a garden for Bond Elementary
  + Elizabeth P. has asked for funding for shrubs
  + Board would like Elizabeth and/or John to attend the next board meeting to discuss the long range plan for the Bond Garden – **Peter will talk to one of them**.

7:25-7:45

Opportunities to Help (Peter, Rob)

* Bay County Audubon (Norm Capra, President)
  + **We decided that we would like to volunteer for a work day or more at one or both of Bay County Audubon preserves. Watch emails for notice of work days. Individuals should volunteer to help Bay Audubon with their Christmas Bird Count on December 15.**
* Red-cockaded Woodpeckers
  + **Do we want to undertake a project to help these birds in ANF and ARWEA? – Peter and Rob will attend Chuck Hess’s program at the Sierra Club to see how we might help.** 40% of the RCW nest trees were damaged on ANF during Michael.

7:45-7:50

Agile Rascals Presentation (Peter) And Rags to Bags

* We decided not to participate – too far from our mission and not enough time to work on it.
* Also discussed Rags to Bags project (collecting old t-shirts) for Sustainability Tallahassee. We decided to do this if someone steps forward to collect the shirts at meetings to deliver to Sustainability Tallahassee.

7:50-8:00

Fundraising Updates/Opportunities (Peter)

* **Kathleen will work on a list of volunteer needs**.
* **Donna will work on a list of funding needs**.
* Peter still working on budget – Adrian Rule from Audubon Florida will create a master spread sheet based on Harvey’s data
* **Subaru – Peter will check on this.**
* **Audubon-In-Action – Heather Stark from NAS says more money is available and encouraged Peter to apply for another grant to continue our project another year.**
* **Can Kathleen and Elizabeth advertise list of needs at program, online, etc? Donna will provide fundraising needs to them.**

8:00-8:15

Urban Bird Treaty (Rob, Peter)

* Overview of What This Entails – Rob provided an information sheet from US Fish and Wildlife. He thinks the time is ripe for us to apply for this with the adoption of the Urban Forest Master Plan, with new city commissioners and with our cooperative project with City Parks at Lake Elberta which is a pilot for urban conservation.
* This is a treaty between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Tallahassee. **Rob and Peter will watch the November 15 webinar and all of us should look through the manual that is on line.** After the webinar we will **set up a meeting with Mindy Mohrman (urban forester), Ashley and Kenny (City Parks and Rec), Rob, Peter, Donna, Jake and anyone else who is interested.** We are thinking about the possibility of applying for a grant to help secure funds for habitat enhancement at Debby Lightsey Nature Park.
* Primary goal of chapter – at our board retreat most of us agreed that we would like to focus on this Treaty this year
* **Who is willing to help make this happen? – need commitment on many levels from meeting with commissioners to writing the grant…….all skills needed – design, writing, publicity, social media, etc…..**

8:15

Field Trips (Jake,Peter)

* Jake leading two beginner field trips (Westminster Oaks on Saturday, Nov. 10 and Senior Center with van going to Grove Museum grounds on Tuesday, December 4)
  + Binoculars kindly donated
  + **Do we want to make this a continuing thing? – yes depending on turnout**
  + Jake cannot lead trips during the work week on a regular basis because he works Monday through Friday. Donna suggested he talk to his supervisor to see if FSU would sponsor his involvement by paying his wages during his weekday field trip.
* Apalachicola Trip
  + Do we want Peter to set this up? – yes – with Riverkeepers

Monarch Garden at St. Marks NWR – We probably need to bring this up again. My notes weren’t very good.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.