Apalachee Audubon Board Minutes

January 8, 2020

6:30 – 8:15pm, Audubon Florida Office

Submitted by Donna Legare, Secretary

**Board members attending**: Peter Kleinhenz, Donna Legare, Amelia Fusaro, Peter Kelly, Howard Kessler, Chase Brestle, Rob Williams, Kathleen Carr on facetime, Liz Schold, Natasza Fontaine, Ben Rangel

**Interns attending:** Nelson Ball, Harbria Gardner

**We forgot to approve the November 2019 Board Minutes so I will resend them for a vote.** Elizabeth will post on website.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Harvey could not attend the meeting, but the report is below:

----Transactions:                  **Treasurer’s Report** 2019 - 2020 fiscal year -------------

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 8/ 8/19         NAS                 VENDOR PAYCCD 14328                      $500    $24610.69

 8/21/19 982 Big Bend Forestry   1 hr work                                       $125    $24485.69

 8/21/19 983 Peter Kleinhenz     NAS Scholarship award                  $500    $23985.69

 8/23/19 984 NAS                 Michael Cunningham membership        $20    $23965.69

 8/23/19       Michael Cunningham  membership                                $20    $23985.69

 8/29/19 985 Natine Nurseries    Lake Elberta lanndscaping            $263.58 $23722.11

 9/10/19 987 Barbria Gardner     Lake Elberta Intern                           $500    $23222.11

 9/10/19 988 Nelson Ball         Lake Elberta Intern                              $500    $22722.11

 9/18/19 989 Peter Kleinhenz     Reimb                                                 $50    $22672.11

 9/19/19 990 Brian Moe           Tech Support                                        $40    $22632.11 ?

 9/19/19 991 Pat Press           St Marks Monarch Festival                      $65    $22567.11

 9/19/19 992 Bruce Means         Membership talk                               $200    $22367.11

 8/22/19        NAS                      NAS 6086VENDOR PAYCCD 14328    $430    $22797.11

 9/ 5/19 986 Target Printing     Brochures                                           $878.80 $21918.31

 9/23/19 993 Peter Kleinhenz     Audubon Assembly Registration       $135    $21783.31

 9/23/19                                     Paypal                                                  $48.60 $21831.91

10/ 1/19         Diana Graham        Donation                                             $20    $21851.91

10/ 1/19         Charles McClure via Fidelity Charitable Donation          $3000     $24851.91

10/ 1/19 994 Nat Aud Society     Audubon Adventures, 16 kits            $735.20 $24116.71 +.20

10/ 9/19 995 Ben Rangel          Aud Assembly Registration                   $125    $23991.71

10/16/19 996 Friends of SMWR     5 bus trips title 1 Sch                    $1250     $22741.71

                      Friends of SMWR, PO Box 368, St. Marks, FL 32355-0368

10/19/19 997 Joanna Inhoff       Tech Support                                         $40    $22701.71

                998 VOID

10/28/19 999 Nelson Ball         Reimbursement                                     $71.86 $22629.85

10/29/19        T.Rowe Price,recommended Winnifred/Wolfgang Adolf $100    $22729.85

11/ 3/19 000 Preston Earley        Reimburse, Elberta planting                  $30    $22699.85

11/ 3/19 001 Native Nurseries    Elberta Plants                                     $593.05 $22106.80

11/ 3/19 002 Habria Gardner      Elberta Refreshments                           $52.03 $22054.77

11/ 6/19                                      NAS membership check                        $20    $22074.77

11/13/19 003 Kathleen Carr       Constant Contact 1yr +$20                  $398    $21676.77

11/13/19 004                              Gloves for Lake Elberta                        $17.18 $21659.59

11/13/19 005 Gail Fishman        Lake Elberta plants                                $250    $21409.59

11/20/19        NATIONAL AUD6086VENDOR PAYCCD                           $2050    $23459.59 OK

11/21/19 006 Joanna Inhoff       Tech Support                                          $40    $23419.59

10/ 1/19 994 NAS (correction)    Audubon Adventures, 16 kits                    .20 $23419.79

12/ 2/19                                     Paypal                                                    $48.60 $23468.39

12/ 4/19 007 Nelson Ball            Intern work                                           $500    $22968.39

12/ 4/19 008 Harbria Gardner     Intern work                                          $500    $22468.39

12/ 9/19        Paypal                                                                                  $29.04 $22497.43

12/14/19 009 Kathleen Carr       Social expenses                                      $75.25 $22422.18

12/17/19        Amelia Fusaro & Bill Everitt   Donation                           $1,000    $23422.18

12/19/19        Ed & Marylyn Feaver            Donation                               $100    $23522.18

12/30/19        Hans Van Tol        Donation                                                  $25    $23547.18

**Updates**

-December social with Sierra Club at Waterworks went well. Should do it again next year.

-Peter presenting at Green Drinks on 1/27 from 5:30 – 7 at Greenwise Market on Gaines – ways to attract birds to yard without bird seed

-Annual report due at end of January. There seems to be some confusion of the time period that it is supposed to cover. We run our year from July 1 – June 30. Kathleen will check into this. I believe that Kathleen has volunteered to provide the strategic plan part of the annual report.

**Conservation Updates**

**Woodville Fish Farm Community Meeting** – Tuesday, January 7 – Ben reported – proposed fish farm next to Woodville library, family operation in Wakulla Springs Basin – could add nitrates and phosphates into aquifer – no regulation from state – BMPs not strong enough and are not enforced – family claims that their system will not release any nitrates – plans were discussed, but nothing on paper – Lowell Collins spoke in support and says they will sell nitrates – meeting was for information only and family is open to suggestions – there will be an 8000 gallon tank to hold nitrates in a closed loop system – Jack Rudloe, generally supportive of innovation, questioned whether it will work – a fragile place to do an experiment – Liz will contact Laura Tiu, an aquiculture expert from UF – Dept. of Agriculture will issue permit but will do no monitoring – Florida Audubon says this illustrates lack of area oversight on agriculture which is a larger problem statewide – there will be more to come on this issue

**Blueprint Partnership** – Donna reported that Rodney Cassidy with City of Tallahassee never returned her call about the Boynton Stills Project.

**Bird City** – Amelia, Donna and Peter met with Michael Nesius, who is a City of Tallahassee GIS/Stormwater Planning employee. He is part of a leadership class which ends with group proposals for the City to entertain. His group chose Becoming a Bird City. They used Audubon Minnesota guidelines to make their suggestions. This could lead into us applying for Urban Bird Treaty. I am attaching Michael’s rough draft from his group.

**Split Oak Controversy** – 1300 acre preserve of scrub habitat with karst lakes and wetlands managed by FWC, owned by Orange and Osceola County – this was mitigation land in exchange for development. A highway will be built directly through the property – it would cost 130 million more to go around it – highway will end at 100,000 acre Morman property that will be developed – Florida Audubon accepted a compromise of an additional 1500 acres being added to the preserve, however this property will need to be restored and $5 million has been designated. Unfortunately, we will be seeing a lot more compromises in the future.

**Toll Road** – we are following this

**Regional Conservation Committee (RCC**) – meet in DeFuniak Springs 4:30 – 6:30pm, Wed. January 15 – Peter, Rob, Jacqui Sulek from Florida Audubon are carpooling. Contact Rob if you want to go.

**Restore Act Funding** – 8600 acres, Ladson Tract – 14,000 year old carbon dating

**Florida Forever Ranking - Rob**

Currently there are 125 projects on the Florida Forever priority list. We are lucky that some of the high projects are in our six-county area. The projects are described in the Florida Forever Five-Year Plan which is approved each year by the Board of Trustees. This is a massive document which is over 900 pages long. The 2019 document includes descriptions and maps for all the projects which we discussed except for the Knight Tract which was added this year— the 2020 Plan should include it as well.

Here are the page references for the projects we discussed:
Apalachicola River                         p. 81 (map p. 678) #1 critical natural area
Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks.                         p. 638 (map p. 922) #7 critical natural area
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone.                 p. 642 (map p. 923)
Knight Tract - #9 critical natural area

Here is the link to the Plan:
<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DSL/FFWeb/Current%20Florida%20Forever%20Five-Year%20Plan.pdf>

Each year, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (the ARC) ranks the projects and assigns them a priority (high, medium, low). The Recommended 2020 ARC Priority List is an attachment to this document:

[http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DSL/ARCWeb/Current%20(ARC)%20Meeting%20Materials%20and%20Activities/December\_2019\_ARC\_Meeting\_Results.pdf](http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DSL/ARCWeb/Current%20%28ARC%29%20Meeting%20Materials%20and%20Activities/December_2019_ARC_Meeting_Results.pdf)

In addition, the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone property of 3900 acres was rated #3 in the partnership and regional incentive group

**Next Year**

Donna will be President. Either Natasza or Kathleen will be Vice President. Donna will not be President if there is no VP to take presidency the following year. Ben will be Secretary. Rob will be Conservation Chair. Peter will be Past President. Tammy will be Wildlife Friendly Yard Tour Coordinator. These are the commitments thus far.

**Programs**

**November** program on Two Seasons birding in Japan – 38 attended

**January** program – Don Morrow on The Birding Year at St. Marks – everyone promote on social media please, article in Tallahassee Democrat Sunday Jan. 12, Democrat calendar listing, Peter will send an email blast as a reminder.

**March – Tallamy** – still firming things up on location – get photos to Ben for Democrat article that will be written by Kathryn Ziewitz, FAMU Sustainability

**Education**

**Lake Elberta – Nelson and Harbria** – will meet STEM for Girls, Angie with Outdoor Afro in March, January 26 – trash clean up and invasives removal and possibly some planting - waiting to hear from Kenny about fencing – contacted Master Gardeners through Peter Goren who will provide Virginia Sweetspire – Michael Hill with FWC donating wood duck houses – waiting to hear from city on bat house – looking into a photo post – seed packets give away – Amelia and Bill have made a donation toward another interpretive sign with a focus on restoration – we need to schedule the children from the Bond Community Center to raise the martin gourds and install a new bluebird house, which we will bill to the City of Tallahassee since one was mowed over last year

**Pineview Elementary** – going strong – next meeting Tuesday January 14 – Marilyn Feever donated funds towards this program

**St. Marks Environmental Education** – Donna has contacted Ms. Kimmel, 3rd grade Pineview teacher. She will find 2 grades of students there to utilize our transportation grant to participate in environmental education at St. Marks. We would like to make this an annual project. She will arrange everything with Lori at St. Marks. Volunteer chaperones may be needed.

**Sustainability Fellowship** – Peter, Ben, Nelson and Natasza planned to meet with our 2 fellowship recipients on Friday, January 10 from 4 – 5pm.

**Board meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. Next board meeting February 12, 2020.**