

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 15, 2019

Pensacola, Florida

Members in Attendance:

Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair; Mr. Carlos Alfonso, Vice Chair (by phone); Mr. Preston Farrior, 2nd Vice Chair; Mrs. Kathy Barco, Treasurer; Mr. Seth McKeel (by phone); Mr. Steve Crisafulli (by phone); Mr. Jerry Pate; Mr. John Pope; Mrs. Donna Rawson; Mr. Stephen W. Swindal; Mr. Paul Avery; Mr. Doug Cone; Mrs. Daphne Wood; Mr. Eric Sutton, FWC Executive Director; Mr. Adam Putnam

Members not in Attendance:

Mrs. Connie Parker, Secretary; Mr. Ignacio Borbolla; Mr. Bruce Popham; Mr. Tucker Frederickson; Mrs. Laura Russell; Dr. Tracy Baker

Guests & Advisors in Attendance:

Mr. George Warthen, FWC Northwest Regional Director; Mr. John Lacy, Financial Advisor.

Staff in Attendance:

Mr. Andrew Walker; Mrs. Breanne Strepina; Mrs. Erin Smart; Mrs. Michelle Ashton.

I. Call to Order – Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair

Chairman Corbett called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. with a roll call establishing quorum. Board Chair Corbett welcomed and thanked all for attending. He introduced Mr. Adam Putnam and nominated him for a role on the Foundation's Board of Directors. Mr. Doug Cone made a motion to add Mr. Putnam to the Board, seconded by Mr. Steve Swindal. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Consent Agenda

Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2018 Board teleconference were presented. Mr. Doug Cone made a motion for approval, seconded by Mr. Steve Swindal. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Northwest FL Regional Director's Remarks – Mr. George Warthen

Mr. Warthen thanked the Foundation for its fundraising efforts to help FWC staff following the devastation of Hurricane Michael and all their efforts to ensure funds were distributed in an efficient manner to FWC staff in need. Mr. Warthen informed the Board all the staff in the Northwest region affected by the storm have returned to work. Mr. Warthen reported FWC youth programs are on track and unaffected by the storm.

IV. FWC Director's Report – Mr. Eric Sutton

The First Tee: Mr. Sutton reported to the board the pilot project in Palm Beach County – teaching youth not only to golf, but also to fish -- was successful. FWC plans to continue the project, with Mr. Warthen taking the place of Doc Kokol in overseeing the project.

FWC Liaison: With Mr. Kokol's retirement, FWC has been working to select a candidate to fill the FWC Liaison position. Mr. Sutton said he is in the final stages of selecting an excellent candidate

and would be able to announce it soon.

FYCCN: Mr. Sutton reported the Youth Programs are all running well; FWC continues to seek new partners and increase the number and diversity of the youth who participate.

Ocean Reef Club: Mr. Sutton reported on his recent presentation to Ocean Reef 's Young President's Association. He thinks Ocean Reef may be open to increasing its commitment to FWC and the Foundation.

Everglades Restoration: Mr. Sutton informed the Board that significant new federal and state funding for restoration is likely to be approved this year, to increase the flow of freshwater into Florida Bay. Funding is needed, meanwhile, for the ambitious coral rescue effort being undertaken in response to stony coral tissue-loss disease, which is impacting the Florida Reef Tract at an unprecedented scale. He noted his appreciation for the Foundation's proactive efforts in that regard.

Mr. Sutton finished by noting he is continuing to work to outlaw the importation of non-native reptiles known to be invasive.

V. **CEO's Report** – Mr. Andrew Walker

BlueGreen 2018: Mr. Walker shared with the board the new name for BlueGreen, "A Night for Nature." The event will take place Friday, April 3, 2020 in Jupiter, Florida at the Pelican Club.

GuideStar: Mr. Walker reported the Foundation has received Guidestar's highest rating for accountability and transparency, Platinum. He commended Mr. Bradford and Ms. Ashton for their successful efforts.

Legal matters: Mr. Walker updated the Board on the Florida Sportsmen's Land Trust and the trademark registration of all Foundation logos, including "I DO."

SYCC Boardwalk: Mr. Walker shared photos of ongoing construction of the fishing pier and boardwalk at SYCC. There are 70 volunteers helping to construct the boardwalk, which was the brainchild of Rae Waddell and board secretary Connie Parker.

Grasshopper Sparrow: With the withdrawal of federal support for captive rearing of Florida grasshopper sparrows, we've stepped into the breach at the request of FWC, to keep the most successful breeding program going.

Critical Wildlife Signage: Mr. Walker showed the Board the latest signage being erected at two of the 18 FWC critical wildlife areas the Foundation supported in 2017 and 2018 via a Conserve Wildlife startup grant.

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD): The case statement outlining this unprecedented national effort has been completed, and we're beginning to submit letters of inquiry and proposals to the major U. S.-based ocean funders. Few if any donate currently to U. S. projects, but we hope to convince them of the severity of SCTLD and the risk it also poses to the Caribbean and Mesoamerica.

VI. **Finance & Audit** – Mrs. Kathy Barco, Mr. Will Bradford & Mr. John Lacy

Mr. Lacy walked the Board through the latest Merrill Lynch investment report and gave an update on the account adjustments to accommodate new CSO. The asset allocation remains on target.

Mr. Bradford presented the Board with the 3rd Quarter Preliminary Findings. Mr. Bradford noted the Foundation's Operating Income and Expenditures are on budget. Program income is down with the cause being a current lull in Conservation Banking revenues.

VII. Marketing Report – Ms. Michelle Ashton

Ms. Ashton reported on current website trends and updated the Board on the Foundation fully implementing Classy as the primary online donation software. She discussed an increase in E-blast and electronic newsletter engagement and told the Board 500 2018 Annual Reports were sent out to our donors. Ms. Ashton updated the Board on the success of the Ringling College of Art and Design bear tag resign competition. The competition yielded 98 submissions of plate designs. The faculty at Ringling selected their top 5 choices and Ms. Ashton created an online public forum for the public to vote. The Board discussed the pros and cons of each design. Staff will now begin testing the leading designs with target audiences and will return to the board with its findings and recommendations.

VIII. Governance – Mrs. Donna Rawson

Committee Chair Mrs. Rawson informed the Board the By-Laws are due for updating and presented the Board with a set of proposed revisions for discussion. The Governance Committee will work on a final version for Board review and approval at the September 30th meeting. The Committee will also present the Board in September with a final draft of an expanded Conflict of Interest disclosure form.

IX. Government Affairs – Mr. Andrew Walker

Mr. Walker reported the legislature was about to give final approval of renewal of our Citizens Support Organization status. We expect the Governor will sign the bill. Mr. Walker expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bradford and several FWC staff for their efforts.

X. Fundraising – Mr. Andrew Walker

Palm Beach Shooting Sports Park: The administration building and bathrooms are under construction. Permits have been received for constructing the skeet and clay fields. Our \$3 million request for Palm Beach County Tourism Development Council funds for the clubhouse was denied.

EYCC: The FL Dept. of Management Services is in disagreement with the quality of work on the EYCC bathhouses and education building, but EYCC staff are hopeful it will be resolved and final repairs made before the advent of summer camp. Rae Waddell is waiting on final approvals and permits from Palm Beach County to build the first cabin. There has been an estimated \$60,000 cabin price increase due to new sprinkler system requirements, which puts the per-cabin construction cost at \$400,000 to \$425,000. Mr. Adam Putnam informed the Board of the Florida Forestry Division's cabin construction projects and encouraged staff to interview Forestry officials to determine how they're able to build cabins for so much less.

XI. A Night for Nature (BlueGreen) 2020 – Ms. Breanne Strepina

Ms. Strepina told the Board the newly named "Night for Nature" will be held in Jupiter, Florida at the Pelican Club, April 3, 2020. This year's committee is composed of Mr. Tucker Frederickson, Mr. John Lacy, Ms. Laura Russell, Mr. Preston Farrior, and Mrs. Kathy Barco. Board member Mrs. Wood announced a \$100,000 Diamond Sponsor commitment by her and her husband Marty. The Board applauded Mrs. Wood and thanked her for her outstanding generosity.



XII. Special Deer Tag Funding – Mr. Andrew Walker

Mr. Walker presented the Board with a request by FWC to allocate up to \$130,000 for acquisition of 57 acres within the Apalachicola Wildlife Environmental Area. Mrs. Daphne Wood made a motion for approval to negotiate, seconded by Ms. Kathy Barco. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Doug Cone will follow up on the hunting lease on the property. This allocation is contingent on FWC reaching agreement to purchase the land from the current owner.

XIII. “Conserve Wildlife” (Bear) Grant Applications

Mr. Eric Sutton explained FWC’s revised process for gathering and prioritizing Bear Tag applications. Members of the Board had several suggestions for improving the grants book. Chairman Corbett asked for the summaries of each project be gathered at the front of future grants books., Mr. Avery suggested hiring a Grants Administrator to oversee all grant funding.

Mr. Bradford informed the Board there is \$405,000 available for awarding. After considerable Board discussion of each proposal, a motion was made by Mr. Doug Cone to fund proposals 1-4, 6 for \$30,000, 8, 9, and 11-13, with a request for FWC to find to provide a \$50,000 to \$60,000 project(s) for Invasive species. Seconded by Ms. Kathy Barco, motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Open Session

Chairman Corbett opened the floor for discussion. Mrs. Daphne Wood noted the Foundation has reached ¼ century and this should be noted at A Night for Nature and elsewhere.

XV. Upcoming Events and Meetings

The next Board Teleconference will be 3pm, Tuesday, June 25.

The next Board Meeting is September 29-30, 2019 in Jupiter, Florida

There being no further business, Chairman Corbett adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Board Chair

Date

Mr. Andrew Walker, CEO

Date