

## Meeting (Teleconference) of the Board of Directors June 25, 2019

### *Members in Attendance:*

Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair; Mr. Preston Farris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Mrs. Kathy Barco, Treasurer; Mr. Seth McKeel; Mr. John Pope; Mrs. Donna Rawson; Mr. Stephen W. Swindal; Mr. Paul Avery; Mrs. Daphne Wood; Mr. Thomas Eason; Mr. Ignacio Borbolla; Mr. Bruce Popham; Mr. Tucker Frederickson

### *Members not in Attendance:*

Mrs. Connie Parker, Secretary; Mrs. Laura Russell; Dr. Tracy Baker; Mr. Carlos Alfonso, Vice Chair; Mr. Steve Crisafulli; Mr. Jerry Pate; Mr. Doug Cone; Mr. Eric Sutton, FWC Executive Director; Mr. Adam Putnam;

### *Guests & Advisors in Attendance:*

Mr. Marc Anderson, The Lacy Group/Merrill Lynch, Financial Advisor.

### *Staff in Attendance:*

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

- I. Call to Order – Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair  
Chairman Corbett called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. with a roll call establishing quorum. He welcomed and thanked all for joining the call and for their continued engagement as members of the Board. He shared his excitement for *A Night For Nature 2020* and the efforts of the NfN committee.
- II. Consent Agenda  
Minutes: The minutes of the April 15, 2019 Board Meeting were presented. Mr. Stephen W. Swindal made a motion for approval, seconded by Mr. Preston Farris. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. FWC Report – Mr. Thomas Eason  
Mr. Thomas Eason filled in for Mr. Eric Sutton who was out of the office. Mr. Eason expressed appreciation for Mr. Walker and the Foundation's work with FWC and for the close working relationship between FWC and the Foundation. He reported to the Board FWC has selected a new FWC Liaison, Ms. Tindl Rainey, to replace Doc Kokol, who is retiring. Mr. Walker said Ms. Rainey will attend the September meeting.
- IV. CEO's Report – Mr. Andrew Walker  
New FWC-FWFF MOU: Mr. Walker presented the updated MOU between FWC and the Foundation. The Florida Senate requested a revision to reflect changes in Florida law. The nature of the relationship and scope of work between FWC and FWFF has not changed, and the new agreement will run for 10 years. Mr. Stephen W. Swindal made a motion for approval of the new MOU, seconded by Mr. Seth McKeel. Motion carried unanimously.

FWC-FWFF Industry Briefing: Mr. Walker reported Eric Sutton has issued an invitation to 18 CEO's, mostly from the fishing and boating industries, to participate over the next year in a periodic conference call with Eric and his senior team. The calls will concern topics of mutual interest and concern, such as impending changes in fishing or boating regulations or the outbreak of harmful algal blooms.

FL Grasshopper Sparrow: In the wake of cutbacks in federal funding, the Foundation has emerged as the largest current funder of FL grasshopper sparrow captive breeding, Mr. Walker told the



Board. Captive breeding is going well, with an average of seven birds being fledged annually from each nest (the sparrows breed more than once/year). At least 40 captive-reared sparrows will be released this summer on FWC's Three Lakes Management Area 50 miles south of Orlando. More than 100 are to be released in 2020. The Foundation is recruiting new partners and donors to this effort.

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD): Mr. Walker informed the Board there are currently 19 aquariums around the country that have agreed to hold corals while new coral propagation facilities are created in Florida to house and breed corals long-term.

Plans are underway to take over a commercial coral growing facility in Orlando and use it initially as a way station for shipping rescued FL corals north to the 19 aquariums. Disney will contribute \$500,000 over three years to cover the lease, insurance and utility costs; SeaWorld will manage the facility at a salary cost of \$600,000 over three years. Our Foundation has been asked to provide \$150,000 to purchase the needed coral-growing equipment, and possibly to be the facility's leaseholder. FWRI Director Gil McRae has signed off on up to \$50,000 of the Foundation's "Discover FL Oceans" tag funds going to purchase the equipment. John L. Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, has agreed to allocate the first \$100,000 of Bass' \$1 million gift & pledge to the SCTLD cause.

FWC staff, at Mr. Sutton's direction, have arranged for a volunteer and dive community outreach website (<https://myfwc.com/conservation/coral/>) where public and volunteers can learn about SCTLD and support the program. \$5,000 has been requested by FWC for launching the website and \$5,000 for the South Florida Ecosystem Leadership Forum held in August 2019, which Kathy Barco will attend. We've also agreed to provide the Association of Zoos and Aquariums with \$20,000 to extend the AZA's contract with Beth Firchau, who is coordinating the transfer of corals to the aquariums. Mr. Bruce Popham explained to the Board the importance of harvesting coral to protect the genetic makeup of the various types of corals in the Florida Keys. He emphasized the importance of aligning our effects with those of FWC for the SCTLD projects.

Mr. Walker requested the Board's approval of these proposed fund allocations for the SCTLD projects. Mr. Preston Farrow made a motion for approval, seconded by Mr. Popham. Motion carried unanimously.

Palm Beach Shooting Sports: FWC's Bill Cline now projects the range will begin opening on weekends in November. The park currently seeking bids on the water treatment system that will take six to eight weeks to install. A job fair for the park will be held in July. The Foundation will support FWC in meetings with major firearm manufacturers in requesting support for the Clubhouse.

EYCC: Mr. Walker reported the bathhouses are complete, and FYCCN is currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> week of camp. Mr. Walker, Tindi Rainey and Rae Waddell met with the FL Forest Service recently to discuss their cabin construction program. The Forestry service provided five new companies for the Foundation to reach out to to discuss pre-fab buildings.

Legal Matters: We're awaiting Tim O'Neil's response to our latest offer on shared use of 'I DO,' provided he relinquish his trademark.

- V. Finance & Audit – Mrs. Kathy Barco, Mr. Will Bradford & Mr. Marc Anderson  
Mr. Marc Anderson of The Lacy Group walked the Board through the latest Merrill Lynch investment report. Asset allocation remains on target with the Board's approved guidelines.  
Mr. Bradford presented the FY19 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report. The Foundation remains on solid



financial ground, having a year-to-date \$110,000 operating surplus and a program surplus of \$2.931 million through March.

Protect Florida Springs Audit: Mr. Bradford reported there were no issues found by FL Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ audit of our springs tag financial records. One reporting discrepancy was identified in an internal transfer, and the Foundation agreed with the finding and changed internal procedures.

Finance and Audit: Mr. Bradford requested the Board’s approval to move forward with Lanigan and Associates for the Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Statements. Mrs. Daphne Wood made a motion for approval, seconded by Mr. Popham. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed FY2020 Budget: Mr. Bradford presented the FY20 Budget, which is aligned with strategic plans and FY20 goals. Mr. Preston Farior made a motion for approval, seconded by Mrs. Kathy Barco. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Goals – Mr. Andrew Walker

Mr. Walker presented the draft FY20 principal goals, which includes the director of institutional giving position approved in FY2018, and a grant[-making] programs administrator, whose position will be funded by license plate revenues.

VII. A Night For Nature 2020 – Mrs. Breanne Strepina

Ms. Strepina informed the Board the ANFN current committee members include Mr. Tucker Frederickson, Mr. John Lacy, Mrs. Laura Russell, co-chairs; and Mr. Farior and Mrs. Barco. Mrs. Strepina noted Ms. Connie Parker is working on asking Mr. John Thompson, Chairman of Microsoft and active Ducks Unlimited advisor, as the keynote speaker.

VIII. Communications – Ms. Michelle Ashton

Ms. Ashton reported on our most recent statistics for website visitations and social media audience size. The latter continues to increase steadily. We may see a jump in website visits in June due to our two-week NPR campaign, which will be aired in Tallahassee, Orlando and Gainesville to promote the “Protect Florida Springs” license plate. Eblasts are continuing to go out regularly, with an above-average open rate and a trace back to donations. A digital survey to FWC staff will go out this summer to test our three new designs for the “Conserve Wildlife” license plate.

IX. New Business

Mrs. Wood asked Mr. Eason about the alarming number of turtles recently killed in a central Florida watershed by an apparent virus. He said FWC is monitoring the disease’ progression and tracking the issue.

X. Upcoming Events and Meetings

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

There being no further business, Chairman Corbett adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

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Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Board Chair

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Date

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Mr. Andrew Walker, CEO

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Date