

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 30, 2019  
Jupiter, Florida

*Members in Attendance:*

Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair; Mr. Carlos Alfonso, Vice Chair (by phone); Mr. Preston Farrior, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Mrs. Kathy Barco, Treasurer; Mr. Seth McKeel; Mr. Jerry Pate; Mr. John Pope; Mrs. Donna Rawson (by phone); Mr. Stephen W. Swindal; Mrs. Daphne Wood; Mr. Eric Sutton, FWC Executive Director; Mr. Ignacio Borbolla; Mrs. Laura Russell; Mr. Tucker Frederickson.

*Members not in Attendance:*

Mrs. Connie Parker, Secretary; Mr. Bruce Popham; Dr. Tracy Baker; Mr. Paul Avery; Mr. Steve Crisafulli; Mr. Doug Cone; Mr. Adam Putnam.

*Guests & Advisors in Attendance:*

Mr. John Lacy, Financial Advisor; Mr. Mark Anderson, Financial Advisor; Mr. Daniel Parker, FWC; Ms. Rae Waddell, FWC; Mr. Tom Reinert, FWC, Ms. Tindl Rainey, FWC.

*Staff in Attendance:*

Mr. Andrew Walker; Mr. Will Bradford; Mrs. Erin Smart; Ms. Michelle Ashton; Ms. Stefani Harrison

- I. **Call to Order – Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair**  
Chairman Corbett called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. with a roll call establishing quorum. Board Chair Corbett welcomed and thanked all for attending. He introduced Mr. Tim Reinert, FWC Regional Director, Mrs. Tindl Rainey, FWC Liaison and Ms. Stefani Harrison, Philanthropy Assistant. Mr. Corbett gave an overview of up the upcoming A Night For Nature Gala.
- II. **Consent Agenda – Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Chair**  
Minutes: The minutes of the June 25, 2019 Board teleconference were presented. Mrs. Daphne Wood made a motion for approval with several error corrections, seconded by Mr. Steve Swindal. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. **FWC Director's Remarks & FYCCN Update – Mr. Eric Sutton, Ms. Rae Waddell**  
Mr. Tom Reinert: Mr. Tom Reinert, FWC's South Regional Director gave an overview of Everglades issues in South Florida.  
  
FWC Report: Mr. Eric Sutton expressed appreciation for FWC's Regional Directors. He reported to the Board on the new administration under Governor Ron DeSantis and the support his office has shown FWC. Mr. Sutton updated the board of the newly appointed FWC Commissioners, Mr. Rodney Barreto and Mr. Steve Hudson. Mr. Sutton reported on FWC's current projects and initiatives.  
  
FYCCN Update: Ms. Rae Waddell, Director of Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, reported to the Board the current extent of her programs. She reported FYCCN currently has 360 partners with outdoor programs and facilities participating in training and in some cases provided with outdoor gear by FYCCN. Each program is evaluated, and a demographic measurement is performed to ensure the partnership is successful.
- IV. **CEO's Report – Mr. Andrew Walker**  
SYCC: November 1 & 2, 2019 is the Boardwalk and Fishing Pier dedication. Mr. Walker

praised Board member Connie Parker and Rae Waddell for bringing this \$800,000 project to completion.

**Strategic Plan Update:** Mr. Walker referred the Board to the Year Three progress report in the Board book. Virtually everything in the plan has been completed or under way.

**FY20 Draft Goals:** Mr. Walker reviewed the proposed FY20 Goals with the Board. There were no recommended changes.

**Staff Reorganization:** Mr. Walker announced the hiring of Danielle Cummings as Director of Institutional Giving. The Foundation will hire a Grants Administrator, funded from license plate revenues. This person will increase our capacity to work with grantees to ensure our funds are having maximum impact. The Foundation will also be hiring an Executive Assistant to the President and a Marketing/Philanthropy Assistant, funded in large part by the elimination of the Major Gifts and Events Manager position

**Florida Keys Card:** The cause-related marketing agreement with the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel will be signed next week. It should generate \$45,000/year for coral restoration. We hope over the next few years to sign another 20 – 25 partners to raise the total to \$1M/year.

**Orlando Coal Farm Project:** Negotiations continue with Disney, SeaWorld, and the Assn of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to create the first new coral propagation facility since the advent of stony coral tissue-loss disease.

**Bass Pro Shops:** We have just submitted our Year One report to BPS and five ideas for Year Two's \$100,000 pledge.

**Lionfish Grant:** This week marks the end of our two-year \$90,000 lionfish management and study project with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation, which has been funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. REEF has been testing acoustic lures for lionfish, to make them easier to harvest.

## V. Communications – Ms. Michelle Ashton

Ms. Ashton reported on our most recent website upgrades and intention to add more online video content. Traffic fluctuates, and we should expect to see an increase with *A Night for Nature* ads. Our social media following continues to grow, and our eblasts show good performance, as we are over the national average open rate.

The Foundation's Annual Appeal will be sent out in October, this year we are featuring a Manatee card and data on the Foundation's 25 year impact. Ms. Ashton reported the Foundation has received the FWC employee vote and 478 responses from tag holders on updated design options. She is working to create an analysis of the votes.

## VI. Philanthropy Discussion – Mr. Andrew Walker

Charitable contributions continued to grow in FY19, even when excluding Bass Pro Shops' \$900,000 pledge. We've emerged currently as the largest funder of the FL grasshopper sparrow breeding program; the White Oak-based program is now fully funded through June 2020. Other current priorities for us and FWC are *A Night for Nature* sponsorships, coral disease, youth scholarships and school field trips, panthers, restoration of two south FL bass lakes, and a large-scale effort to restore the sponge ecosystem in Florida Bay.

- VII. **Governance – Mrs. Donna Rawson**  
The Board was presented with updated Bylaws and a Summary of Significant Changes from the current by-laws. Mr. Walker requested the Board to approve the updated version. Mrs. Daphne Wood made a motion to accept the updated Bylaws with several changes, seconded by Mr. Ignacio Borbolla. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board was presented with an updated Conflict of Interest Policy Form, Mr. Walker requested the Board’s approval of the new form, which is to be completed annually. Mr. Ignacio Borbolla made a motion to approve the updated form, seconded by Mr. Jerry Pate. Motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. **Finance & Audit – Mrs. Kathy Barco, Mr. Will Bradford & Mr. John Lacy**  
Mr. Bradford presented the FY19 Year-End Report. The Foundation had a solid fiscal year, total funds under management increased 20%, total charitable contributions grew 10% and the Foundation currently holds a 14-month Operating Reserve, up from 9 months several years ago. Mrs. Barco reminded the Board of the relatively small size of the Foundation’s unrestricted operating funds compared to the total funds we are holding.
- Mr. Lacy reported Merrill Lynch has completed re-designation of our Mitigation Trust Funds into the Foundation’s now-sole 501(c)(3) corporation. He gave an overview of how Merrill Lynch works closely with Mr. Bradford on the rotation of funds from investments for expenditures.
- IX. **Government Affairs – Mr. Seth McKeel**  
Mr. McKeel gave a legislature update and review of the reauthorization of the Foundation’s CSO status.
- X. ***A Night For Nature* Update – Mr. Andrew Walker**  
Mr. Walker and event co-chairs Laura Russell, Tucker Frederickson and John Lacy updated the Board on the progress of *A Night for Nature*. We are still working to confirm a keynote speaker. He requested the Board to review a list of potential sponsors and determine which they would like to approach. Mrs. Donna Rawson requested the Committee send out a monthly update on auction items and sponsors.
- Mr. Walker informed the Board that FWC Commissioner Michael Sole has pledged \$25,000 on behalf of Florida Power & Light. Mrs. Kathy Barco pledged \$25,000 and Chairman Corbett pledged \$50,000.
- XI. **CWT Invasive Python Proposal – Mr. Andrew Walker**  
Per the Board’s request at the April 2019 meeting, FWC and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida presented a proposal for radio-tagging and collecting invasive Burmese pythons. Mr. Walker requested approval to fund FWC’s efforts to eradicate the pythons. Mrs. Wood made a motion to approve funding, seconded by Mr. McKeel. Motion carried unanimously.
- XII. **Wildlife Foundation Tag (Deer Tag) Proposals & Protect Florida Springs Tag Proposals – Mr. Will Bradford**  
Mr. Bradford gave an overview of the tag process and drew the Board’s attention to a new summary page, created at Chair Corbett’s request, in front of each proposal, which summarizes the purpose and budget of each proposal, along with Advisory Committee and WFFF staff recommendations. The Board members discussed each proposal and reviewed



the comments and recommendations. After considerable Board discussion,

*Deer Tag Grants* – Mrs. Wood made a motion to approve staff and Advisory Committee recommendations for proposals, except 1, which the approval is contingent on modifying their proposal to include a PR portion and provide a breakdown of acreage. Increase proposal 7 to \$3,500 and funding proposal 27. Seconded by Mr. Preston Farior. Motion carried unanimously.

*Protect FL Springs* – Mr. Farior made a motion to approve staff and Advisory Committee recommendations for proposals except 3, contingent of following up on film rights, and also funding 24. Seconded by Mr. Jerry Pate, motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. Upcoming Events & Meetings**

The next Board Teleconference will be Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, location to be decided.

**XIV. Executive Session**

The Board met for an Executive Session, staff and guests were not in attendance.

There being no further business, Chairman Corbett adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Connie Parker, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Richard A. Corbett, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Andrew Walker, CEO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date