

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Members Present:

Pierre Pierce, Bill Coleman, Irene Kaufman, Peter Difatta, Rob Matthews, Chris Rich, Carl Hampp, Triss Padgett, Kay Henderson

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Matt Love

Excused Absence:

Nancy Schachnovsky, Anita Pierce, Mike Timpane, Jonathan Katzen

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm by Pierre Pierce

December Meeting Minutes Approval by Pierre Pierce

Bill motioned to approve the December meeting minutes

Triss seconded, all approved none objected, December meeting minutes approved.

MAG Report by Pierre Pierce

Mike Shirley explained his role with MAG –As reserve manager he is the facilitator, he keeps the meetings moving and does not vote.

The MAG has drafted a letter that will go in the management plan. As the Friends of the GTM Reserve representative on MAG Pierre Pierce would be one of the signers. The purpose of this letter is to quantify the memorandum of understanding that was originally made in 1994.

The original memorandum of understanding was made by the Estuary Committee during the planning phase of the Research Reserve.

The request to include the memorandum of understanding in the management plan comes from Tallahassee.

Feeling the memorandum is open for misinterpretation Mike Shirley asked the MAG to write a letter of support that will acknowledge their approval of the memorandum and quantify some of the points in the memorandum. Since the drafting of the memorandum some points have changed and the letter addresses those. Another function of the letter is to clarify the Reserves role when it comes to permitting. Copies of the letter were provided to the Board via email prior to this meeting and hard copy at this meeting.

Pierre expressed his recognition of the need for the Board to be familiar with the letter and be in agreement with its purpose and content before he signed it as the MAG representative for the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Carl motioned to execute the document.

Peter seconded, all approved.

Executive Committee Report by Pierre Pierce

The subject of the last Executive Committee meeting was the kayak tour vendors at the Research Reserve and the Friends of the Reserve's potential partnership with some of these vendors.

The question of Friends of the GTM Reserve sponsorship/partnership of these vendors has come up.

A committee has been formed to look into the implications of these relationships for the Friends of the GTM Reserve. And the committee will recommend procedures and structure of these relationships if they are to be entered into.

The Board will be updated on the committee's findings when they have something to report.

RC/SC Conference Update by Teri Webley

Teri gave a brief history of the Friends involvement in the conference followed by the status of the arrangements to date. The Board was supplied with the budget for the Friends of the GTM Reserve's involvement in the conference as voted on at the December 08 Board meeting. There were no additional funding requests at this time so no vote was needed.

Teri will email the Board members a list of conference related events that still need volunteers.

Chris Rich and Mike Timpane are the board representatives on this event and their input and direction has been invaluable.

Ecosystems Science Team Report by Matt Love

Matt introduced the team to the Board followed by a description of each person's area of expertise.

Included in the power point presentation were descriptions of each team member's current projects, and an overview of the Ecosystems Science Team, their department, and their function at the GTM Research Reserve.

Other Business

Mike Shirley spoke about his and Janet's recent participation in a conference call concerning a Marine Protected Areas designation by NOAA and the Research Reserve's possible participation. Mike also informed the Board of the new head of NOAA's interest in the project.

Mike will update the Board when he has more to report.

Other cont.

Chris reported that the information for the Friends quarterly report as defined by the ad hoc committee had been compiled and gave it to Pierre for approval.

At Mike Shirley's suggestion the information will be given to a NERR staff member to produce the final product.

Pierre will approve the report before it is released.

Chris and Triss have ordered the plate for Frank and realized that Barb Starck also retired. A plate will also be ordered for Barb.

The question of adding pictures of the Board members to the web version of the quarterly report was raised. The Board agreed that pictures were a benefit and head shots will be provided. Any Board member not having a head shot should contact Teri.

Pierre adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm

Carl motioned to adjourn

Bill seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be February 10, 2009