

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Members Present:

Pierre Pierce, Peter Difatta, Nancy Schachnovsky, Carl Hampp, Irene Kaufman, Bill Coleman, Chris Rich, Rob Matthews, Jonathan Katzen, Kay Henderson,

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Janet Zimmerman, Marty Healey

Guest: Gail Hankinson

Excused Absence:

Triss Padgett, Mike Timpane, Anita Pierce, Kevin Faver

Meeting called to order at 5pm by Pierre Pierce

February Meeting Minutes Approval by Pierre Pierce

Peter motioned to approve the February 10 meeting minutes
Jonathan seconded, all approved none objected, February meeting minutes approved.

Research Reserve update by Janet Zimmerman

There are no special requests to put before the Board at this time.

There is a House Bill #1355 of interest to the GTM Reserve, the equal Senate Bill is #2636, and these bills address transferring CAMA to the FWC. When there is more information to report the Board will be updated. The impact of this move on the GTM Research Reserve should it happen is not known yet.

Peter asked Janet about the potential purchase of the Oar House/Mickler's Landing by St John's county.

Janet said that there have been meetings between the North Florida Land Trust, NERR Stewardship staff, and St John's County Lands and Recreation department about the purchase of Meckler's Landing.

It is believed that the purchase of this property would benefit the GTM Research Reserve.

There are feelers out to try to find funding for the purchase.

Carl suggested that the Friends of the GTM Reserve could send a letter of support for purchasing the parcel to the North Florida Land Trust.

Pierre will send the letter of support.

RR cont.

Teri will get more information from Janet about the purchase, draft the letter, and send it to Pierre for approval.

Chris raised the question of another access point for entry into the Research Reserve, and asked if this could potentially cause any encroachment problems. Janet said that the purchase of Meckler's Landing does not guarantee the addition of another access point but that Forrest Penny would be a better person to speak to that question.

Motion to write a letter to the Florida Land Trust in support of purchasing the Oar House/Meckler's Landing parcel.

Carl motioned in favor of writing the letter

Bill Seconded, all in favor none opposed.

Pierre will send a letter of support of purchasing the Oar House/Meckler's Landing parcel to the Florida Land Trust.

Teri will compose the letter as stated above.

Research Reserve Staff Presentation by Marty Healey

Coastal Training Program

Marty gave a power point presentation wherein he

- Announced his new staff member – Emily Montgomery
- Outlined the Goals and Focus of the Coastal Training Program
- Identified his target audience
- Presented a history of the workshops and activities associated with the Coastal Training Program
- Outlined the year to come for the Coastal Training Program

Other Business

Irene updated the Board concerning providing access to the Friends of the GTM Reserve website to a NERR staff member as voted on at the February 10, 2009 meeting.

Irene, Diana Eissing, and Randy Altman met and Irene provided them with access information so Diana can make NERR Calendar, and activities updates as needed.

Janet updated the Board about the building repairs and potential building closures related to the repairs.

The second round of bids is being reviewed. The dates and duration of any potential closures are not known at this time.

Jonathan asked if there has been any more volunteer or member feedback about the Friends of the GTM Reserve first quarter report.

Chris said that there have not been any more than the ones reported on at the February 10, 2009 meeting.

Other cont.

Chris reminded the Board that the 2nd quarter report would be due out in April. Nancy said that she would need until at least the middle of the month to receive and reconcile the bank statements. The report will be sent out sometime after mid April.

Pierre adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm

Peter motioned to adjourn

Carl seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be April 14, 2009