

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday November 8, 2011

Members Present:

**Christine Rich, David Ray, Jim Wolverton, Angie Christensen, Melissa Southwell
Via conference call, Jonathan Katzen, Rob Matthews**

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Emily Montgomery, Carly Swatek, Mike Shirley, Janet Zimmerman

Excused Absence:

Breanna Korsman, Mike Koppenhafer, Irene Kaufman, Mike Timpane

Meeting called to order at 5:10pm by Christine Rich

October Meeting Minutes Approval by Christine Rich

David motioned to approve the October meeting minutes
Angie seconded, all approved none objected, October meeting minutes approved.

Presidents Report by Christine Rich

Chris thanked Mike S for including the Friends of the GTM Reserve in the NERR/NERRA meeting. An interesting thing that she found out at the meeting was that out of 28 NERRs in the country only about half have Friends groups. The Friends of the GTM Reserve are ahead of many of the others in experience.

Mike S reminded the Board that there are staff liaisons for each of the committees and to be sure to make use of them.

Director's retreat – a date for the retreat needs to be settled. The two being considered are January 20 and 21 or January 27 and 28.

The director's retreat will be held January 27 and 28 2012.

Chris asked about having department heads attend the December meeting to introduce themselves and their coworkers to the Board and describe their function at the NERR, The state of the Reserve event is a good alternative to having staff attend a Board meeting to familiarize the Board with NERR staff and their departments.

Treasurers Report by David Ray

The week of October 23rd was the NERR/NERRA conference. The Friends reserved the hotel rooms at the conference for the convenience of the NERR and was reimbursed for the cost.

Treasurer cont.

Handout – October Financial Statement

The big news for this statement is that OceanWise earned \$23172 this is about \$5600 better than budget.

David explained the Financial Statement and that some of the information might not be accurate because he has not been able to get with Teri to update the books.

One item on the statement paid to the NERR in October is actually from the 10/11 budget and will not count against the 11/12 budget.

As a result of the above-mentioned item the bottom line net revenues over expenditures is \$7635 for the month largely due to OceanWise.

A financial statement for the Nature Store is not available at this time but David did report that there were revenues in the amount of \$1120 in October. This falls below the budget but the Nature Store was closed much of the month. We are hoping to make this up now that the store is open again.

Events Committee by Chris Rich

OceanWise wrap up – The event netted \$21290 to date.

The goal for next year is to sell more tickets to the event.

Mike S said that if the Friends are willing to fund an upgrade of the back of the building the NERR would cooperate. Possibly some pavers to expand the useable space for events.

Chris thanked all those involved in OceanWise.

Guana Run 2012 – Jonathan and Jim W are working on the details.

Marketing and Communication Committee Angie Christensen

Emily announced that the NERR has a you tube account.

The goal for having all media integrated is January 2012.

Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley

Handout – from Emily

Invitation to State of the Reserve

This is the 2nd annual State of the Reserve. The premise is that this is an annual report to highlight what makes the NERR the NERR for local stakeholders and the community.

Research Reserve cont.

Carly – NERR/NERRA Annual Conference

The conference was a great learning experience. Carly was able to identify two areas to focus on

1. Communication – between friends groups, there are 14 Friends groups and NERRA has created a blog. Carly suggested that the Friends should follow this blog and to post on the blog and the NERRA facebook page. Carly will work with Angie to coordinate this effort.
2. Support – Assemble a list of partners that the Friends have worked with already. These would be corporate partners, local businesses that contribute to the NERR. Mike S explained that a business owner is more effective when going to Congress and asking for funds for the Research Reserve program than a government person or someone working for NERRA.

Mike S spoke about another area of concern on the state side – spending authority of funds generated by the NERR. Right now the NERR has spending authority over less than half of the funds it generates. This is another area that local business partners could help by approaching the state legislature and ask that the NERR get spending authority over 100% of the funds generated by them.

Note: funds generated by the NERR do not include funds raised by the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Handout – Status of open grants

There is a new grant proposal since the last report. \$50000 for NOAA based restoration.

Other Business

Jonathan is working on the Annual Fundraiser (mass mailing)

The mailing is targeted to local communities that border on the NERR.

The inactive members will be added to this year's annual fundraiser.

Renewals are sent in two separate mailings.

Carly will be the new Friends liaison, Mike S and Janet will remain active.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 5:50pm

Angie motioned to adjourn

Melissa seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be Tuesday January 10, 2012

Reminder: Meeting attendance needs to be maintained. See your Friends of the GTM Reserve by-laws for rules concerning attendance. If you know that you will not be able to attend a meeting please contact Jonathan or Teri in order to get an excused absence. Attendance via conference call can be arranged.