



Space Coast Regional Chapter of the Florida Master Naturalist Program
Officers Meeting
February 3, 2016 3:00-5:00pm
UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Office

Officers Present:

Greg Hendricks- President
Cris Wagner - Past President
Karen Rann - Treasurer

Facilitators Present: Holly Abeels-UF/IFAS SeaGrant Agent; Brandon Smith-Riverwalk Nature Environmental Programs Supervisor

3pm Call to Order- Greg

Minutes of Last Meeting: January 6, 2015 Meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

Financial: Current operating balance \$500.97

Current savings balance \$375.01

Total in account \$875.98

Note: per Greg-there is potential for revenue from the Archbold excursion. ABS payments earmarked in savings will be moved to operating account, and a check for the excursion will be cut and brought to the facility on February 19. Remaining funds will be left in the operating account to be used for Chapter expenses.

501c3 Status: In order to comply with official guidelines the Chapter's By-laws must have a date of creation, more detail regarding chapter dissolution, and a place for signatures of those involved with the creation of the document. The detail in the dissolution clause must state specifically where assets will be transferred if SCRC were dissolved. Holly will amend by-laws per 501c3 guidelines to reflect necessary changes, and date SCRC By-Laws with the official approval date in email sent by Kate Helm at FMNP Headquarters. Changes to be completed by upcoming Members' Meeting on February 11; Greg will present to Members present for motion to approve both changes to By-Laws and Application for the Chapter to obtain 501c3 status.

Membership: Two new members added as recruited by Greg in the Pinellas module; membership total is up to 34. Karen will update the membership roster to reflect new additions. Greg will ensure all new members have received their welcome letter and decal/patch if not yet received.

Activities and Events Update

Volunteer Resource Sheet Cris has reached out to several organizations spanning the three counties in the Chapter's region: Riverwalk, MDC, Brevard Zoo's Conservation Department, ELC, NPS, Sam's House, and Enchanted Forest. A form letter that was used in each email has been created and uploaded to the SCRC Dropbox site. Anyone reaching out to organizations to link our members with their volunteer opportunities is encouraged to use the letter for ease and consistency. Cris will continue to input contact information and volunteer opportunities until Tuesday, when she will email the file to Holly/Linda to be uploaded to SCRC website. New link will be announced at the meeting February 11th, and on Facebook.

Question regarding new volunteer portal through FMNP website: Holly will contact Kate to find out if the new FMNP volunteer portal will be able to reflect individual chapter/county data or if we should continue to use our volunteer hours tracker through UF Qualtrics.

Pioneer Days at Sam's House (2.13.16 10am-4pm): Kerri supplied updates via email to Board regarding set-up/break down time and event needs. The SCRC will have a table for the February 13 event at Sam's House. On February 11 Ivan and Kerri will collect outreach materials from the IFAS office (outreach box, table cloth, flyers, boards, tent-Karen volunteered to bring her EZ-Up 12x12 tent). Ivan has offered to supply tables. Karen will have a sign-up sheet for this event at the February 11th meeting for any additional volunteers. Ivan, Holly, and Karen will arrive to set up and man first couple hours. Kerri and Frank will arrive by noon. Greg will arrive around 1pm and help break down event. Brandon is finalizing flyers for upcoming special topics course that he will supply at the February 11th meeting to be added to the table.

Pelican Island Wildlife Festival in Sebastian, FL (3.12.16 10am-4pm): Karen submitted application on 1.23.16 for SCRC to host a table at this event. Karen will create a sign-up sheet for this event as well, to be available at the February 11th meeting.

Viera Wetlands Festival (3.19.16 9am-2pm): Ivan submitted updates via email. SCRC is scheduled to host a table; set-up time is 8am. Karen will create a sign-up sheet to be available at the February 11th meeting.

Education and Outreach Update

Module Outreach: Karen has updated list of current courses and locations, and all have assigned members to speak about SCRC except for the St. Johns course at Trout Creek park in St. Augustine, FL. The final class date for that Uplands module is 3.31.16. Members present at the February 11th meeting will be asked if available to contact the St. John's instructor and arrange to speak on the Chapter's behalf.

Additional Notes: Brandon is looking for interested applicants to fulfill a position at Riverwalk Nature Center that is appropriate for a naturalist.

Fundraising Update

Scholarship Application, Criteria, & Process: Cris re-wrote scholarship application per changes submitted by Bert and Greg. Discussion on new draft was held, and language to clarify applicants are required to take a module and present their project within a year of receiving the scholarship is to be added. Cris will format into an official document and present to the Board by the next Board meeting. Cris will also supply a financial

information document to be included with the scholarship application as criteria for selecting a qualifying applicant.

Archbold Field Excursion Update: 13 participants signed up via Eventbrite, reminder was sent out that registration/payment are due February 5th. Brandon condensed course syllabus to open up the weekend of February 19-20 in order to accommodate more members being able to attend the trip without missing class. Greg will send in confirmation of group total and Karen will provide the payment on February 19th.

New Business

Volunteer Opportunities at Sam's and other EEL sites: Martha contacted Holly regarding having FMN graduates/SCRC Members lead tours at Sam's House and potentially other EEL sites. She is currently waiting on approval from her supervisors. Once approved, SCRC would be a part of developing a volunteer base for Sam's House. Possible plan of action to include having Martha (Sam's) and Sarah (Enchanted Forest) present at the Spring SCRC Members' meeting about this opportunity, what it would involve, and ultimately create a volunteer training session for their sites. SCRC would facilitate recruiting volunteers who have completed Uplands/Freshwater modules, and work to offer trainings with Martha to train potential guides in the history of Sam's House as well as their location's logistics.

Seafood & Music Festival at Port Canaveral (Feb 26th-28th): Greg is lead contact, working with Jesse from MDC. Email has been sent to members regarding this opportunity and outlining requirements for participation. This opportunity will also be promoted at the February 11th meeting, with the sign-up sheet available. Greg to follow-up with Jesse to ascertain logistics regarding parking, gate entry, etc. and will communicate that information to the members signed up for this event.

Northrop Grumman Outreach (4.12.16): Time and location TBD. Holly will follow-up with more information as well as discuss opportunity with Bert. Opportunity will be revisited at the March BoD meeting.

Winter Membership Meeting (2.11.16 6:30-8:30pm): New meeting time has been announced in President's letter as well as on Facebook event. Membership meeting agenda approved, with annotation to add By-law changes approval/vote on Chapter pursuing 501c3 status; Cris will present updates on Activities and Events if Bert is unavailable. Cris will update slideshow to reflect new agenda, photos from happenings since the last Members' meeting, and that evening's guest speaker. Coffee and refreshments will be offered (Cris bringing coffee supplies and cookies); reminder sent that members should feel welcome to bring their dinner/a snack due to the time of the meeting.

Additional Notes in New Business: The Board concurs on creating a themed approach to scheduling Members' meetings presentations. Future topics to include Litter Quitter/Blue Tube on reducing plastics in our community potentially in August and Martha/Sarah on volunteering at EEL properties in May. Cris will reach out again to Allison and Patty for the August meeting and Holly is working with Martha on SCRC's involvement with volunteering opportunities. Members will be solicited on what topics/themes they would like to hear more about as well.

Brandon will email the Board information on a future outreach involvement with a lionfish derby at the Sebastian Inlet

Meeting Adjourn: 4:57pm