

Present

Officers: Leslie Wheeler, President  
Jan Wells, Secretary  
Pete Durnell, VP Governance  
David Waldrop, VP Trails  
Carlos Schomaker, VP Development/Outreach

Excused

Adam Wiegand, VP Membership  
Pam Hale, VP Treasurer

At-Large:

David Denham  
Megan Donoghue  
Bill Turman  
Mark Sheddan

Auz Gage  
Greg Knecht  
Natacha Caballero  
Lauren Krebs

Quorum established (9/15)

Staff/Guests:

Janet Akerson, Admin. Dir.  
Megan Eno, NFS  
Shawn Thomas, NFS

1. Leslie welcomed the new Board members and thanked outgoing members for their service: Jim Powell, Holly Parker and Megan Digeon. A gift was presented to outgoing President Carlos Shomaker.

2. Board members introduced themselves and gave their background

3. Janet reported on the new problem at the office: black mold. It has been tested and confirmed: in the attic (high level), a little in the entryway, some in the air handler and bathroom. She recommended an inspection (\$2,500) that would give a remediation plan. There may be some roof replacement that will be needed and the cost could reach \$25,000. She said that both she and Diane have no ill effects so far.

\*David commented that the office needs a conference room. The current layout is not conducive to office work. Visiting people talk too much to staff.

\*Pete recommended that we get an idea about the cost of office space in case we need to move immediately.

\*Leslie suggested we look for places that house non-profits.

**The Board agreed that an inspection should be carried out.**

4. Shawn Thomas noted that the cost share funding ,currently \$460k, has been raised for the past two years. However, this could go back to \$350k. Funding of staff is now nearly 100% but want to encourage more match. Having regional reps works. Land Managers like it. As to process - don't involve volunteers at the front end for changes (rerouting,etc). Major changes the FS will take care of. For minor changes the FS will defer to land managers and the FTA. He did say that with respect to the Big Bend re-route that they have talked with the timber company and gotten input from members.

5. Shawn Thomas gave a presentation on the Economic Impact on the Appalachicola National Forest. This was a project by FSU graduate students for the Florida Planning and Development

lab, Spring 2017. It was a two-prong study: to assess the economic impact and a reroute of the FNST.

\*Leslie had just finished an onsite visit to the alternative Big Bend reroute and noted that it seemed acceptable but needed more definitive information about the amount of new trails that would be needed. She noted that the Forest Service has recommended a southern reroute to Washington. The report, Twin Rivers SF to Aucilla Gap Corridor Location Review, is on the FTA website.

\*Mark recommended that a letter be written in support of this "southern" route.

**\*Leslie agreed to write the letter, which is needed within the next three weeks, and will work with Shawn on it.**

6. Pete Durnell made a powerpoint presentation on FTA membership trends, citing a long period of declining numbers. He recommended a working group to see how to solve the problem. He also looked at officer positions in chapters finding sometimes as many as 7-12 positions which seemed a bit excessive. There is a possible need to review the administrative manual to address this.

7. David gave a powerpoint presentation on our "ancient" membership software which requires lots of manual entry. He is currently looking at a new system which will handle all needs. Members would be able to update their own information. "MemberClicks" is the preferred new system and would cost around \$6,000 initially. David said he would get references and could send out a demo.

**The Board voted a unanimous "yes" to purchase this system.**

8. Since Pam was not present Janet gave a brief comment on financials. The latest are as of March 2017 and we were still in the black.

\*Jan noted that with the current problems with the house that there may be severe financial problems covering those remediation costs.

**The entire BOD voiced a feeling that FTA should look for alternative space.**

9. Carlos expressed concern about meeting budget gaps. He noted that many chapters are just "hiking clubs". Development work is going to be a challenge.

10. Leslie announced the following meeting dates:

7/1/2017  
10/21/2017  
1/20/2018  
4/7/2018 annual meeting  
7/11/2018  
10/20/2018  
1/19/2019  
4/6/2019

11. Leslie outlined her goals as president:

Long-term:

1. 25% of Florida's population on the Florida Trail
2. An executive director's retirement ceremony
3. Composting toilets on the Florida Trail

Short-term:

1. Find a president to replace her in 2019
2. Hire an executive director (or get ready to)
3. Review bylaws as to election process

4. Activity Leader manual update
5. National Trails anniversary activities
6. Focus on chapters - do surveys
7. Raise money. Each Board member should be giving an amount that is significant to that member.
8. Go to events

**Motion to adjourn:** Carlos

**Second:** Bill

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Wells

Approved July 15, 2017 at Board meeting