

**FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MINUTES: April 6, 2019**

Director	Present: yes/no	Staff	Present:
Chair: David Waldrop	Yes	Admin. Dir: Janet Akerson	Yes
Imm. Past Chair: Leslie Wheeler	Yes	Membership: Diane Strong	--
V.P. Dev/Outreach: Carlos Schomaker	Excused	FT Program Dir: Alex Stigliano	Yes
V.P. Gov: Pete Durnell	Yes	FT Program Dir: Kelly Wiener	--
V.P. Trails: Steve Womack	Yes	FT Program: Jeff Glenn	--
Treasurer: Pam Hale	Yes	FT Program: Adam Fryska	--
Secretary: Deborah Schroth	Yes	Cmtly Outreach: Van Tran	Yes
Dir. Ralph Hancock	Yes	Tech Adv: Abe Christian	--
Dir: Shellie Johnson	Yes	Gateway Cmties: Halle Goldstein	--
Dir: Greg Knecht	Excused		
Dir. Bill Turman	Yes		
Dir: Jan Wells	Yes		
Dir: Darryl Updegrove	Yes		

Guests: Margaret England with Fisheating Creek

Commencement: The Board meeting began at 12:50 p.m.

Board Composition: Prior to passing the gavel, Chair Leslie Wheeler swore in the following Officers and Directors, who were elected via electronic ballot for terms beginning April 2019.

David Waldrop - President
 Carlos Schomaker - VP Development and Outreach
 Pete Durnell -VP Governance
 Steve Womack - VP Trails
 Deborah Schroth - Secretary
 Shellie Johnson - At Large
 Darryl Updegrove - At Large
 Jan Wells - At Large

Fisheating Creek Presentation: Shellie Johnson and Margaret England asked that Fisheating Creek be granted Chapter status. This is presently a subchapter of

the Alligator Amblers, covering Hendry and Glades Counties. It has 20 regular members through its meet-up site. The group is active.

The group presently has no FT miles through its boundary. They currently support the FTA and coordinate with the Amblers. The Chapter supports this proposal.

Pete Durnell moves; Ralph Hancock seconds that Fisheating Creek be granted chapter status. The vote is unanimous. Steve Womack will redraw chapter responsibilities to assign them.

Hike the Hill. David and Leslie discussed this event, meeting with Florida congressional members supporting the John D. Dingle Conservation, management and Recreation Act, which reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), among many other conservation actions. (The Bill ultimately passed and was signed into law.) Every County in Florida has received funds from the LWCF.

There was discussion that we should do similar work for the Florida Legislature, overlaying the map of the FT on Florida's state voting districts for both House and Senate. That work should start immediately to be ready for 2020.

Board Orientation: Pete Durnell distributed a document concerning the organization and its funding structures. For new members, he also distributed a document outlining Board Member Responsibilities. At the next FTA Board meeting on July 13, 2019, he will provide a complete orientation as to the FT's funding.

Challenge Cost Share: For 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture changed the Budget approval process, requiring this to be approved by his office. [Asides: The cost share budget operates on a calendar year; the FTA is funded through the US Forest Service, which is within the Dep't of Agriculture.]

This new directive will be difficult for the Board to manage, as it requires to operate without cost share income until the budget is approved.

Directives, Guidelines and Policies: Pete Durnell discussed many of our current and former governing documents are in the Administration and the Trails Manuals. He's collected them all and will upload them to our "Teams" account for our review at the July Board meeting. [Log-in is first(name)last(name) @FTA.org.] The site is divided into BOD, Excom [Executive Committee] and Chapter Council. It is further divided into Conversations and Files.

FEATHR. Van Tran was given a demo and a proposal for the FTA purchasing this software. It is a type of browsing tracker. We would pay \$3000 annually and another \$1000 per year for special ads. Steve Womack discussed whether this would yield an acceptable return on investment. Shellie Johnson questions whether the FTA would have any liability, and asked if the company can demonstrate how it benefits its clients. Van will ask Feathr if it can demonstrate its software at an upcoming Board meeting.

Member grievance: Leslie Wheeler discussed the recent history of a grievance from a member of the Suncoast Chapter. Suncoast banned him from the Chapter's Meet-up site; the member accepted this, so no Board action is necessary.

This raises the issue that the Board should have a grievance policy, which should also be included in the chapter policy.

The Board also determined to ensure each meet-up site has a notice that Chapter meet-up "membership" is not actual FTA or Chapter membership.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Hale referenced the report she presented at the morning's Annual Meeting. There was discussion about the Challenge Cost Share process.

Pam also discussed the situation with two FTA vehicles: Jeff's P/U truck and Adam's Tahoe. It was decided that Jeff's truck is OK for now, but that we must replace the Tahoe. Pam moved and Darryl Updegrove seconded a purchase of a replacement vehicle costing not more than \$30,000 with financing for not longer than 3 years. The motion was approved unanimously.

Banking Resolution: There needs to be a change of signatory authority on the corporate bank account to remove Leslie and Carlos and to add David and Deborah. Pete Durnell moved and Shellie Johnson seconded that Pam Hale, David Waldrop and Deborah Schroth have signatory authority. The motion was approved unanimously.

Leslie Wheeler: Leslie briefly discussed a possible purchase of some property in the Camp Blanding area of the trail by the North Florida Land Trust. There is presently no funding for trail acquisition, as current funds are being used for the Stafford easement.

Leslie has the membership data base and volunteers to begin cold calling donors for funds that we could then use to hire an Executive Director. She will work with Carlos on any fundraising.

Jan Wells: Jan gave a report on the Sissons Estate, and noted that the Bylaws needs to be changed to give a Board Member, not only the (nonexistent) Executive Director the authority to buy, sell and place liens on any FTA property. Deborah will work on this once she determines the Bylaws process. This will be brought for either a telephonic or an email vote, as this will need to be completed prior to the July 2019 meeting.

The estate discussion brought up the current Gifts Acceptance Policy. This is one of the policies that Pete has in his binder, that is old and needs to be rewritten. Bill Thurman moves and Shellie Johnson seconded that this Gifts Acceptance Policy be repealed immediately. The motion carried 9 – 1. No Committee was appointed to draft a replacement; Deborah volunteered to work on this.

Office Relocation Committee Report: Ralph Hancock deferred giving this report to the next meeting.

FTA Administrator's Report: Janet Akerson discussed a formerly purchased data base called "MemberClicks" for membership management. This is not worth the funds, so she is no longer using this software. David will revisit the issue of another type of membership management software.

Janet also asked the Board to choose its location for the Fall Festival.

Bill Thurman: Bill briefly discussed the issue of awards and our needing to limit the number of awards in each category to honor outstanding members. With the aging of the organization, it is also worth considering creating a 50-year membership award.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned a few minutes before 4:00 p.m.