

MEETING SUMMARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIENDS OF FLORIDA STATE FORESTS, INC.
OCTOBER 04, 2023
CONFERENCE CALL VIA GoToWebinar
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

NOTE: This is a summary of the meeting, not an actual transcript of the meeting. This meeting was advertised in the Florida Administrative Register.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Dolan welcomed the Board of Directors and called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. All Board Members and guests present introduced themselves, both in person and on the GoToWebinar call.

2. Quorum Check

Members Present in Person or on Conference Call Line:

President Richard Dolan
Charles Maynard
Amy Morie (online)
Chris Reed (online)
Dr. Morgan Varner
Joe Fritz
David Hunt

Absent:

Charlie Kemp

FFSF Program Staff:

Bin Wan, Program Coordinator
Vanessa Smart, Program Fiscal Coordinator

Guests:

Jimmy Roberts, Forest Management Bureau Chief
Brian Camposano, Forest Management Assistant Bureau Chief
Brooks White, Recreation Specialist
Kelly Ann Kennedy, FDACS Attorney

3. Approval of September 14, 2022, Minutes

On a motion duly made by David Hunt and seconded by Charles Maynard it was unanimously voted to approve the September 14, 2022, minutes (summary).

4. President's Report

Mr. Dolan briefed members of the recent agency's personnel changes that occurred from agency leadership to field operation chiefs and managers. He assured members that Florida Forest Service is in full gear to fulfill its missions.

a) Hurricane Idalia Impact and Recovery

Hurricane Idalia's damage wasn't as severe as others largely due to its fast movement across the state of Florida. However, coastal areas were flooded, and high wind damage was sustained, which caused 290,000 acres of timber damage, or \$6.47 million loss. Among affected State Forests, Twin Rivers State Forest suffered the most damages, and most areas remain closed to the public. A budget of \$4 million has been requested for recovery.

b) Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF) Updates by David Hunt

OOF has been back into full swing since COVID. This state-wide program has set a benchmark for the others. To date, OOF has hosted more than 827 events and served more than 5,990 wounded veterans since its inception. 8 OOF specific facilities have been established state-wide. OOF program has received enormous endorsement and many private entities continue to show their commitment to support.

c) Florida Future Forest Program Overview

Carbon Sequestration Program is now Florida Future Forest Program. For FY23-24, this program was funded at \$2.8 million. By September 2023, the program had received 248 applications and 151 of them had been funded.

5. Board Action

a) On a motion duly made by Dr. Morgan Varner and seconded by Amy Morie, it was unanimously voted to approve to remove former authorized contacts and add current authorized contacts to Bank of America accounts. The new authorized contacts will be Vanessa Smart and Linda Peters.

b) On a motion duly made by Dr. Morgan Varner and seconded by David Hunt, it was unanimously voted to approve the authorization to remove former bank account signer, Erin Albury, and add new bank account signer, Richard Dolan, to Bank of America accounts.

c) On a motion duly made by Charles Maynard and seconded by Dr. Morgan Varner, it was unanimously voted to approve to update management policies to increase the spending limits of Friends purchasing credit card to \$2500.

d) On a motion duly made by Amy Morie and seconded by Dr. Morgan Varner, it was unanimously voted to approve to update management policies to require receipts and expense forms submitted within five (5) days.

6. FFSF Budget Report

a) Brian Camposano summarized FFSF FY 22-23 expenses and showed the results of FFSF FY 22-23 Budget Audit, which had not found any problems or issues.

b) Brian Camposano discussed the Proposed FFSF FY23-24 Budget and summarized that the FY23-24 budget proposed no significant changes from FY22-23 except a few minor adjustments.

On a motion duly made by Dr. Morgan Varner and seconded by David Hunt, it was unanimously voted to approve the FFSF FY 2023-24 Budget.

7. New Business

a) Brian Camposano presented the improved FFSF donation form. It features a new graphic design and updates donation options. It will be available to the public in 3-4 weeks.

b) Open Discussion

It was suggested, by Charles Maynard, that in future meetings to present a list of projects funded by FFSF budget.

Joe Fritz proposed to present a donation check directly to OOF at an event occurring on Pine Log State Forest. David Hunt provided a contact to Joe Fritz for the arrangement. He also requested the newly restored cabin within the recently obtained 600 acres on Pine Log State Forest for a future event venue consideration.

Amy Morie recommended to consider use an outside agency resource, American Society of Landscape Architects of Florida, for landscape design and consultation.

8. Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn

The board did not schedule the next board meeting; however, Brian Camposano will reach out to members in July to poll for next meeting around the Fall 2024.

On a motion made by Charles Maynard and seconded by Dr. Morgan Varner to adjourn the meeting, it was unanimously voted by the board to adjourn, as this was accomplished by Board President Mr. Dolan at 10:50A.M.

Summary of meeting provided by:

Brooks White

Recreation Specialist

Friends of Florida State Forests