

MEETING SUMMARY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FRIENDS OF FLORIDA STATE FORESTS, INC.  
NOVEMBER 6, 2024  
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  
Vice President Charles Maynard  
Joe Fritz  
David Hunt  
Charlie Kemp  
Amy Morie (online)  
Chris Reed

Absent:

Dr. Morgan Varner

FFSF Program Staff:

Bin Wan, Program Coordinator  
Vanessa Smart, Program Fiscal Coordinator

Guests:

John Stys, Assistant Director  
Jimmy Roberts, Forest Management Bureau Chief  
Brian Camposano, Forest Management Assistant Bureau Chief  
Jennifer Hart, Chief of Field Operations (virtual)  
Brooks White, Recreation Specialist  
Danny Caraway, OOF Program Coordinator, Regions 1 & 2 (virtual)  
Blair Bodenmiller, Deputy General Counsel

**3. Approval of October 4, 2023, Minutes**

On a motion duly made by Chris Reed and seconded by David Hunt, it was unanimously voted to approve the October 4, 2023, minutes (summary).

**4. President's Report**

a) FFS Response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Mr. Dolan briefed members on the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, which caused \$140 million estimated damage to the timber and properties in Florida. Through DEM, FFS incident management teams were deployed for the hurricanes and supported over 1,600 urban searches and rescues. Roads and trails were also cleared out by Forestry personnel for public accessibility.

b) Operation Outdoor Freedom Updates by David Hunt.

OOF is leading the nation in honoring and supporting our veterans. A notable, generous donation of this year was a 10-man bunk trailer. The next focus will be the continuing community involvement. Over 900 events have been hosted since its inception, serving 6,431 veterans over 12 established facilities. Recently OOF recognized the Kissimmee Rotary Club for the donations of \$221,000 over the last 5 years and Mr. Newton Cook for his coordination of OOF, WWP, FWC, and SFWMD in establishing a wounded veteran duck hunt in the last 5 years.

c) Budget Update on the SB1638 Funding (\$32 Million in FY2425)

This new funding is focused on land management and is appropriated annually. There are over a hundred different projects in progress, such as repairing, maintaining, and constructing roads and bridges, and maintaining and improving recreation facilities across the state in addition to acquiring the necessary equipment to carry out numerous forest management activities. In the terms of FFS revenue, the goal for FY2425 is set at \$7 million, of which the agency would like to see further growth in recreation to ease the pressures from the timber sales.

## **5. Board Action**

a) On a motion duly made by Charles Maynard and seconded by Chris Reed, it was unanimously voted to approve proposed Friends Management Policy updates. The essential updates to the management policy include:

- Allowable purchases of goods/services on direct and indirect supporting programs
- Purchase restrictions on items that need approval by FFSF President and Fiscal Coordinator
- Procurement documentation requirements on three purchasing categories:
  - Up to \$2,500
  - Between \$2,500 and \$35,000
  - \$35,000 or more
- Definitions and examples on the Sensitive Property

## **6. FFSF Budget Report**

a) Brian Camposano summarized FFSF FY23-24 revenue and expenses and showed the results of FFSF FY23-24 Budget Audit, which did not result in any significant findings.

b) Brian Camposano discussed the Proposed FFSF FY24-25 Budget and summarized that the FY24-25 budget proposed no significant changes from FY23-24 except a few minor adjustments.

On a motion duly made by Chris Reed and seconded by Amy Morie, it was unanimously voted to approve the FFSF FY24-25 Budget.

## **7. New Business**

a) Transition.

Vanessa Smart has moved positions and will train the new person hired in her place. Updates will be needed to the Checking and Savings accounts to accommodate the new hire. A virtual meeting will be held to vote for the new hire to accept Vanessa's previous role.

b) Finance.

Forestry is in search of a new investment firm. The current investment firm will be discontinuing its services on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The search will continue and any intel from board members are welcome.

c) Open Discussion

Joe Fritz presented a donation check directly to OOF. David Hunt representing OOF administration accepted the check.

**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 2025.

On a motion made by Charles Maynard and seconded by David Hunt to adjourn the meeting, it was unanimously voted by the board to adjourn, as this was accomplished by Board President Mr. Dolan at 11:06 A.M.

Summary of meeting provided by:

Brooks White

Recreation Specialist

Friends of Florida State Forests