

**Florida Oceanographic Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019**

Board Present: Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair, - John Amerling; - Audrey Gillis, - Gary Goforth, - Paul Hederman, - Linda Houston, - Matt King, - Bob Mathias, - Dan Merritt, - and Patricia Noonan

Board Present via Telephone:

Staff Attendance: Mark Perry, Cathy Muir

Not Present: Mark Cocorullo, Matt Hooks, Scott Turnbull and Nancy Rand

Board Chair

Board Chair, Allen Herskowitz, called the meeting to order at 2:58 p.m.

Mission Moment

Coastal and Estuarine Research Conference Projects-Glenn Coldren, Ph.D., Research Scientist

- The main seagrass exhibit is up and running. A donor helped out with pavers on the path to the seagrass exhibit. The trays were moved and are now visible to the public.
- Kathryn Tiling and Glenn Coldren attended the 25th Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) in Mobile Alabama from November 3-7. Kathryn gave an oral presentation on mangroves and Glenn gave a poster presentation on mangroves. They were also co-authors on three additional presentations.
- Shell Recycling added 3 new restaurants.
- Glenn Coldren participated in the St. Lucie Estuary Oyster Ground Truthing and A Day in the Life 2019.
- Gary Goforth thanked Katie Tiling and Glenn Coldren for their great work. He suggested that we make their publications available on our website. He also suggested that we have a link to the Governor's new website, Protecting Florida Together, on our website.

Consent Items

- A. Minutes from the Board Meeting October 23, 2019
- B. Executive Director Reports-Education, Research, Animal Care, Operations and Development
- C. Committee & Task Group Reports
(See Board Website for Minutes, Reports and details)

Board Action – The Chair requested approval of the Minutes from the October 23, 2019 meeting and the consent agenda. Gary Goforth requested two revisions to the October 23, 2019 minutes. Page 2, bullet point one was changed to Admissions was adjusted down, and bullet point four second sentence was deleted. The revised minutes are posted on the Board

website. Paul Hederman made a motion to approve the minutes as revised. Pat Noonan seconded it. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

Financial Report November, 2019, Matt King, Chair

- Unconditional Promises to give remain unchanged
- Operating funds are at \$219M
- Working on moving restricted funds to unrestricted category on a monthly basis
- The Treasury bill in the amount of \$2.5MM was moved into the money market. Once we have the cash flow report, we can make a recommendation next month on what to do with funds
- Operations, FYTD is not correct because we are still working on the 2020 budget
- Abbie Flood will research the \$29,773.01 amount under General Contributions.
- Total revenue for the month was \$48,130
- Expenses are in line with the previous year
- Shortfall for the month is due to seasonality
- There was discussion regarding obtaining a line of credit because it is forecast that we may have a shortfall. We will explore options at Seacoast and Northern Trust and report back to the Board at next month's meeting

Dan Merritt made a motion to approve the October 2019 Financial Statements. Pat Noonan seconded the motion. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

Mark Perry announced that the Director of Business and Operations position has been filled. Susan Scheyder will start on November 18, 2019.

Capital Campaign Update – Pat Noonan, Chair & Nancy Perry, CFRE

- Pat Noonan encouraged all Board members to bring a referral for the Capital Campaign. They could be introduced to FOS with a private tour.
- Nancy Perry reported that our Capital Campaign has increased to almost \$5.8MM. There are four new bequest gifts totaling \$200M
- There are seven new committed gifts totaling \$274,120
- There are nine positive responses with no amount with a conservative forecast of \$100M
- The meeting with Tiger Wood's PR VP will be soon
- Nancy Perry is working with Geoffrey Smith on the coral reef sculpture
- Thirty Eight prospects have been handed plans and working with another 55 highly rated prospects to set appointments

Capital Expansion Update – Facility Task Group, Nancy Rand Chair
Zabik and Associates Update Report

- There is a construction meeting every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am and all Board members are invited to attend
- Concrete was poured with 8 trucks and no problems

- In January we should release Color Ad for fabrication
- Rough-in for utilities is underway
- Slab pour is scheduled for December 10, 2019
- There were two change orders for helical piles and stones for a total of \$46,274. There was also a tax savings of \$10M which will offset the change order.
- We will revisit the Bridges in January
- Larry Zabik handed an updated draw and cash schedule
- There was discussion regarding the building signage concept and whether we would retain the name Florida Oceanographic Society, Inc. This will be further discussed but should be decided soon.

Development Committee Update, Linda Houston, Chair

- Linda Houston reported that the Governor and First Lady DeSantis visited November 5, 2019 to announce a new website, “Protecting Florida Together”
- The Volunteer Social will be held on December 4, 2019 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. All Board members are invited. Volunteer appreciation gifts were handed out to 200+ volunteers who completed more than five hours.
- The Communications and Public Relations Coordinator position is currently open.
- The Ocean Legacy Society Event, which is new this year, will be held on December 8, 2019 from 4-6 pm.

Governance & Nominating Committee, Scott Turnbull, Chair

- No Report

Strategic Planning and Task Group, Paul Hederman, Chair

- Paul Hederman reported that the Compensation Proposal has been signed for \$9,200. It will be presented at the January 2020 Board Meeting.

Information Technology Task Group – Dan Merritt, Chair

- Dan Merritt will be contacting Mark Baer regarding the new building.

Advocacy Task Group- Gary Goforth, Chair

- Gary Goforth sent a letter to Senator Gayle Harrell to ask for assistance in requesting that the Florida Department of Environment Protection (FDEP) improve their reporting on lack of progress in achieving pollution reduction goals in the Lake Okeechobee watershed.
- Gary Goforth also contacted Tom Frazer, Florida’s Chief Science Office to suggest improvements in the new water website.
- Gary Goforth also contacted Congressman Brian Mast as an individual not a Board member to discuss the graphs and information in the website.
- Gary Goforth and Mark Perry were both on the KC Ingram show regarding the CDC report on the effects of harmful blue green algae in Lake Okeechobee and its

harmful effects on Lake Okeechobee. He would like a letter of commitment drafted and signed as a Board.

- Dr. James Sullivan, a member of the Blue Green Algae Task will be attending the next River's Coalition meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 11:00 am.
- Gary Goforth and Mark Perry will both be participating in the Everglades Coalition Conference January 9 – 12 in Captiva, FL.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on December 11 , 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Coastal Center.

Minutes recorded by Cathy Muir, Administrative Assistant and submitted by Bob Mathias, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Florida Oceanographic Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mathias, Secretary of the Board of Directors
Florida Oceanographic Society