

**Florida Oceanographic Society
Board of Directors Meeting
February 27, 2019**

Board Present: Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair, John Amerling, Mark Cocorullo, Paul Hederman, Gary Goforth, Matt Hooks, Matt King, Bob Mathias, Pat Noonan, Nancy Rand and Scott Turnbull.

Board Present via Telephone:

Staff Attendance: Mark Perry, Cathy Muir

Not Present:

Board Chair

Board Chair, Allen Herskowitz, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Mission Moment: Seagrass Nursery Expansion and Research Projects, Dr. Glenn Coldren

Wet Lab Nursery: 155 sq. ft. of planting space for experiments; Main Nursery: high diversity seagrass and Shoreline Nursery: pilot project for building larger reefs.

We have received a grant for mapping of oysters in IRL assessing effects of restored reefs and seagrass on shoreline stabilization.

Ty Laramie from Lululemon held a fundraiser for a multi-day restoration event. There were 449 oyster bags made; 285 mangroves planted and 400 bags deployed into 2 reefs including 8 mangrove planters.

We received money through the IRL license plate program to fund a shell collection coordinator for one year.

We are doing a year-long project to look at microplastic abundance in water and oysters in IRL.

The Jensen Beach impoundment Mangrove Restoration Project will provide expertise on mangrove restoration.

Consent Items

- A. Minutes from the Board Meeting – January 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 January 23, 2019 meeting and the consent agenda. They were voted on and approved.

Major Issues Discussion

Financial Report January 23, 2019– Matt King - Treasurer

Matt King presented the recent financial summaries. The details are summarized in the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of January 23, 2019. Pat Noonan made a motion to approve the January Financial Statements. It was seconded by Scott Turnbull voted on and unanimously approved.

Capital Campaign Update Pat Noonan and Nancy Perry, CFRE

- Since our last Board meeting, we have increased our Capital Campaign totals: Total 79 gifts - \$4,372,131 committed/pledge, 5 gifts totaling \$150K plus a percentage estate gift.
- 4 Pledge payments since last month.
- 12 Positive responses (no amounts yet): Conservative forecast \$700,000
- Another 40 prospects have been presented with capital campaign plans and we will continue to follow up with them.
- Gary Goforth would like to personally thank Blair Wickstrom for the gift the Wickstrom family gave to FOS. (Gary and other board members thanked Blair the following day.)

Capital Expansion Update – Facility Task Group – John Amerling, Chair

- The site plan will be finalized at the Martin County Commissioner meeting on March 26, 2019.
- There will be an exhibit meeting at FOS March 14 to 15, 2019.
- There were three options regarding the new building presented at the January 23, 2019 BOD meeting: 1. Delay construction until an appropriate amount of money is in the bank; 2. Phase the construction of the full-scale project to match the funding; or 3. Scale back the design to match the funding in the bank now. After much discussion it was decided that it was not worth the effort to pursue altering the plan. Pat Noonan made motion not to further explore option 3, scaling back, any more. It was seconded by Scott Turnbull, voted on and unanimously approved. Regarding Option 2 (Phasing) the following phases were identified:
 - Ph. 1: Fully functional building with CO, but no exhibits, bridges, waterworks, gift shop remodeling or portable removal
 - Ph. 2: The exhibits (~\$800,000)
 - Ph. 3: The bridges (~\$325,000)
 - Ph. 4: Waterworks
 - Ph. 5: Gift shop remodeling
 - Ph. 6: Removal of portablesThese are not necessarily sequential, e.g., Ph. 3 could come before Ph. 2.

- Brent Wood stated that this would be the only facility of its kind in the area and we could definitely generate income by renting it out for special events.
- Gary Goforth made a motion that we should complete the exhibit design, release BWA to complete the full building design (~\$27,000), submit the building plan (~\$10,000); have Hooks Construction price the construction drawings; hold off on the bridges for now. The motion was seconded by Scott Turnbull and unanimously approved.
- Gary Goforth suggested we consider a “buy a brick” campaign as another way to raise funds, since the new building will utilize lots of pavers.
- Gary Goforth stated that he would like to see the Safety Documents as presented by Hooks Construction include the protection and training of FOS staff, volunteers and our customers. Our staff and volunteers are the front line and should be the safety ambassadors.

Strategic Planning Task Group – Paul Hederman, Chair

- Paul Hederman handed out the Draft FOS Strategic Plan for 2019-2024. He requested that the Board review it and is looking for approval to move forward with the mission vision. The staff needs more time to get their tactical goals together but once that is done Paul will periodically report to the Board on their progress. Pat Noonan commended Paul for his leadership in implementing this plan.

Development Committee Update, Nancy Rand, Chair

- Ocean’s Alive is way up over last year. The total for 2018 was \$153K and right now we are over \$170K.
- The Blue Lagoon VIP party will be held at the home of Mike and Pat Rand on March 15, 2019. We have invited 98 guests.
- The Clay Shoot event brought in a profit of \$8K.
- Our rating on Charity Navigator has been upgraded to a 3-star from a 2-star. The 990 is being reworked to resolve problems with descriptions.

Advocacy Task Group- Gary Goforth, Chair

- There is a monthly volunteer advocacy group meeting at FOS which is chaired by Gary Goforth. Jackie Savitz, Chief Policy Officer of Oceana, attended the last meeting. Gary said he would like to have someone on the FOS staff who is dedicated to advocacy.
- Mark, Zack, Allen, Gary and others attended the USACE and LORS Meeting on February 19, 2019 at Indian River State College.

Governance & Nominating Committee, Scott Turnbull, Chair

- Scott Turnbull presented information, which is also posted on the Board Website, for a new Board member, Dan Merritt. He made a motion to move to accept Dan as a new Board member, Bob Mathias seconded it. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Coastal Center.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gary Goforth, Secretary of the Board of Directors and recorded by Cathy Muir, Administrative Assistant.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Goforth, Secretary of the Board of Directors
Florida Oceanographic Society