

BBEF Meeting Summary
January 21, 2010

Attending: Janet Findling, LWVT; Holly Davenport, Nature Conservancy; Steve Urse, Unitarian Universal Church Green Committee; Kent Wimmer, FL Trail Assn and Executive Secretary; Bob Henderson, Apalachee Audubon; Adam Rivera, Environment Florida; Stephen Hogge, CONA; Greg Chelius, TPL, Elizabeth Platt, Recording Secretary.

Agenda:

Old business: Candidate Forum – no change August 5, 2010 for August 24 Primary 6:00 to 9:00. City Hall, Tallahassee

New business:

1. Election of officers is ahead. Officers are elected annually; we have one officer (executive secretary); no need to take action this evening. We can recruit. Steve suggests forming a nominating committee in case no one volunteers. Steve will be on it, Kent will appoint the committee – he'll appoint Neil; list of rules and responsibilities should be given to prospective officers
2. Nancy Miller and Stephen Hogge to run for Debbie Lightsey's seat
3. Sharing questions with candidates now; need someone to organize for the forum, beginning with the invitation letter which Kent will draft in coordination with Janet who volunteered to join the organizing committee as well. Kevin McGorty will be asked to join the committee. Letters should go out as people announce; some have already done so. (Janet's suggestion info is on website for who has already filed); June 14-18 is deadline for qualifying.

Question: Can we share past questions with new candidates? Or just send out a list of general topics? Janet says we should avoid soliciting canned answers. Consensus seems to be that Kent's letter will simply lay out some general parameters. What seats will be featured? Depends on how many races there are.

4. Climate bill that limits CO2, Chris Byrd Citizens Climate Group (not present). Adam (adam@environmentflorida.org) will speak about the issue. He wants to reiterate elements of a good bill. Also includes info re drilling. Adam's website has a lot of information. Elements: science based pollution reduction targets (35% below 1990 levels by 2020 and then 80 to 90 below by 2050 (greenhouse gases). We can't meet the proximate goals through offsets. The bill would work this way: allow polluters to bid on prices. Auction intake will put \$ into greening activities. All proceeds to go toward greening, not back to polluters. (similarities with cap and trade).

Tallahassee can't sell a lot of credits to others. The bill must have pollution reduction measures. There needs to be a means to join with other countries to reach goals, and enable us to help developing countries to comply with goals. (Ozone levels will be affected adversely by prescribed fire, so there are problems inherent in pursuing both types of goal. Barry Moline (of utilities company) concerned about costs of pollution reduction. The actual legislation going through the Senate. One bill doesn't have

pollution reduction; it would roll back protections against drilling (10-45 miles off shore).

There is drilling in the climate bill. House version is Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act - invests in many types of energy (Graham, Kerry and Lieberman are working on a compromise). This is "like race to the bottom" to get to 60 votes. Polluters will be on an equal footing with green interests - everyone remains in the mix. If their bill includes revenue sharing (if FL starts drilling) this will be attractive to LeMieux - Nelson will filibuster it. The fight at the national level should supersede the state level drilling issue. Drilling not to be taken up in the current legis. Because senate president Jeff Atwater doesn't support acting (thanks to Eric, et al) gives us time to organize for 2011. Revenue sharing is a red herring - LeMieux needs to know this. Nelson will support climate bill, but it cannot include drilling (so we need to support him). Nelson would support a framework within which to work on this issue as long as it is decent and can be improved in the future. Nelson could get into trouble if there is a compromise which he can't make.

We need to be out in front - no drilling! Take care of this before summer. Obama will take a lot of heat if we don't leave Copenhagen 2 with some binding agreements so he will accept what he can get before July - if that includes drilling, so be it. Some communities have adopted resolutions against drilling, and we need to go to our local officials to ask them to oppose it as well. (Why hasn't BBFF done anything so far?) Protect Florida's Beaches website for some good resolutions. (or see Eric for the particulars). Refineries really rape the landscape. House proponent for the industry says refineries are a good thing for jobs in FL! (AAS should draft a letter to our local officials re this issue.)

5. Offshore drilling, Adam Rivera - see above
6. Reports by member organizations:
 - A. CONA - three finalists in each category (by size) TSEE energy challenge. Promoting energy conservation, combating climate change, announcing on Saturday. 2200 N. Meridian Rd. Saturday afternoon.
 - B. Florida Springs rally - capitol Feb 16 Tuesday.
 - C. Hands across the Sands rally - Bob Henderson. Event to join hands on the beach-substitute at Lake Ella. 1:00 American Legion Hall.
 - D. Florida Forever big push to keep the funding. www.supportfloridaforever.org to get newsletter. Encourage groups to become members. Lots of people have signed up 200 groups (realtors, some developers, etc.) Also on twitter. Got to lobby days for your county.
 - E. Springs rally. April 7th & 22nd at Capitol. Hope that governor will promote this in his speech on the environment. Coalition conference call on Fridays. All can participate.
 - F. Florida Trails announces FL Hiking Trails Month, declared by governor.
 - G. BBFF Website: our member organizations need to utilize it
 - H. Sat. March 6 Bradwell Bay Trail hike to be led by Kent Wimmer
7. Next meeting: 5:00 March 18, Thursday, Florida Trail office, Woodcrest Office Park.