

Big Bend Environmental Forum Meeting
April 15, 2010
Florida Trail Office

Agenda

1. Roll Call: Kent Wimmer (FTA), Holly Davenport (Nature Conservancy), Steve Urse (United Universalist Green Energy Committee), Terry Tenold (Florida Trails, Apalachee Chapter), Sharon Liggett (Sustainable Tallahassee), Steven Hogge (CONA), Bob Henderson (AAS), Janet Findling (League of Women Voters), Nancy Miller (Apalachicola Riverkeepers), Neil Fleckenstein (Tall Timbers), Julie Harrington (Friends of Wakulla Springs), Elizabeth Platt (AAS)
2. The Agenda was approved.
3. The March 18, 2010 Meeting Summary was approved.
4. Old Business
 - a. Candidate forums for 2010 elections have been set for **Thursday, August 5, 2010** for the August 24 primary, and **Thursday October 7** for the November 2 general election. These will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 PM in the Commission Chambers at City Hall in Tallahassee. Kevin McGorty will send out letters to the registered candidates to save the dates for the events. Tom Flanagan of WFSU will moderate, but WFSU is not able to broadcast them it already broadcasts "Bandwagon". Kent will ask the City of Tallahassee to broadcast the forums on WCOT. FAMU student Ariana committed to contacting the FAMU journalism department to record the event (see last month's minutes).
 - b. Treasurer Howard Kessler will forward his report including status of payment of 2010 membership dues within the week.
5. New Business
 - a. Report from the Nominating Committee (Steve Urse, Neil Fleckenstein, and Holly Davenport) for election of Executive Secretary and appointment of Treasurer. Steve said that the committee met Thursday, April 8th and reported that Kent Wimmer is willing to continue to serve, but Howard Kessler preferred that we appoint a new Treasurer. Bob Henderson was identified as a potential candidate, and the Committee confirmed his interest in serving as Treasurer. The Committee also thought ahead to 2011, and asked Neil Fleckenstein to serve as Executive Secretary which he agreed to serve. **Additional discussion asked that the BBEF member organizations provide updated contact information including email addresses for their representative to the BBEF and their chief executive to Kent Wimmer.**
 - b. Election of Executive Secretary: **The committee moved that Kent Wimmer be elected as Executive Secretary and to accept Bob Henderson's appointment as Treasurer. The motion was unanimously approved.**
 - c. Matters of treasurer responsibilities, post office box, bank account, statements, etc. **Following discussion, it was recommended that Howard and Bob clarify our procedures for handing these issues during the transition of the Treasurer position.**

- d. Ideas for potential forums: Future energy sources was identified as a potential forum topic. Michelle Rehwinkle Vasilinda has suggested a town hall meeting on this topic. People that we may wish to involve include Ed Regan, Tallahassee Scientific Society, and Gainesville Mayor Hanrahan. Steve Urse agreed to provide leadership with Julie, Neil, and Elizabeth volunteering to serve on a planning committee. Due to the upcoming candidate forums, this forum would likely be planned for February 2011.
- e. Legislative Report
 - 1) Florida Forever, Holly Davenport, distributed *Florida Forever talking points* and will email this information. We are urged to make calls. At the FF event at the Capitol, 25 organizations participated as did the governor and a few legislators attended. Earth Day at the Capitol is April 22 with organization's having tables from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a 10:00 AM press conference. Contact DEP Vanessa Williams to get table in Waller Park. Next week we anticipate the legislature going into budget talks. As of now \$15,000,000 in cash in Senate budget. House has nothing. Al Lawson stands behind it 100%. Alan Williams and Michelle R V are supportive but not champions of the issue. Florida Chamber has endorsed Florida Forever. It will come up as a conference issue. Additional revenue through the Gaming compact and FMAP may be helpful in budget negotiations.
 - 2) Oil Drilling. Elizabeth stated that Adam Rivera, Environment Florida reported the Kerry/Graham /Lieberman bill will come out on Earth Day. Leon County Commission voted to oppose drilling.
- f. DCA reauthorization. DCA will likely be reauthorized without significant changes to protect the status quo in light of the Hometown Democracy Constitutional amendment being on the November ballot.
- g. Local Government Report:
 - 1) The proposal to include a County Utility Board will not be recommended as a Charter amendment.
 - 2) Leon County decided that it would not pursue a charter amendment to supersede City environmental regulations.
 - 3) The City may change its permit re the spray fields. We need to keep an eye on this.
 - 4) The City Utility Advisory Board is being reconstituted. Discussion emphasized that if it is a citizen's utility advisory board, then the citizens need to be represented. Kent was asked to contact the City to ask to have a BBEF representative appointed to the Board. CONA has asked for a representative to the Board.
 - 5) Two large Coal fired plants are being proposed 40 miles east and west of Albany, GA that may encroach on the use of prescribed fire as a land management tool on the conservation lands within the Red Hills. A construction permit was issued for a plant while the permitting process was still taking place. The Georgia Green Law group has been litigating on these issues. Neil will present more info next time.
 - 6) Quality of air status in Tallahassee. EPA reports forthcoming re particulate matter from earlier fires, greenhouse gases. We are rated C. GA and AL plants will contribute to air quality concerns in our area.
 - 7) Regional Mobility Plan: policy re transportation corridors in several counties being addressed. Tall Timbers concerned that this is going in the wrong direction. Look at using existing corridors rather than creating new ones, and seeking alternatives to auto traffic.

- h. Reports of activities and news by our member organizations:
- 1) Idle-free Tallahassee will be held April 23 at Kleman Plaza from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in conjunction with Earth Week in Leon County Tallahassee. Bob Henderson they have a goal of getting 20,000 people to pledge (you can pledge online at www.Talgov.com). The Apalachee Audubon Society has adopted a resolution in support which can be a model for other organizations. Steve suggests getting Facebook page for idle-free Tallahassee. Auto-idling is akin to 2nd hand smoke issue. It was suggested we work with the schools to encourage parents not to idle while waiting to pick up children. AAA is going green, encourage others to do the same.
 - 2) "Tapped" is a documentary film about the water-bottling industry scheduled for Tuesday April 20 at 7:00 PM All Saints Cinema. Visit <http://tappedthemovie.com>.
 - 3) Solid Waste spectacular. May 8 at the Solid Waste Management Facility from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 - 4) Earth Day Jam. April 24 at 9:00 AM.
 - 5) Leon County Sustainable Communities Summit 2010 on May 6-7 at the Turnbull Conference Center. Visit: sustainability@leoncountyFL.gov
 - 6) Leon County Recycling Day is Saturday April 24 at the Tallahassee Mall from 9:00 to 3:00 PM.

The next meeting of the BBEF was scheduled for May 20th (the third Thursday of the month) at the Florida National Scenic Trail Office, 325 John Knox Road, Building F, Suite 100 in Tallahassee.