

NSS-CDS Board meeting January 21,2024 1900 hours

Quorum- Yes

BOD Present- Sam LeFlore (SL), Gayle Hall (GH), Max Kuznetsov (MK), James Chandler (JC), Fred Stratton (FS), Renee Powers (RP), Steve Forlenza (SF), Mark Schroder (MS)

BOD Absent- None

Members Present- Adam Hughes (AH), Jim Wyatt (JW), Cameron Mahaffey (CM), Timmy Young (TY), Shane Paradis (SP), Nathan (N)

SL Called meeting to order at 1903 hrs.

SL made a motion to accept December minutes. MK second, All in favor.

Treasurers report

GH - 2024 budget was submitted and reviewed. In line with 2023 expenditures with small increases. 30k cash on hand. GH made a motion to post the budget in UWS for transparency to the membership. All approved. JC made a motion to put funds into interest bearing account. FS second, All in favor. SF suggested a Capital 360 account to keep funds liquid at higher interest rate (4.35%). TY suggested Ally bank (4.35%). 10k is in meeting house fund and 20k in general fund. Ameris Bank currently holds funds.

GH brought up property acquisition with the funds, CM has some viable options. The board will consider options as they are proposed.

Winter Workshop

GH- Most successful Winter Workshop ever. Over 135 participants. SP will provide a formal report shortly. SP will be committee chair for the 2024 workshop. Presently considering O'Leno in High Springs. GH suggested a co-chair as a backup. SL 20 signed up for hands on vertical workshop tentatively March 2024.

DEMA 2024-

GH- Formula 1 race conflicting with DEMA in Las Vegas. They overlap on Thursday and Friday. Westgate has 2100 rooms available during DEMA and Renaissance 225. DEMA investigated an alternate location with no success. We have a space reserved next to Dive Rite. 20% due tomorrow or we lose space and are obligated to pay full price. A booth is ~\$550. We are following Dive Rites' lead. GH- what is ROI vs waiting to go to Orlando. RP- If we don't attend DEMA 2024, we lose the first right of refusal in Orlando 2025. SF- Will merchandise sales cover costs of show. SL/AH- Presence is important for CDS. \$3K budget for show. AH- Benefits are more than monetary. May obtain new

donors, new members or new sponsors. SL- made motion to attend DEMA 2024. FS second All in favor. AH- will pay tomorrow.

AWARDS

GH- Explorer of the year (AKA Brett Hemphill Award), Volunteer of the year, and Instructor of the year, TC suggested removing Instructor of the year. All in favor of removing instructor award. Maybe add a Lifetime achievement award? Conservation Award? Awards will be given out at the international workshop- 4 months out. SL- Proceed via email, collaborate, then go out to membership for voting.

Training Update

MK- Instructor renewals ongoing with some slight glitches. The Training Committee is continuing with the training material update. Taking longer than expected. More technical than expected. Assistance with IT and Graphic design needed. Requested budget for same. TY has a student (Ben Pyles) willing to assist for a lifetime membership. MK- If budget permits, request funds to hire a graphic designer to assist with updates. GH- Funds are available from Joe Citelli. SL- E-Learning is a simple plug in to the website. Standards require updating and the workbook will reflect the standards update. MK- The new DPV standard is being well received. Training material needs more attention than the standards do. He will approach Lamar to get approval to use Dive Rite gear in all new material. TC has a photographer willing to volunteer if needed. AH- will give Ben the lifetime membership AFTER the work is complete and approved. JC- will draft a simple MOA. SL- Suggests that a list of deliverables be given to Ben prior to commencing agreement.

State Park Update

MK- Ian Parrish would be a great addition to the CDS. SL- will write a response to him and disseminate it to the BOD for review and comment. SL- Spoke to Chris regarding Emerald sink and it's ready to get moving. Workdays pending to get Emerald open. This will be the blueprint for the Meeting House Sink project.

FS- Peacock workday went well. Over 40 ppl showed up. Many new benches, BBQ stands, fences etc. were repaired or replaced. Ranger Brown was thrilled. Opening date still up in the air due to precariously hanging tree limbs. Maybe 2-4 weeks. The addition of any additional infrastructure requires approval. Maybe we will have a workshop of bench fabrication at a future event. Erika at Madison has a list of pending repairs.

GH- Letter/petition to state to help push opening of the state parks. JC- concerned of effects of pressure on Nick. SF-501c3 organizations are limited in their political action. RP- Do our by-laws etc. allow for this. AH- Compliance should be investigated.

New Business

JC- Leasing of property- Namely Diepolder, presently owned and run by the boy scouts. Can we approach them to lease the spring? Perfect first project for Ian Parrish. Would also like to approach Suwanee River Management RE: Telford access. Terry was making headway with Telford FS to take over the initiative. Spoke with Lamar re: various levels of membership to offset costs associated with leasing these properties.

JC- Cow maintenance/ workday- one tree in question. SL has a proposal for \$1,100.00. He is against any workdays involving chain saws and hanging trees. CM has a tree guy.

NSS is requesting cameras at Alachua. Cow spring should get cameras too.

Website/IT updates requested by GH. SL has a potential candidate. If unsuccessful with this candidate. Will send out the opportunity to the membership. Lynn Connolly expressed interest.

SL- Committees will be posted to web page and the board will revisit the committee positions. The goal is to fill all vacancies. Website is run via WordPress. Too costly to change format now. Training cards are linked to WordPress.

GH- 2023 Winter Workshop and International Conference videos and pictures need to get posted to the website with MEMBERSHIP ONLY access. SL- once video on YouTube it is no longer controlled and no longer secure.

Nathan (N) brought up access to School Sink- SL – Property management plan already in place. Contact one of the six guides/observers to access the site. <https://nsscds.org/combined-nss-cds-property-management-plan/>

JC- Motion to close the meeting. FS seconded. All in favor 2123 hrs.

Zoom Meeting Link

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/03T90_91V-nAE_zEF9ZjF86Lo6fPQHBSDEf3ZDcsafB4xRwWCbNXeWgDXmFp7FY.obu7SIFRXd5SWGfN?startTime=1705880846000

Passcode: #maggxd29