

## **July 14th, 2024 Board of Directors meeting NSS CDS**

The meeting was called to order at 1932 hours.

**BOD members** - Fred Stratton (FS), Jamie Chandler (JC), Steve Forlenza (SF), Renee Power (RP), Gayle Hall (GH), Steve Dalcher (SD), Chris Brock (CBr)

**Members Present-** Sam Leflore (SL)(Late), Shane Paradis (SP), Carrie Spencer (CS), Barbara Dwyer (BD), Adam Hughes (AH), Mark Schroder (MS), Chris Brown (CB), Ian Parrish (IP), Courtney Parish (CP), Patricia Spellman (PS), Cameron Mahaffey (CM).

### **IT issues**

SF- Website corrections/edits almost complete. Email inboxes up and running for all BOD members. Training database modifications top priority.

### **DEMA 2024**

SF- Steve and Max are preparing for the show. Working on travel itinerary. Room and airfare secured. DEMA @nsscads.org up and running transferred from GH and RP.

### **Treasurers report.**

As per the report from RP and AH

### **Winter Workshop**

SP- As per the brief submitted by SP. CBr Focus on conservation is interesting. 95% of membership cannot dive Alachua Sink. All properties should be involved. Who would speak about these caves?  
SP- Mostly KUR members have the experience and expertise in these caves. SD- giving KUR some spots in the workshop will foster the relationship. FS- Asked SP to consider the comments made above and come up with a plan to be more inclusive.

### **Program Directors**

SD and GH met with FS to discuss the various locations and to get up to speed.

GH- Meeting house- CB has been working with Lance (Park Ranger).

GH-Dr Bobby Scharoing volunteering as Conservation subcommittee Coordinator and Ken Sallot volunteered to be the Lines and Markers subcommittee Coordinator.

The state is trying to baseline the minimum rules across all properties.

Dr Patricia Spellman has volunteered to work on the Science committee. Geology will be her focus.

Nick Brown, Peacock will not allow plaque for Jared Hires. Cow is a possible option. BOD will approach Lamar for his approval. Motion was made by GH and seconded by SD. Motion passed.

SD- Making calls to get up to oriented with who's doing what. Bob Beckner is an NSSCDS member again.

Approached the folk at Buford regarding installing an appropriate ladder for divers. Melissa Thompson will submit to the state for approval.

Many irons in the fire. Working on a task list.

IP-Edward's Sink, named after Sheck Exley's late brother. IP will work with JC to work up a standardized property management agreement to present to Dennis Smith, owner of Edward's.

CM- Indian Spring is going on the market. BD-Will the state be willing to purchase? AH- Last time it sold for 1.2 million, it's over 50 acres.

### **Training Committee**

CBr suggests giving instructors free advertising space within our email blasts on a rotating basis as an added value to their membership.

CBr – Candidate ready for his institute, 1<sup>st</sup> week of October. Justin Judd. The committee is looking into standards, formatting issues and some changes. Changing the way instructors are made. No need for the divemaster program. Too many liability and legal issues. CBr made a motion to remove the program, FS seconded. Motion passed. Current DMs can finish the year and approach another agency moving forward.

eLearning-Preliminary chapters reviewed. Autumn Jefferson has done a great job. Anticipate that they will be presented to the board in September for approval. A purchase contract will have to be negotiated between the CDS and Autumn. October/November timeframe anticipated to approach Lamar and Lee Ann Hires with a December release date. CDS will require instructors to become familiar with the program prior to roll out. January anticipated go live date.

**Waiver Program**- FS Bob Beckner ok with online waiver system. Same system as used at Cow Spring. Andy Pitkin plans to transition to the Alachua Sink paper liability waiver to the SCCI (Southeastern Cave Conservancy Inc.) online waiver system. Details to follow.

Cameras were installed at Alachua as of this date. \$10.00 per month per camera for the extended storage feature.

**Cow Spring**- Trespasser issue. SD and GH will approach the sheriff about resolution.

JC- Guides vs observers? Legal issue? needs clarification.

**CDS Properties**- LLCs were removed and they were returned to CDS ownership. TJ Muller, Charlie Roberson and Andy Pitkin are most familiar. JC and IP will get together regarding this issue. SF believes that the properties should be held in individual LLCs to protect/isolate the 501c3 entity.

Motion to close the meeting by FS seconded by SF. All in favor.

Next meeting is August 11, 2024, at 1930 hours.

Meeting Adjourned 2102 hours.

**Zoom link**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/ziRM8iukKbaviesTbQgBkbNWmqkpW8lf634OxSMeqjZzA4WiRlo5H1snD0Yb0PJU.9MymnrkPCsV\\_aa2w](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/ziRM8iukKbaviesTbQgBkbNWmqkpW8lf634OxSMeqjZzA4WiRlo5H1snD0Yb0PJU.9MymnrkPCsV_aa2w)

**Passcode: c99#\*K8Z**

Hello BOD friends,

I hope to be at the meeting. I have to work Sunday night, will have my earbud in to listen and I will communicate as I can. This email will serve as my Treasurer's Report in the event I cannot contribute live.

Included in this email is Adam's report along with financials for June.

In addition:

- We have purchased more of the round stickers as we ran out during the conference.
- I am working on an ICC Cavenger budget and requirements for the future. It is noticed that not all work equally. We would rather have a few less volunteers that will work hard given the number of freebies provided. I will be working with Adam and Fred on those details. Stay tuned.
- Adam and I, along with our Ameris Banking team, have completed the transition from Gayle to me as Treasurer.
- DEMA hotel info has been handed off to Steve. One room for Steve/Max. The other two rooms have been removed from NSS-CDS responsibility.

Thank you and I look forward to our meeting on Sunday.

Renee

Cash in Bank:

Checking: \$29,169.84

Savings: \$10,636.07

Total Cash-on-hand: \$39,805.91

Manager's Report:

As far as the administrative side of things go, June was a relatively sedate month. My time was spent catching up on things that got put on hold while working on the conference and handling daily emails. For most part, it was a calm month, and I feel like I can finally catch my breath now that the conference has passed.

Now my focus will shift to our insurance renewal which is something that usually takes many hours and emails to get submitted properly. I reached out to them today to ask if we can get that process going. It usually takes a few weeks, and lots of going back and forth with the underwriters.

As you can see from the financials, we had a good operating month. There are Conference related revenues being reported this month because deposits didn't hit the bank until the following Monday/Tuesday on 6/2 - 6/3.

We had a successful month with the store with over \$1600 in merchandise sales. I was packing up orders multiple times a week to keep up. Per my email from a few weeks ago, I placed an order for more shirts and various other things we were running low on stock for like books, stickers, ect. Those merchandise purchases are built into the BOD approved budget, and will be reported on next month's financials.

As far as June expenses go, we had a couple of large non-recurring expenses hit this month:

- 1) \$2,500 for the SF Tech Drysuit
- 2) \$386.95 for Alachua Sink Surveillance equipment
- 3) The Armory also didn't deposit the check for the venue until a few weeks ago.
- 4) \$278: Final DEMA installment payment for Las Vegas Registration.
- 5) \$279: Annual Woocommerce subscription fees. This is a yearly payment for the software we use for the online store.

Also, there is a "Negative" expense reported in DEMA travel. That is a \$136.06 refund for one of the hotel rooms per our discussion last month.

Some large upcoming expenses:

- 1) About \$800 for shirts (Restocking)
- 2) I sent Max a check today for \$1,223 for DEMA airfare reimbursement

Also keep in mind that our insurance renewal is coming up soon. We usually make that payment in Late July or early August. We budgeted \$3k but I anticipate the policy renewal costing around \$2400-2500. Last year, our premium surprisingly went down.

That's all I can think of for now. June was a relatively un-eventful month. Let me know if you have any question

Thanks,

Adam Hughes  
NSS-CDS Operations Manager  
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