1. Call to Order: 6:05 pm, at Rutenberg Park Eco Living Center. Those present included Rebecca Austin, Mari Hanley, Brad Cornell, Toby Clark, Elsbeth McCulloch, Dan Van Norman, and Wayne Daltry.
2. Minutes of March 18th. Motion to approve by Hanley, second by Clark, Unanimous.
3. Treasurer's Report: Checking $1954, Investment Account $80,192. There will be a financial subcommittee meeting on the 22nd to develop the budget. Discussion in understanding the investment account funding and eligible expenses, and limits on amounts for budgeting.
4. Membership Review: There are 150 chapter only members, 1720 National members. Discussion reaffirmed the need to not distribute chapter only membership list, for discussion in May.
5. Conservation/Advocacy Update: We were busy. A position was taken with Fort Myers Beach and FDEP on the Least Tern nesting areas, and beach maintenance; we spoke at the EPA hearing on the 13th in Fort Myers on the need for nutrient standards; at the Estero Bay Agency for Bay Management, we spoke on the need for a plan of action/outcomes, which is different from an annual work plan; affirmed the funding for Carol and Sarah for advocacy training (at $75 each); and Pete covered the Everglades Coalition meeting.
6. Outreach and Education: Again, we were busy. We covered FGCU Earth Day on April 8th (three more planned), participated in the Burrowing Owl festival, and acknowledged the great newsletter and web page update. Discussion ensued on editions a year, and number of printed copies, and specific efforts in such for Chapter only, tabled until May. Mari and Brad discussions on education program resulted in them being an ad hoc subcommittee to frame up the discussions and return subject at May meeting.
7. Field Trip and Alliance events: We should determine what else is happening at least for Memorial Day and 4th of July, and advertise. Follow up with Charlie Ewell was discussed.
8. Programs Planned: The Purple Martin event is coming up, and Roger Clark will be present next meeting to discuss signage downtown. The bird count note provided by Pete was acknowledged, and moved to next meeting.
9. Fairs and Festivals: The environmental breakfast needs a firm date, a venue, a caterer, a theme/speaker, and the determination of whether we are solo or partnering. Discussion ensued on award recipient, and the question in part revolved around geographic area of applicability. This topic is for next meeting.
10. Old business: (topics above). More money came in from Birdathon, and thanks expressed to Toby and the 10 participants. Toby delivered $1186, which furthers the $676 already received, minus the estimated $130 in expenses.
11. New Business: Dan Van Norman presented the outcome of the SWF Water Resources conference. We had pledged to underwrite up to $250, but instead we are eligible to receive $247 because they turned a profit. The discussion was whether to relinquish the money to help the conferees set up a SWF funded chapter of the AWRA, and we voted (Motion by Clark, second by Austin) to receive the money. Thanks to Dan expressed.
12. Calendar of Events NOI. None
13. Next meeting date, agenda. May 20th 6pm, same place; agenda as expressed above, and discussion on whether a facebook site is desired.