



**Cypress Chapter of the IWLA (CCIWLA)**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**May 14, 2025**  
**ZOOM**

Call to order: 7:04 PM by Pete Quasius

1. President's Items (Pete Quasius): Pete is resigning as chapter President due to medical problems. He appoints Marshall Jones to the position. He says good bye and signed off. Mike E expressed his appreciation for the incredible force and effort he has put in over these years.
2. Approve draft Agenda- motion by Tom and second by Brett to approve agenda as set.
3. Approve DRAFT Minutes of March 19, 2025 meeting ([click here to see](#)). Motion by Tom O to approve. Second by Brett. approved by acclaim.
4. Executive Director Report (Mike Elfenbein):
  - a. Mike E in DC again- lots of meetings scheduled.
  - b. presented one-pager for the Wilderness bill reintroduced- 14 co-sponsors so far. Trying to get it in the National Resource committee (NRC).
  - c. He is working with USFWS partners for a \$30K grant at Pistol Pond. Now looking for an award for Scrub Jay Eagle Ranch- to Identify existing population at 208 acres. to determine how to connect the populations with neighboring lands. Working with Larry Daniels, Chad E and others. last field visit ID 8 scrub jays
  - d. He just finished the first year of Audubon Eagle Watch- monitored 10 nests- fledged 6 new eagles, over 24 trips of staffers and agency to see them. Listed the many entities he has brought to Eagle Haven.
  - e. He is looking at WQ to Lake K and Lake H with FDEP and SFWMD for Calooshatchee R watershed.
  - f. Ducks Unlimited collaborate on wetland improvement at Eagle Haven
  - g. Attended FFWC Gala on Juno beach
  - h. Attended River of Grass movie screening (April 9th)- highlighted Betty Osceola
  - i. Apr 25 International Order of Teddy Roosevelt conference in Naples. he made connections and made plans to do some good projects in the future. Wes Bates (owner of Stanley Steamers)- now wants to accomplish reintroducing white tailed deer to Everglades- he is meeting with the Cabela's foundation to look at this. Miccosukee and other partners are willing to participate- introduce through the reservation lands.
  - j. Pistol Pond Improvement Project- kudos to Nora. About 20 kids attended. Electro-fished, assessed, more fish were added the following week. The project is proceeding.
  - k. Ducks Unlimited met with other elected
  - l. Everglades Restoration meeting
  - m. SFWMD forum
  - n. FWC Bear Hunt calls
  - o. participated in NAS biennial Everglades Review
  - p. Big Cypress Basin meetings

- q. lots of habitat improvement at Eagle Haven- mowing
- r. Jennifer Oates and family had a python education class with 100 students and parents.
- s. Upcoming
  - i. FWC in Ocala 21st Diamond and Jesse also attending- it would be a good one to attend.
  - ii. Florida Wildlife corridor- presenting for Chairman Cypress
  - iii. Everglades summit
  - iv. Mineral rights work
- 5. Financial Report (Tom Oates):
  - a. all is in order.
  - b. Annual funding was secured to fund efforts for the rest of the year
    - i. reimbursed expenses for trailer, updates to website
    - ii. Tom Oates filled out all the paperwork for the endowment account. Paperwork is done, but he is still looking for access.
- 6. Committee reports:
  - a. Membership (Nora): waiting for more membership cards for the newer members. Will send out a one page flyer with the membership card from National.
  - b. Science and Outreach (Demers/Elfenbein):
    - i. Pistol Pond Improvement Project see Mike E's
    - ii. [International Big Mamma Day](#) (Osceola, Demers)
      - 1. update- successful. Lots of compliments saying it was the best event so far.
      - 2. Birthday card was a success.
      - 3. Next year will be a 2-day event. The fish tournament/ invasive removal was a big success.
      - 4. Her son did the flyer and social media- will start 6 months in advance next time.
      - 5. About 100 people did cyanotyping
      - 6. \$97 donated to the chapter for T-shirts, hats, and cyanotyping project.
      - 7. Brett says he would offer Angler Action app to help spread the word about the fish tournament
      - 8. Betty envisions to get more sponsorships by starting earlier and expanding the speakers and other events. Pete suggests Jeremy Wade, Mike E suggests Ray Rosier/Murphy, will use son's connection to do a promotion for the fishing tournament.
      - 9. Ali offered to help with the video promo. for the tournament event
    - iii. Shooting sports (Jesse/Steve): nothing new to report
  - c. Education/Endowment (Soter): nothing new to report
- 7. New business:
  - a. Planning for 2025 Chapter events ([see 2025 proposed schedule](#))
  - b. Annual meeting is in June by zoom
    - i. By-laws updates ([see proposed CC IWLA by-laws revisions and justification here](#))- will be on the agenda for June Annual meeting - this is FYI to review

1. some discussion endowment account may require a certain amount to be invested.
  2. Bob says Pete says it is a separate 501c3. Mike C suggests Tom and he have a meeting after the meeting. Initial funding was from a \$3k from Collier, \$6k from Chenoweth's foundations.
  3. Tom says there is no separate 501c3. He will talk with Mike C, Pam and Bob S about these matters for the next meeting.
  4. some committees have their BOD meeting is first, then the general membership meets.
- ii. Elections for 2025 (Nominations)
1. need to put Director's on 3 year staggered term- proposed:
    - a. 2025 Osceola
    - b. 2026 Oates
    - c. 2027 Cleckler
    - d. 2025 Jones
    - e. 2026 Fitzgerald
    - f. 2027 Lee
    - g. 2025 Bergeron
    - h. up to 2 new Directors (up to 9 possible)
  2. Delegates to [2025 IWLA National Convention July 18 & 19](#), Green Bay Wisconsin.
    - a. in the past Pam was Cypress Chapter delegate, Mike C. and Richard S represents the Florida keys chapter, but cannot attend. Mike C asks Tom to discuss whether Steven Blumrosen wants to be that delegate.
    - b. two plus an alternate (typically President, incoming President, alternate)
    - c. Mike C says the Florida chapter has only missed one convention since 1986. It is a good experience for the attendees. There will be a Florida room entertaining people nationwide for one evening. Tom suggests another off-line discussion between Mike E, Marshall and Tom.
  3. Officers- Nominations
    - a. Board members nominations
      - i. 2028 Osceola
      - ii. 2028 Jones
      - iii. 2028 Bergeron
      - iv. NEW?
    - b. President: Marshall Jones
    - c. Vice-President:
    - d. Treasurer/Secretary: Tom Oates

Tom makes a motion to approve the proposed by-laws changes and Director election for the June meeting. Second by Betty. Vote by acclaim.

8. Member comment:

9. Public comment:

10. Adjourn at 8:45 PM

Next meeting (ZOOM Annual meeting) Proposed June 18, 2025 ZOOM 6:45 gathering  
Call to order at 7:00 PM

Name	Position	In attendance?
Pete Quasius	President	YES
Mike Elfenbein	Executive Director	YES
Tom Oates	Treasurer and Secretary and Board Member	YES
Marshall Jones	Vice-President and Board Member	YES
Brett Fitzgerald	Projects Chair and Board Member	YES
Jesse Lee	Chair shooting sports and Board Member	YES
Bob Soter	Education Chair	YES
Betty Osceola	Board Member	YES
Heather Cleckler	Board Member	NO
Diamond Bergeron	Board Member	YES
Nora Demers	Director of Science and Outreach and recording secretary	YES
Michael Chenoweth	member	YES
Karina Balman	member	YES
Ali Codina	member	YES
Pam Pierce	member	YES
Rich Sommer	member	YES

Marie Cyphert	member	YES
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