



Cypress Chapter of the IWLA (CCIWLA)

APPROVED MINUTES

November 20, 2024 7:00 PM via ZOOM

Call to order: (Mike E 7:03 PM):

Attendance:

Name	Position	Present?
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	NO
Brett Fitzgerald	Projects Chair and Board Member	YES
Steven Blumrosen	Incoming Designated Membership Officer for National	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
Richard Sommer	member	YES

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: BEAST FEAST at UF: dialog with Will Welsh, Executive Vice President of the UF Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) about wild game dinner -request for food donations and tabling at the event. Feb 22, 2025 at Cypress and Grove Brewery in Gainesville. w.welsh@ufl.edu (216) 704-6107. [Click here for BEAST FEAST FLYER](#)
 - a. Will Welsh talked about their dinner and other events (silent auction, tabling, speakers, donation of food). He would be happy to pick up any donations. Tickets are \$30 held at a Brewery in Gainesville. No cost for tabling.
 - b. Mike E and Jesse may be able to provide game, and a game hunting visit so he can harvest and clean his own food. Mike E will follow up with him directly.
2. Approve DRAFT minutes of Sept 18 CC-IWLA meeting ([click on link](#)) and review of the October 16th meeting ([click here to see](#)).

- a. Motion by Tom second by Bob Soter. October meeting minutes approved by acclaim.
 - b. Appoint [Tarah Ferrier \(see image and bio here\)](#) as CC-IWLA Little Free Library (LFL) Coordinator.
 - i. Motion by Bob Soter, second by Steven Blumrosen. Motion passes unanimously.
- 3. President's Items (Pete Quasius/Mike Elfenbein):
 - a. Resignation of representative- motion by Betty to accept resignation of Mike Chenoweth second by Tom Oates. Motion passes unanimously.
 - b. Appoint Steve Blumrosen Designated Membership Officer for National. Motion by Tom second by Brett Fitzgerald. Motion passes unanimously.
 - c. Nora and Steven are looking forward to meeting Mike Chenoweth in person shortly before Thanksgiving to get a better sense of the procedures for the Membership Officer.
 - d. Pete is working hard and recovering from recent shoulder replacement surgery.
- 4. Executive Director Report (Mike Elfenbein):
 - a. Fishing and Hunting are now a constitutional right in Florida. 67%, - over 7 million voted for it (more than the President).
 - b. Mineral rights- about \$240 M, now DOI wants a market analysis. Hope to have that done by the end of the year. Then will ask for this to be a line item on the US President's budget. It is time sensitive.
 - c. Wilderness designation was removed from the backcountry plan. It is still in the EIS, though. HR 8998 appropriation language gives at least a year window. Work still needs to be done. Those two bills may make it through committee and to the floor after the new leadership takes control in DC.
 - d. Mike has been trained and is now part of "Audubon Eagle Watch". There are 7 nests at Eagle Haven- three eagles are nesting. A barn owl is rearranging the red shoulder hawk's nest nightly!
- 5. Financial Report (Tom Oates): Tom provided a finance report: Izaak Walton Cypress Chapter as of 9/30/24. The Directors thanked him for his presentation.
 - a. There were questions about the Endowment account. What are the details about the endowment account and why are the chapter funds going to the endowment? Pete agrees that Mike E and Tom Oates should both be on all the Cypress Chapter bank accounts and will do what is necessary to facilitate that happening.
- 6. Committee reports:
 - a. Membership: no update at this time
 - b. Shooting sports (Jesse):
 - i. The Chapter has entered a partnership with "Live Wildly" and Moultrie for feeders and game cams that are being installed at Eagle Haven.
 - ii. He met at Big Cypress Office this week with Miccosukee tribe members to discuss project to remove 4000 tires from the triangle area of Big Cypress in April or May. It will take between 70 – 100 dump trucks to remove it. Planning continues for request for charge reduction for tipping fees at landfill. The tribe has someone with big equipment to help make this happen.
 - c. Education/Endowment:
 - i. Education programs (Bob Soter) Had a meeting with the staff at "Collaboratory" to request that we participate in their scholarship program. The Collaboratory requires that all organizations desiring to offer a scholarship turn over the funds to the Collaboratory.

1. Because we have chosen to maintain total control over our funds, we will not be participating with the Collaboratory.
 - ii. Little Free library (LFL) Tarah
 - a. Bob Soter says they have 4 LFL at Babcock Ranch. The Calusa Nature Center has a shelf in their facility where the chapter may help stock. Bob and Tarah are also working to expand the number of LFL locations.
 - b. Tom asked where to send copies of A Land Remembered. Mike E also has 24 copies of the Wilderness story with interview of Betty Osceola. Please send the book to the Chapter's mailbox in Babcock Ranch
Cypress Chapter IWLA, Canopy #2312, 17174 Curry Preserve Dr., Babcock Ranch, FL 33982
 - d. Trailer (Brett and Pete) Two coats of paint inside, AC is installed.
 - i. Need to provide the "certificate of origin" to turn into a "tag service" for new tag registration and they will send a title. Betty Osceola says the designated person for the entity needs to do this in person (Sun-Biz). Tom O says he will help make it happen. (The trailer was purchased by the Cypress Chapter). Steven needs to mail/FedEx the MSO hard copy to Tom O.
 - e. Audit committee: no action
 - f. Special projects: Pistol Pond (ND): The pond received about 97,000 prey fish from the USFWS National Fish Hatchery in Welaka, Florida. The majority of the fish were redear sunfish and bluegill. They also stocked *Gambusia* (mosquitofish), sailfin molly, and bluefin killifish.
7. Old business:
- a. Website under construction:
<https://cypresschapterizaakw.live-website.com/>
Anyone who wants to have changes to the website provide them by the end of November to Nora.
 - i. If you have any materials we can use on the website please upload them at this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kq93zLHm3PrXwDHeqBAP-ARP2cd8WRHQ?usp=sharing>
 - b. Annual meeting of Florida chapter at Pennekamp Feb 23, 2025
 - c. Event liability insurance-
 - d. Annual field trip date and location discussion – Marshall may be willing to have an annual meeting Mack's Fish Camp. The board appreciates his offer and we look forward to that in person meeting. No date has been set.
8. New Business:
- a. Elections and nominations- no action
 - b. Brief report outreach (Nora)- [Big Cypress Swamp Heritage Festival](#)-
 - i. Nora has a couple of FGCU students who will be helping with the cyanotyping and reading from A Land Remembered and Everglades Patrol.
 - ii. Plan B: If the trailer isn't ready, she should be able to fit everything necessary into her Honda Fit and the students and she will table at the event.

9. Member comment:

- a. Everglades Restoration Task Force meeting is Dec 5 in DC (Mike E conflicted about attending especially with Dec 7 Big Cypress Event)
- b. Richard. Sommers-The Chapter should explore the possibility of bringing the endowment account into the chapter. It may already be the case.

10. Public comment: none

11. Adjourn at 8:15 PM

Next meeting: January 15th 2025 ZOOM 6:45 Gathering and call to order at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Egan Demers