

**Sierra Club of Northeast Florida  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Place:** Virtual meeting using the Zoom online system

**Meeting Date:** Monday May 27, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Call to Order:** by Logan Cross at 6:32

**Members in Attendance:** Logan Cross, Mimi Wahlman; Peter Harding; Lisa Williams; Larry Zwain, Bill Snow

**Others in Attendance:** Suzi Stone, Susan Creek

**Approval of Meeting Minutes;** Motion made by Bill Snow; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Harding. The spelling of Michael McGraph will be made. The vote to approve the minutes with the change was unanimous.

**Executive Committee**

FL Chapter Quarterly Meeting Update-

Logan Cross indicated Jyoti Parmar, a FL Chapter Organizer, has been given assignment to work with our group on energy issues. He indicated she may be able to assist with other SCNEF undertakings in addition to the Renew Jacksonville Campaign.

Okefenokee Protection Alliance (OPA) Representation

Susan Creek indicated Judy Ciocco, a St Augustine resident, is interested in the possibility of representing the SCNEF in the Okefenokee Protection Alliance. Logan agreed to meet with her regarding the matter as soon as time permits.

Conservation Committee – Revitalization

Logan Cross indicated the Conservation Committee has lost members and needs additions to reform the committee. He encouraged members to identify members to serve on the committee.

**Visibility & Advocacy**

Communications Team Update

Suzi Stone indicated the recent opinion column by Logan Cross could be included in the next edition of the SCNEF Newsletter and requested Logan send the Word version of the column. Suzi indicated she needs articles related to Tree Hill, Planning with a Purpose and the SC Social event in St. Augustine. Suzi indicated she prefers to use email addresses routed through the FL Chapter email system rather than individuals personal email addresses. She suggests creating FL Chapter functional extensions. This is only for the purpose of the newsletter and executive committee.

Suzi indicated efforts are needed to improve the SCNEF website. Peter indicated the site has considerable duplication and he has made some upgrades. He indicated the site is limited to 7 tabs across the top of the site. Suzi asked the members to visit the site and visit other SC sites to identify features to improve the SCNEF website.

Events and Tabling

Bill Snow indicate several members have assisted with tabling in April. The events included Lullaby of Rivers, the Tree Hill Symposium, and the SC Social at Anastasia State Park. Bill indicated Mimi and Larry and Susan helped set up tables and oversaw events while he was traveling.

### SCNEF Environmental Symposium

Lisa Williams indicated there was a good turnout for the SC Symposium. It helped to introduce to Tree Hill nature center. and lots of people turned up.

### SC Social at Anastasia Island Beach

Mimi Wahlman indicated she worked with Jyoti Parmar put together the event. Mimi indicated the event was successful and a good learning experience for future events. People came from all over the area. Suzi states we need to do more pre-event promotion, getting out the information 6 months in advance of events.

## **Political & Legislative**

### Political Team Update

Susan indicated Mimi Wahlmann, Bill Snow, and Susan Creek are conducting candidate reviews for upcoming races in St Johns County and St Augustine. They have completed the interview process for District 5 County Commissioner race. She indicated they will interview two candidates this week. She indicate there is a state representative race we would like to weigh in on as we have a good candidate.

## **Membership**

### Membership Team Update

Bill Snow indicated the membership Increased by 15 members in May. Wants to think about ways to increase membership, particularly younger people. Maybe college students. Working on outreach in diverse communities. Doing outings in some of the areas that are somewhat neglected, bringing new members in. NAACP Environmental group is working with us. Jyoti is working with him.

## **Education & Engagement**

### Sustainable Investing Presentation

Logan Cross indicated a consultant with Raymond James asked if we would be interested in having a presentation on sustainable investing. It was confirmed education would be the primary purpose and opportunities and how it could be done without wanting to push product. Mimi likes the idea of learning how to invest in more green companies. Suzi likes the idea, approaching it as a way to make money. Bill Snow says he needs more information and questions the appropriateness of such a presentation. Logan indicated he can share a PDF version of the presentation. Logan will continue his dialogue with him.

### Outings Program Update

Bill Snow indicated Bill Armstrong took over managing the outings program while he was out of town. He indicated there will be de-escalation training on Wednesday. Additional details regarding the outings program are in the Outings Program Report.

## **Conservation Priorities & Initiatives**

### Renew Jacksonville Campaign Update

Logan indicated Nate Monroe, FTU Columnist, gave the SCNEF a plug on the WJCT First Coast Connect by indicating the SC wants JEA to make more of an effort to convert to clean energy sources. Logan indicated there is still a lack of clarity on why Jay Stowe was removed as CEO of JEA. Logan indicated he will meet with the interim JEA CEO on June 12. Logan indicted he is working with Jyoti Parmar in researching the possibility of holding a 2024 Climate and Energy Symposium/Conference at UNF.

### Regional Climate Action Plan Update

Larry Zwain indicated the Northeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan was submitted to the EPA in March and could be funded for as much as 93 million. Should have feedback by July, which will lead to the comprehensive plan which needs to be submitted in 2025. Laureen Husband is in Feeding NE FL, she is interested in working with us, she is part of the African American community.

**Next Meeting: June 24, 2024: 6:30 PM via SCNEF Zoom Account  
Adjourn Meeting at 7:38PM**