

**Friends of the Bird Sanctuary
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2005, 4pm
Solon Springs Community Center**

The meeting was called to order by President David Biegel.

Present were: David Biegel, Jim Evrard, Scott Peterson, Doug Reisner, David Sedin and Fred Strand (guest).

Absent were: Robert Dreis (excused), Julie Fromm (excused), Moira Moga (excused), and Ron Tuverson.

Fred Strand, DNR Property Manager, was present to talk about subjects of interest to the Board including the information kiosk project, proposal for special-use status for the Bird Sanctuary property, and 2005 FOTBS program events. Fred mentioned that new signage around the Bird Sanctuary perimeter was scheduled for installation in the spring of 2005.

Copies of the minutes for the December 10th meeting had been circulated to the Directors for their review in advance of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Doug Reisner, second by Dave Sedin to approve. Motion was carried.

A financial report was made by the Treasurer, including FOTBS expenditures since the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the expenditures since the last meeting be approved.

ACTION: Motion by Doug Reisner, second by Dave Biegel to approve. Motion was carried.

The following committee reports were presented: Membership, Archives, and Fund-raising.

Old Business:

There was a discussion of the status of the Tri-Partnership Agreement (that the DNR had previously signed). Scott reported that Douglas County had reviewed the Agreement and was making some changes before signing. Mark Schroeder, Douglas County Forestry Department, said that he thought the Agreement would be brought before the Forestry Committee for discussion at their March 28th meeting.

There was a discussion about the status of the IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit application. Scott reported that the application had been filled out and was now being reviewed by Gary Sherman. There was a discussion about paying a reduced \$150 filing fee and certifying that the annual FOTBS revenues would not average more than \$10,000 for the first five years.

RESOLVED that the FOTBS Secretary mail the 501 (c)(3) when completed along with the \$150 filing fee.

ACTION: Motion by Doug Reisner, second by Dave Sedin to approve. Motion was carried.

There was a discussion of the existing inventory of caps and t-shirts. Dave Biegel asked that a portion of his “loan” to FOTBS to purchase this inventory be repaid. Doug Reisner suggested that the loan should be repaid in full by the time of the 2005 FOTBS Annual Meeting.

History: At the April 9, 2004 FOTBS Board meeting, Dave Biegel proposed that FOTBS-logoed caps and t-shirts be made available to members to help promote the Bird Sanctuary and FOTBS. As FOTBS was short of cash, Dave suggested that he finance an inventory of 100 caps and 200 shirts. All proceeds of cap and t-shirt sales were to be applied to repayment until the inventory costs of \$2,371.64 were repaid. At that time the remaining physical inventory was to be turned over to FOTBS. It was agreed that if cap and t-shirt sales did not directly support repayment within a reasonable period of time, the FOTBS Board would consider repaying Dave Biegel from other sources of funds. To date (before this discussion), there have been cap and t-shirt sales of \$605 and FOTBS has repaid \$500 of the cost of the original inventory

RESOLVED that the FOTBS Treasurer make a payment to Dave Biegel of \$500. \$105 will come from the balance in the “cap and t-shirt” fund, and \$395 will come from FOTBS general revenues.

ACTION: Motion by Doug Reisner, second by Jim Evrard to approve. Motion was carried.

There was a discussion regarding proposed changes to the FOTBS Bylaws. A draft of the changes had been circulated to the Board members for their review in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED that Bylaws changes as agreed-upon during the discussion be implemented.

ACTION: Motion by Doug Reisner, second by Jim Evrard to approve. Motion was carried.

There was a discussion of the proposed FOTBS Board of Directors Policy Manual that Dave Biegel had sent to the Board members for their review in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors Policy Manual be approved and accepted by the Board.

ACTION: Motion by Jim Evrard, second by Dave Sedin to approve. Motion was carried.

There was a discussion of the information kiosk that had been proposed at an earlier Board meeting. Several issues were discussed including overall design, location, and possible requirements for descriptive material and space for brochures. Dave Biegel brought pictures/plans for designs of two sizes. Fred Strand suggested that the Wisconsin Historical Society be contacted to determine their interest in participating. It was agreed that it would be desirable if the kiosk was visible from County Road M and from the North Country Trail.

There was a discussion about the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society annual meeting to be held at the Bird Sanctuary in April 2005. Jim Evrard discussed the schedule of events. It was decided to donate several sets of FOTBS caps and t-shirts to the Grouse Society for door prizes at their annual meeting.

There was a discussion about 2005 FOTBS program events. A copy of currently scheduled events was distributed. A request was made to improve director participation at the events.

There was a discussion about the FOTBS birding group. Scott reported that the group was meeting monthly during the winter and would meet weekly on Saturday mornings at the Bird Sanctuary starting April 30. The birding group has been very active in the development of the 2005 program events and is discussing an educational nature trail on the property.

There was a discussion regarding the status the Bird Sanctuary Estates housing development that has been proposed adjacent to the Bird Sanctuary property.

There was a discussion regarding the status of the Arrowhead-Weston Power line Project, which would likely cross the Bird Sanctuary property if built.

New Business:

There was a discussion about the resolution that the Douglas County Forestry Committee passed at their January 31, 2005 meeting “to request permission from the County Board to seek special use status for Bird Sanctuary lands.”

RESOLVED that the FOTBS Secretary send a letter to the Douglas County Board supporting this proposed change in designation.

ACTION: Motion by Dave Sedin, second by Dave Biegel to approve. Motion was carried.

There was a discussion about FOTBS participation at the Gordon Good Neighbor Days. It was decided that Dave Biegel would register FOTBS for space for a booth and that the Treasurer should write a check for \$10 to pay for the registration.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Doug Reisner, second by Dave Sedin to adjourn. Motion was carried.

Submitted by: Scott Peterson, Secretary