

**AFFEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES, 3/9/06**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Board members in attendance were: Larry Kivela, Julia Chambers, Laura Lyons, Rebecca Fox, Dave Hall, and Pat Willick.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1) Correspondence - None**

**2) Treasurer's Report**

**a) Status of Accounts:** Current balance is \$4,167.12 as of 2/3/06

**b) Authorize Payment of Bills:** All in favor and approved.

**3) Other Business -** As this is tax season, Larry wondered if we should be paying taxes using a 990 form. We haven't been, so Larry will check with Pete Heyse CPA to see if that's okay.

**4) Projects, Programs, & Activities:**

**a) Website -** Larry spoke with David Wood, Designs Integrated in Scottville, asking to be taught how to use FRONT PAGE software. Mr. Wood doesn't like FP, because it integrates too much Microsoft proprietary data. He would be willing to give Larry a half-day tutorial of the software nonetheless, for a fee that wasn't specified. Larry also talked to him about just doing our webpage for us, and Mr. Wood estimated a \$900 setup of the web page, \$300 per year to maintain the site. Normally, one pays annually for domain name, and for hosting, running us somewhere around \$100/year. The board weighed the pros (local business, professional support for building a database, publicity, staying current, coordinating volunteers, online donations, no learning curve for us amateurs) and cons (it's expensive) of such an investment. Larry emphasized that this could be an investment that really pays off for our organization. Rebecca says that GLAHNF (Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund) gives grants for technology stuff that might apply to this and she'll look into it. We might also be able to get a discount from Designs Int. that they could write off on their taxes as a donation to us. Rebecca and Julia will also talk to others they know who do web design to see what they charge and what their services would include.

**b) Household Battery Recycling -** Pat sent a thank you note to Dow for taking 19 pails of batteries that they disposed of with their other hazardous waste, which cost Dow \$1.29 a pound. Pat's husband just found out that Great Lakes Casting Co. had collected 80 pound container of batteries and picked that up recently, and now doesn't know what to do with them. Pat suggested Sid to call GLC for recycling funds. Additionally, Julia and Pat have a few pails of batteries around their homes, and the ones still filling up at the library and Briggs. The board agreed to call off the recycling, and Pat and/or Julia will get the word out that this is no

longer available, and explain why, but also make a point to mention that RadioShack is still taking rechargeables. Meanwhile, we'll look to unload the batteries we still have left by asking at events for recycling funds, and/or take the pails in for hazardous waste disposal when any of us are going to Detroit and/or T.C.

c) **Rain Garden** - Rebecca really needs this to be advertised at our website as part of her grant obligation (unfortunately we don't know how to get into our website currently). Rebecca is looking to have Vern Stephens, an expert on native plants, to do a presentation for the public this spring using remaining Rain Garden funds to pay for this. The board suggested a Tuesday in late-April/early-May. The board agreed it would be especially helpful for the county commissioners to attend, as they develop the US 10 corridor master plan.

d) **River Monitoring** - Rebecca set the date for May 20th, with a rain date of May 27th. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run all that day and Sunday too.

e) **Beach Clean-Up** (not to be confused with Beach Monitoring which AFFEW has discontinued) - AFFEW will coordinate three sweeps this year. The first one has been scheduled for 4/29/06 at 11 a.m., meeting at the south concession stand and sweeping south to the south breakwall.

f) **Family Affair** - Larry and Laura will help Sid at the booth, and Pat will email Sid a member list for him to ask for more volunteers. The banner, being developed by Barber Signs, is nearly completed and will be ready in time for the event. AFFEW will offer button-making and junk art-making at our booth, as well as green information.

g) **Earth Day** - Padnos Recycling Co. is putting on an Earth Day celebration and has asked AFFEW to have a booth there. We will.

h) **Tongass National Forest** - Julia's son Zack just got back from a lobbying effort in Washington DC regarding this important issue. He has agreed to do a purely educational (not political) presentation for the public which AFFEW will sponsor by paying him \$40 now and \$35 after his presentation on 5/18.

#### 8) Other

a) **Spotted Knapweed Pulling** - Coordinated by the National Forest folks. This will occur 7/22, 7/28 & 8/4 at the Nordhouse dunes. E-mail saradavis@fs.fed.us for more information.

b) **Alternative Energy Fair** - The fair will be held June 16-18 at the Onekama Fairgrounds. We'll promote it in the newsletter.

**Next meeting date and time:** June 7, 2006 at 7 p.m., maybe at Julia's new home.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.