

Manatee Eco Tourism Association

META

21 September 2017

General Meeting Procedures

In consideration of others, we ask that you follow a few basic rules:

1. Please turn cell phones off or place on vibrate. If you must make a call, please step outside in order to not interrupt the meeting.
2. If you must speak to someone, please speak softly or go outside in order to not interrupt the meeting.
3. Personal comments/remarks directed to the Board, Members, or the public are not allowed and are considered out of order.

There will be two Public/Member Input opportunities, at the beginning and end of each meeting. Anyone may speak on the topic of their choosing for up to three minutes.

Meetings

Call to Order: Parliamentarian

Adopt Agenda: Amendment to agenda, added discussion about Bay Meet and Greet. Vice president moved, President second. Adopt new agenda, Parliamentarian moved, Secretary second.

Approve Minutes: August minutes to be approved at next meeting.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Lance Herring, Zachry Memphis

Public / Member Input (3 minutes):

-Mike Dunn brought up concerns of upcoming season due to destination FL beaches and hotels being destroyed by recent hurricanes, therefore, European market may decline as they have chosen other areas to vacation until FL can rebuild areas affected by hurricanes.

-John Spann suggested using Chronicle space to acknowledge community issues with tour companies being in areas like Post Office. How we try to rotate and limit boats/visitors in one area at one particular time.

Old Business:

-Upcoming training/seminar in November topics:

Hydrology, Biology, Crowd Control, Etiquette. Requesting LT Heron with USCG to attend to answer questions.

Now looking at Nov 5th and 6th after talking with Craig with FWS.

Still looking for topic ideas/interests for seminar. Bryan is the contact for training.

-Fall cleanup day suggested for October 19. Jessie is the contact for the cleanup. Will have amplifying information out this coming week.

-The Chronicle is offering us a spot in the paper to announce or spotlight META members, events, and news. Please give us your suggestions. Write it up and send it to the board.

Committee Reports:

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1. **Legal:** None
2. **Science:** None
3. **Membership:** None
4. **Public Relations:** None

New Business:

-How to put word out that Citrus County is up and running for tourism? Idea suggested of all of us using a specific hashtag and letting Visit Citrus know so that they can help use, as well. This is to create synergy and possibly using some of sales to donate to hurricane relief. If you have any ideas, please email, text, or call a board member.

-Visit Florida will have a meeting on Wednesday. Their initial visit was to assess safety, evacuation, etc. Hoping we can address how to promote tourism after the hurricanes.

-Refuge Day October 14, 20-30 min tour of the bay. Please send Mike E the Captain name and boat capacity, if you would like to participate. He has a few spots left. Lunch is provided for Captain.

-Birding Day November 11 from 8-3. Breakfast provided for Captain. Trying to get a booth set up for META members. Mike E is the point of contact if you would like to volunteer or help out with material for booth.

-Nov/Dec nominations and elections are for the positions of Treasurer, currently Marty Senetra; Secretary, currently Jessie Owens; President, currently Mike Engiles.

-FWS captain and guide pre-season training has not been set, yet. Word will be sent when it is set.

Also, the rescheduled date for the canceled Comprehensive Conservation Plan meeting has not been set.

-META would like to do a Bay Meet and Greet. The purpose is for all of us to get to know our fellow Captains and guides on the bay, new and old. Food will be provided by META. Mary M offered grill, Steve B offered to smoke food. Date set is Thursday, October 26th from 4-7 pm. Location TBD. Would like to coordinate a group photo at the event, as well.