

Committee of the Islands, Inc.
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
March 21, 2018 - Sanibel Community House

President Mike Miller opened the meeting at 9:30 AM. He welcomed members and guests with an overview of COTI's activities and accomplishments during the past year. Mike also recognized members of the Board of Directors and thanked those members of the Board completing their terms of office.

Mike Gillespie announced Richard Johnson as COTI's Citizen of the Year; Mike presented Richard a vase commemorating the award.

Larry Schopp introduced the keynote speaker, attorney David Guest, who spoke to issues concerning the environment. He covered the history of Florida's efforts to fund public land acquisition and the changes in policy direction that occurred beginning in 2009 that led to the passage of Amendment 1, the 2014 Land Legacy Amendment to the state constitution, intended to reinstitute meaningful funding for land acquisition and restoration.

The legislature's implementation of Amendment 1 has been considered insufficient by many environmental organizations and Guest is now lead counsel in a lawsuit to compel the legislature to provide that funding.

Guest also described the troubled history of the Everglades, for years drained and polluted to serve the interests of cattle ranchers north of Lake Okeechobee and sugar growers south of the Lake. He expressed skepticism about claims that the storage reservoir planned for the Everglades Agricultural Area can adequately filter out the pollutants entering from Lake Okeechobee and said he fears that regulators may be forced to lower water purity standards for water entering the southern Everglades and Florida Bay. He then answered questions from members.

President Mike Miller recessed the meeting at 10:45 AM.

President Mike Miller reconvened the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Acting Secretary Larry Schopp reported that 141 proxies had been received and that a quorum was present.

The minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved without revision.

Treasurer Susan Tucker reported that the organization's revenue during 2017 was \$28,265.00; expenses were \$19,106.63 resulting in net income of \$9,158.37; the cash balance at December 31, 2017 was \$30,383.90. The accounts had been reviewed in accord with the organization's bylaws and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Mike Gillespie, chair of the Community Outreach Committee, reported that since the program began seven years ago, COTI has been covered in 150 local media articles representing 185 pages of coverage.

Stu Langton, chair of the Membership Participation Committee, reported on activities of that committee during the prior year. He discussed two member surveys that were accomplished and announced that the organization will conduct member issue discussion meetings on November 9, 2018 and on February 11, 2019, to be held at the Sanibel Community House.

Jan Holly, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the nominees for election to the Board of Directors. Upon motion and duly seconded, Maryann Bell, Barbara Joy Cooley and Malcolm Martini were elected to first terms; Marty Packard, Linda Robison and Susan Tucker were elected to second terms.

Following an opportunity for member comments, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Larry Schopp, Acting Secretary