

## **Florida Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Summary January 24th, 2026**

The Sierra Club Florida Chapter Executive Committee met to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes and elect new officers. The committee unanimously elected Kris Cunningham as Chair, Cliff Thael as Vice-Chair, Deborah Longman-Marien as Secretary, and Alyssa Cadwalader as Treasurer. The Director's Report highlighted staff updates, including the hiring of Denise Dookeran as an Organizing Representative for the Climate Justice and Resiliency Campaign and the decision to reopen the search for an Outings Program Manager after a staff resignation.

The chapter reported strong progress in fundraising and organizational development. A \$50,000 matching donation campaign exceeded its goal, additional grant funding was secured, and donor outreach efforts are continuing. The committee approved a one-year contract with a digital mail processing company to streamline the handling of correspondence and donations. Updates were also shared from chapter committees working on legislative advocacy, environmental justice, and local group support, including responses to environmental concerns in Dunnellon and preparations for the upcoming legislative session.

Additional business included approval of updated travel reimbursement policies for volunteers and employees, discussion of filling an open Executive Committee seat, and planning for the upcoming Spring Quarterly gathering with advocacy trainings and community activities. The committee also approved a one-time initiative to help Sierra Club groups purchase organic T-shirts to promote the organization and encourage visibility. In a closed session, the Executive Committee approved \$30,000 to support litigation related to Florida panther protections before adjourning the meeting.

The Chapter Liaison Committee provided updates from several groups. Denise reported that the GET Committee is requesting a training report from Cassie, continues supporting the Manatee/Sarasota committee—which recently accepted an updated charter—and maintains regular communication to ensure accurate information on Sierra Club positions; Calusa is functioning well, and mediation/conflict management training is being considered, with coordination on avoiding political and religious issues. TACCom, led by Lyman, is focused on the legislative session, with Javi managing action alerts, and monitoring a trapping issue with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Cliff shared that the Environmental Justice Committee added new members Erica Hall and intern Evita Garcia, recognized as Woman of the Year in Hillsborough County, and is addressing an urgent environmental justice issue in Dunnellon involving railroad ties, with a special meeting on February 10 and potential testimony from the Rainbow River Conservation group; Cliff plans to step down as chair once the committee reaches nine members and a vice-chair is in place.