

20150127 - FOA Board meeting - 6:30 PM - Audubon Office**Attendees**

Charles Caillouet, Willie Fontenot, Charlie Fryling, Jim Delahoussaye, Carolyn Delahoussaye, Ray Brassieur

Karen Westphal, Pam Caillouet, April Newman, Charles Reulet, Woody Martin

President Charlie Fryling opened the meeting.

No special presentations were scheduled.

Old Business

Reports

Charles Caillouet

Secretary's report

The Board approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

The Secretary reviewed Board email activity - no official actions were taken.

No official actions were taken.

Comments and updates on the Atchafalaya Campaign and the Cypress Preserve Proposal were distributed.

Treasurer's report

Since the last meeting, donations were received in the amount of \$1,000 from Josephine Nixon and \$50 from Karen Westphal.

End of year balances were, for 2013, \$1,449.70 and for 2014, \$2,970.63.

As of the meeting the total in accounts was **\$3,019.23**, not including Atchafalaya donations.

As of the meeting the Atchafalaya donations totaled \$800, less \$56 in processing fees.

Web site update

Events and campaign status have been updated on the web site.

Trace Commissioner Charles Caillouet gave a Heritage Area update.

Charles, Woody and Harold briefed the Trace Commission at the January meeting on the status of the Cypress Preserve Proposal and received positive feedback and interest from the Commissioners, several of whom offered to bring the subject up with Congressional Staffers in upcoming annual trips to Washington. Charles will provide them with draft proposals as soon as the Board is ready to release it.

The Atchafalaya Heritage Trail contract should be awarded by the next meeting and will run for a year. The deliverables will be public input meetings, recommendations for trails sites, designs and content for markers and kiosks, mobile apps, and web site updates.

Charles Reulet gave an Atchafalaya Basin Program update.

The Research and Promotion Board has approved the 2016 Annual Plan, contingent on CPRA approval. If there are no changes requested by the CPRA, the R&P Board will not need to meet in February to give final approval to the Plan and the Staff can proceed to complete the final edit and send it on to the Legislators. The R&P Board approved the transfer of funds for the Bayou Fourche project from other stalled projects, in line with the plan approved earlier in the year and as supported by FOA and the LA Wildlife Federation in the 2014 Convention.

In response to questions about landowner issues, Charles noted that the Basin Program supported the development of the West Levee Bike Trail but has not officially sanctioned it because all the levee access issues have not been worked out.

Prior to the meeting, questions came up about the existence of a permit for the dredging of the mouth of Bayou Portage and a sediment trap in Lake Fausse Pointe and Don Haydel forwarded a response from St. Martin Parish indicating that the Parish was proceeding with the process. Charles and April had not found a recent permit on file but will continue to research the status of a permit.

LA Wildlife Federation Representative Charles Caillouet reported that it was time to renew the FOA LWF affiliation and to select a representative for the next year.

Charles noted that the rules were changed in 2014 and that affiliates are no longer required to send representatives to the LWF Board but each affiliate can send designate one Board member if the organizations so chooses. Charles was designated by the board to serve for another year, at which time the Board will review the decision to provide a Board member or to simply support the Board and staff in activities.

Charles reviewed recent action on wood pellet collection, processing, and export, including a recent meeting sponsored by the "Dogwood Alliance" in Baton Rouge. The Alliance is interested in taking action against the wood pellet proponent companies but does not seem to be organized or well informed and the LWF is not supporting any Dogwood actions. The LWF stands behind the wood

pellet resolution passed in convention last year and FOA supported that resolution. It supports better monitoring of the industry and pressure on the European clients to assure that the end-to-end process is sustainable and does not aggravate the carbon dioxide problems in the atmosphere.

Reports from Committees

Atchafalaya Campaign:

Charles Caillouet reported that the Atchafalaya Campaign had received enough donations to provide one craft to the Swamp Base and that the campaign would run until the middle of February. Additional electronic appeals are being distributed by the partners, including the LWF, the Heritage Area and the Basin Program. No out-of-pocket funds have been expended by FOA. A minimum amount (approx. \$12) was contributed by LWF to boost facebook listings as a test of the effectiveness of that method of promotion. To date, most contributions have come from direct email appeals.

Cypress Preserve:

Woody Martin reported that he has the Henderson Civic Center on hold if we decide to hold a public meeting on the Cypress Preserve in February but the consensus is that the meeting may be premature and the Board agreed to cancel it. The Board also agreed to work on several additional papers on questions that might be raised about the creation of the Preserve. Subjects might include, biology, aesthetics, cultural, environmental and land ownership law aspects of the project. Ray Brassieur will check with his contacts in the Chitimacha tribe on their support for the Preserve.

Charles Caillouet will provide letters to the Trace Commissioners to alert their Parish officials about the project.

Woody will coordinate with Harold to make sure we know the status of discussions with Sen. Cassidy's staffers.

New Business

Plans for upcoming activities

The Mississippi River Commission low-water-trip meeting will be held on March 27 in Baton Rouge. We hope to have a presentation ready for that meeting.

Partnership activities

Earth Day will be in April and we will again work with LWF on that event.

The LWF awards banquet will be held in March and nominations are open for awards.

Upcoming Events

LWF Board meeting in Woodworth at the Fish Hatchery on 2/7/2015

Deadline for LWF award nominations is 2/11/2015

Tulane Environmental Law Conference will be held in NOLA on 2/27-28/2015

ANHA/Trace Commission Mtg on 3/04/2015, at 10AM, at Capitol Park Welcome Center

Mississippi River Commission river trip meeting - 3/27/2015, Baton Rouge Dock

Next meeting place and time

2/24/2015 (fourth Tuesday)

Audubon and Time 7:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.