

20160126 - FOA Board meeting - 7:00 PM - Butte LaRose

Attendees:

Board: Charles Fryling, Charles Caillouet, Jim Delahoussaye, Willie Fontenot, Ray Brassieur
 Advisors and Guests: Karen Westphal (Audubon), Woody Martin, David Spring and Lorie,
 Brian Domingue, Charles Reulet (ABP), Rebecca Triche (LWF), Paul Davidson (BBCC)
 and Debbie Lilly, April Newman (ABP), Forbes Lipschitz (LSU), Halina Steiner (LSU)

President Charlie Fryling opened the business meeting at approximately 7:00 PM.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Special Presentation:

Our speaker was Forbes Lipschitz, Suzanne L. Turner Asst. Prof. of Landscape Architecture with the LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture. She had her second year design class design bear crossing for Highway 90. Five teams are looking at adaptive reuse and low cost crossing options. The effort was supported, in part by LDWF but no funding was involved. They looked at underpasses, overpasses, redirection by fencing, provision of jump-outs, an observation tower for visitors. She is hoping to be able to continue the program in the next semester.

She reported that 246 LA Black Bear were documented as having been killed since 1992, with 68 individuals in the coastal sub-population killed on Highway 90.

Paul Davidson agreed that at least that number were killed, probably more from other causes, but that the highway fatalities were a problem and that the crossings were one good approach.

Old Business

December 22, 2015 meeting minutes were approved

Treasurer's Report was accepted: current month activity: Dues received: \$75

2015 Regions Balance of \$1,200.42 + PayPal Balance of \$1,154.15 + \$125 pending deposits = \$2,479.57 Available

As of today: Regions Balance of \$1,325.42 + PayPal Balance of \$1,178.30 + \$50 pending deposits = \$2,553.72 YTD Total.

Reviewed Open Actions from previous meeting:

Update by Charles Caillouet on Cypress Preserve Concept

In work: Charles will contact Paul Kemp about working on an official high water determination.

In work: Charles will revise the documents for distribution for next month. New docs at Dropbox link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3mpod9mxyr8f0rr/AAAzWJ5WxzEEu9jc0HhCMQDna?dl=0>

* Open item: Charles and Charlie to meet with Sam Jones about Preserve.

* Open item: meeting with Karen St. Germain -

She is busy with her new job heading Motor Vehicles.

Charles Caillouet will continue to work on setting up a meeting.

* Open item: The FOA web site modifications are still in work. The site is stable.

Event reports:

Former LDWF Secretary Robert Barham reportedly will head the Office of State Parks.

Former Rep. Charlie Melancon will head the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Partner Reports:

ABP: In the Tuesday Research and Promotion Board Meeting, the 2017 Annual Plan was approved and sent to the legislature after being reviewed and accepted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; the US Army Corps of Engineers is looking for flood damage money and plans to fix the Coon Trap opening and repair several channel training features, including the Enterprise pipeline opening into East Grand Lake. The ABP staff also plans to make an unofficial presentation at the State of the Coast Conference in June in New Orleans, on cooperation between the agencies to address coastal restoration.

ANHA: Debra is going to DC in February. Trails contract is moving toward release of a tentative site list; plans are in work for repairs and upgrades to the Atchafalaya Welcome Center exhibits.

LWF: It is time for nominations for LWF Conservation Awards and the deadline is February 11, 2016.

There is a New Affiliate: Bayou Vermillion Preservation Association - has contacts with Nat Geo Photographer w/ Lake Photos.

Willie Fontenot agreed to serve as FOA representative on the LWF Board for 2016.

Willie will also be the convention representative and Charlie Fryling will be the alternate.

Sierra Club: The Club is protesting Tangipahoa River (scenic river) dredging

Audubon: In October, a bigger "small-dredge" (Amphibex 400) was brought in through a NFWF grant to fill the remaining 15 acres of the permit for marsh restoration in the Sanctuary; she completed one acre with the little dredge.

BBCC: Paul Davidson reported that he has been planting trees in northeast LA with Apache Oil on a 25-year voluntary easement. They recently completed the project that totaled about 250,000 trees for the year. Paul noted that since 1992, one million acres have also been reforested by government agencies, in a reversal of the deforestation of the previous decades.

New Business

Jim Delahoussaye suggested that we might get some exposure by offering a matching gift for Louisiana Public Broadcasting on the next pledge drive; we might even volunteer to man phones for the broadcast.

Upcoming Events

Target Projects for 2015-2016

Cypress Preserve

Mississippi River Commission trip meetings

EA Every Day - Year-Round Events

"Ask me" program at visitors center -

Special Legislative Session: February, 2016

Mardi Gras: February 9, 2016

Sierra ExComm meeting: February 13, 2016

Tulane Env. Law Clinic: Feb 19-20, 2016, Weinmann Hall, Tulane

LWF Awards: April 2, 2016

MRC High Water Trip: April, 2016 (third Friday?)

State of the Coast Conference: NOLA; June 3-6, 2016

Iberville Parish Museum Atchafalaya Room should open in 2016

Charlie Fryling is working on a field session in October in Assumption Parish with the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Next Board meeting place and time

February 23, 2016

Location: Audubon will be moving; Charles will check on the Swamp Shop in Grosse Tete; fallback will be the LWF office.

Time: 7:00 PM

Subject: Cypress Preserve planning

The following meeting would be on March 22 (fourth Tuesday.)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.