

July skipped, too hot

**MEETING MINUTES of the Friends of the Manchac Greenway Board  
2:00, Thursday, August 22 @ Bec's on the Lake, Frenier, LA**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rev. Donald August, Greg Za Maurin, Galen Schum, George Becnel, Melinda Hol-  
loway, Tom Kane, Ben Taylor and Frank Neelis.

The MEETING MINUTES of 06/27/19 were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT (Galen):**

As of 8/22/19, after accounting for recent expenditures, the account balance was \$3,792.91. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the St. Joan of Arc Thrift Shop for another generous donation of \$150.00.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- A Canoe Trip @ Shell Bank Bayou - This will be a two day, multi-venue event on Oc-  
tober 24 and 25 sponsored by the Friends of the Manchac Greenway and the River  
Parishes Tourism Commission. Its purpose is to demonstrate to local and state officials  
the value of our wetlands and the Commission's increased commitment to ecotourism.  
The Commission comprises St. Charles, St. John and St. James Parishes.

**Preliminary Event Schedule:**

Thursday, 10/24/19 -

5:30: Wild & Scenic Film Festival showing at SLU in Hammond.

Friday, 10,25/19 -

1:00: parking at Bec's on the Lake Restaurant in Frenier, a bus ride to the Turtle Cove  
Office in Galva for (an optional) jambalaya lunch and wetland orientation tour on Pass  
Manchac

3:30: bus to Shell Bank for the canoe trip

5:00: food & beverage back at Bec's.

- Bec's Pass Manchac Bridge Half-Marathon from the Gator's Den south is still sched-  
uled for November 23. It is sponsored by Bec's, the Gators Den (and  
who \_\_\_\_\_ else?) as a replacement for the discontinued Middendorf's Run. FMG will  
have a tent and table there.

**MANCHAC GREENWAY ADVISORY PANEL**

St. John the Baptist and Tangipahoa planners have yet to get together on initiating this  
joint parish committee. Ben will inquire with Tangipahoa officials.

**RESTORE PROGRAM UPDATE:**

An official meeting with Tangipahoa Parish officials, Parish consultants and FMG rep-  
resentatives for an update on the plans for Greenway improvements between Pass

Manchac and Ponchatoula is supposedly imminent. This plan was recently described as choices between routing the Greenway from Pass Manchac to the Selser's Canal on a widened, re-purposed road shoulder along old US 51 (the Greenway) or clearing and repaving the abandoned Hammond Highway roadbed a short distance away. From the Selsers Canal to Ponchatoula on a wooden causeway on either side of the Canadian National Railroad tracks would be built. Potential funding sources will also be discussed and their pursuit will apparently be the major thrust of the continuation of this BP oil spill Restoration Act program.

#### ADOPT-A-ROAD:

For our third quarterly Adopt-A-Road outing the FMG will throw-in with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation for their annual Beach Sweep on Saturday 9/21/19. As before, we will meet in the Joyce WMA Swamp Walk Boardwalk parking lot at 9:30, hand out bags and grabbers and proceed from there.

#### RING AROUND THE LAKE:

Frank reported that the GIS mapping collaboration between the Greater New Orleans Regional Planning Commission and SLU's Dr. Molly McGraw and her team will be re-suming shortly with the beginning of the new semester.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

- Galen submitted a list of twenty-one currently paid members. He suggested a program for signage on the Greenway to educate the public about the Greenway and help increase our membership. A committee will be formed to research this idea.
- Ben reported the FMG membership Trifold has been updated and reset by Dr. Molly McGraw and should be ready to print.

#### PORT MANCHAC UPDATE:

- Frank reported on a new strategy for making the ill-situated publicly owned facility more answerable to the public.
- Ben mentioned the potential economic and cultural benefits of a regional "Manchac Enviro-Campus" centered on the Tangipahoa Parish-owned North Pass Boat Launch, the old Carter-Reagan Interstate Rest Area and a re-oriented Port Manchac.

#### PROJECTS:

- Don reported on his positive contacts with the St. John Sheriff's Dept. and StJB Parish agencies for their cooperation in the revival and possible adoption of the two neglected picnic parks on the Greenway.
- Don also has plans to seek corporate sponsorship for building a boardwalk on the Maurepas Swamp WMA Swamp Trail north of Peavine Rd. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation Public Access office has pledged assistance with these projects.
- Ben advanced an idea for producing and distributing a Tourist Card that touts the Greenway's current assets as a way to entice travelers to consider taking the "low road" instead of the interstate, educate the public on our program and gain member-

ship in the FMG. Reception to the idea seemed positive and more research on this proposal will be done.

- Greenway Trash Barrel Program - Ben reported his research on the costs for this project still lacks a vendor's quote on a maintenance schedule. Once a business plan has been fully developed, funding must be secured to pay for this through a grant.

**NEXT MEETING:**

9/19/19 @ the Turtle Cove Research Station Office in Galva