

7-6-15

Sign In Sheet Manchac Greenway				
Steering Committee				
Name		Email address	Home/wk	Cell
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BEN

Bill Moorman

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MANCHAC GREENWAY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 07/06/15 in the Tangipahoa Parish Planning conference room, 15485 West Club Deluxe Rd., Hammond, La.

In attendance:

Dwight Williams, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Wayne Norwood

Emily McNeely Matise, Tangipahoa Tourism & Visitors Bureau

Karen Parsons, Regional Planning Commission

Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission

Za Maurin

Bonnie Lewis, Louisiana Land Trust

Maurice Jordan

Alyson Lapuma, Tangipahoa Planning Office

Rev. Donald August

Ben Taylor

Bill Moorman, Tangipahoa Planning Office

Christian Winslow, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Frank Neelis

Jack Curry, New Orleans Outdoors Reporter

- Alyson Lapuma welcomed everyone to their new facility.
- Frank introduced a brief history of the project: the fishing pier concept, the trip to Edgard and meeting the National Park Service and initial steering committee meetings. He gave an overview of the project: vegetation management, multiple user groups, the ADA fishing pier.
- Rev August mentioned the three fishing areas on the highway sponsored by the Sheriff of St. John, an unfortunate reduction to the commitment to them and the search for new sponsors.
- Frank described the Around the Lake concept and that we were in the discovery phase of this project.
- Dan stated there was no news from the Canadian National Railroad about this project.
- Za discussed the economic impact the project would have.
- Frank mentioned economic impact studies by Hagan Hammons and now being conducted by Herb Holloway. He then discussed the vision for the bicycle causeway.
- Rev. Don mentioned the historical aspects along the Greenway and the opportunities to celebrate this.
- Bonnie gave a report on the information submitted to the National Park Service on their form and what services they offer.
- Alyson and Bill with Parish Planning gave a presentation of their offices GIS work on mapping the project.
- Maurice gave a report on his work with the Louisiana Dept. of Transportation and Development to authorize up to 12 'Share the Road' bicycling signs on the Greenway. The DOTD requires the signs have a break-away feature and that parish government pass a resolution of support and agrees to maintain the signs. Such a resolution is in the works in Tangipahoa. There is still a question about installation.
- Frank mentioned the distinction between "Parkway" and "Greenway" when the matter of such a resolution is brought before the Louisiana legislature.
- Za requested a copy of the Tangipahoa resolution to introduce to the St. John the Baptist Council.
- Maurice – Bike signs will also be placed on either side of the Pass Manchac Bridge.
- Alyson noted the resolution before the Tangipahoa Council will be for just the bike route signs and that a formal comprehensive plan for the entire Greenway has yet to be done.

- Karen asked if this would be a comprehensive plan for the RPC and Alyson replied in the affirmative.
- Frank made note of the Lafitte Greenway and a proposed Blueway in St. Tammany Parish, that the National Park Service requires strong community involvement and are a conduit for federal “Stimulus” spending. He stated the steering committee has examined independent funding from user group sources and private donations.
- Alyson asked if the recent BP oil spill settlement money would be made available to the greenway.
- Karen observed there that recreational uses are allowed.
- Frank noted the both St. John the Baptist and Tangipahoa Parishes are included in the settlement – so maybe...
- Bonnie noted that a comprehensive plan should include community input, outreach and _____.
- Christian commented that his duties, in so far as the Greenway was concerned, would focus more on the two neighboring Wildlife Management Areas (Joyce and Maurepas Swamp). The fisheries division in his department would be responsible for Greenway boat launches, excepting the big boat launch at North Pass Manchac which is managed by the Louisiana DOTD.
- Alyson asked if the “Scenic Byways” signs already posted on the highway would conflict with Greenway signs. There was some open discussion on the program that posted these signs and a consensus there would be no conflict.
- Karen stated that inventorying natural and manmade features of the Greenway on GIS would be an important step.
- Frank volunteered that a preliminary windshield survey of vegetation along the greenway has been done.
- Christian offered to ask his GIS people to research property owners along the parkway. There was a general discussion about other research done on this subject. (who will have final say?)
- Rev. August noted the Guste Family owns some of this property and wondered if there had been any contact with them.
- Wayne remembers the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (previous owners of the railroad) claimed ownership of the Old Hammond Highway from the StJtBP water tank to Pass Manchac and that LA DOTD had leased it from them for the old highway and that the matter is in court.
- Alyson noted there are important distinctions between “ownership,” “right of way” and “servitude.”
- Ben reported on Greenway community outreach efforts including researching contact e-mail addresses for interested parties, user groups, officials, etc. and sending out a case statement for the Greenway, a news release, the Greenway logo, an appeal for letters of endorsement and solicitation of questions and comments.
- Za noted his efforts in providing contact information from StJtBP entities. He also reported an update on new video surveillance in the Greenway to be conducted by StJtBPSO.
- Dwight stated the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation website, including pages for the Manchac Greenway will be ready next week and that it will need contributions of content.
- Frank, with the aid of aerial photographic images, detailed the “tight spot” between the railroad and the interstate that appears to be the greatest impediment to the Around the Lake Bike Trail. He noted the interest by birders, including the Audubon Society, in observation platforms on this bike trail, particularly just north of this constricted area, and his conceptualized plans for this. He produced a sample of plastic grating that could be used for both the bicycling “causeway” through this area and the observation platforms.
- Ben recognized Wayne and Za for their service with the St. John Sheriff’s Dept. in fighting the rampant dumping that previously occurred on the highway.
- Dwight stated the foundation’s ability to handle restricted funding by properly tracking it for compliance. He noted the work by their Grants officer Gretchen to identify potential business donors in the area, including Valero Corp. which has made donations for tree plantings in the Mancha corridor by LPBF personnel.
- Adjournment.