

FRIENDS of the MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) MEETING MINUTES

2:00 Thursday, July 29, 2021 @ Gator's Den, Galva

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jimmy Sparacello, Glenn Glaob, Frank Neelis, Ben Taylor, Tom Dumas, Galen Schum, Za Maurin, Tara Lambeth (StJtBP Planning & Permits) and George Coxen (Manchac Fire Dept.).

JUNE MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Schum reported membership renewals of \$455.47 and proceeds from the Swamp Bike Ride benefit at Bec's On The Lake of \$340.00 for a total current FMG bank balance of \$13,618.10

MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH/EVENTS:

- Requests For Marketing Proposals - Ben reported acquiring a proper address to forward a RFP to Ken Benitez in Hammond but not yet receiving a reply. Jimmy Sparacello suggested Nick Peppo of Laplace may possibly be available to do this work, Za concurred and agreed to approach Mr. Peppo.
- The "Swamp Ride on the Low Road" FMG Bike Ride/Fund Raiser at Bec's On The Lake on May 25 was a success and a Fall event is now planned for early November with promotion for improved attendance.
- New Greenway highway signs - Something Ben has promised to do.
- Louisiana National Estuarine Research Reserve (LaNERR) - Ben mentioned that FMG could host a "Town Hall" in St. John to explain this program to the public, once a time, place and speaker(s) are determined and the event advertised.
- Louisiana Birding Trail - Ben has filled out most of the nomination form and will approach avid birder/FMG Board member Alma Chassez to help include bird species on the Greenway.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Sunset Park on Lake Maurepas - Za reported that Kerry Brignac and St. John Parish are continuing the planning for concrete and dirt fill and plantings needed to restore the shoreline of the park.
- FMG mini-picnic park at Ruddock - It was noted that vegetation still needs to be cut back at this location. On a related note, Za reported recently meeting Rev. August and found him in improved health and in good spirits.
- Cypress planting at North Pass Boat Launch/Manchac Exit Rest Area, Ruddock and Sunset Parks - Za noted plans for a planting in the Fall will use cypress provided by the Pontchartrain Conservancy.
- Roll-off Dumpster at N. Pass Boat Launch - Tangipahoa Parish Government will return this container on Fridays and have it removed on Mondays to reduce its abuse by commuters and others during the week.
- The St. John Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway - A public meeting about this plan and new rock jetties along the western Lake Pontchartrain shore is scheduled for 5:30, August 12 at Frenier Landing.
- Dr. Tara Lambeth, formerly Floodplain Manager in Terrebonne Parish, was recently hired as Devin Foil's replacement in the StJtBP Planning and Permit office and introduced herself as the parish's new Coastal and Water Management Division lead. She has a doctorate in Urban Studies from the University of New Orleans and will be invaluable in helping realize our Greenway plans and for helping the wetlands of the parish.
- Shell Bank canoe launch - Za reported that a meeting with the current property owner and St. John Councilman Michael Wright to discuss possibilities for the site are planned.
- Za and Frank announced plans to meet with Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser to discuss a number of issues in and around the Greenway.

- West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee Protection Project - St. John Parish President Jaclyn Hotard will begin to give updates on this project during her new “West Shore Wednesdays” public meetings on Facebook Live every fourth Wednesday of each month (the next one is August 25) at 5:00 PM.

In related matters: A proposed “maintenance trail” (that could double as a bike/jogging path) on top of the 18.5 mile long levee between Bonnet Carre Bend and St. James Parish (and would tie-in with the Manchac Greenway) will continue to be advanced by our group.

Za brought news that the US ARMY Corps of Engineers has plans to replace the low road across the face of the spillway structure (that keeps getting washed out when the spillway is opened) with a more permanent roadway incorporating large culverts to let the water pass through. This road is key to linking the Mississippi River Levee-top Bike Trail from Audubon Park to Laplace and the Manchac Greenway.

- Ring Around the Lake / Louisiana Bootlace Trail - [Bike Easy](#) is working to bring together organizations, governments, businesses, and individuals to develop a cohesive vision of a trail network throughout Southeastern Louisiana which the Manchac Greenway would be an integral part. See the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy <https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/trailnation/> Those interested in this project can join an initial Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 12 at 2pm.

To Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5977967787> Meeting ID: 597 796 7787

NEXT MEETING

2:00, Thursday, August 26, 2021 @ Bec's On The Lake