

**MEETING MINUTES for the Friends of the Manchac Greenway Board
2:00, September 19, 2019 @ Turtle Cove Research Station Office, Galva, LA**

IN ATTENDANCE: Galen Schum, Greg Za Maurin, Frank Neelis, Dr. James Nelson, Ben Taylor and Rev. Don August

MEETING MINUTES of 08/22/19 were accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Galen):

- Activities and new balance of \$4,200.63 were accepted.

CANOE LAUNCHES:

- In response to Illegal tire dumping at Upper Owl Bayou, Tangipahoa Parish as agreed to not only clean it up but also install video surveillance at the site. Thank you Tangipahoa Parish Government!
- Property status of the Shell Bank Bayou bank is still being researched. StJBP Planner Ashly Goodrich has reported the LA DOTD right of way for old US 51 is 120' (60' on either side of the road's center line) plus the 16' Entergy r.o.w. and some other details of the succession of ownership here.

MANCHAC GREENWAY ADVISORY PANEL:

- Frank reported he made an inquiry with the Tangipahoa Administration if they were willing to move forward with forming this potentially useful joint-parish group but has yet to receive an affirmative or negative reply.

RESTORE PROGRAM UPDATE:

- While a time and place for a formal meeting to learn about the current findings of the Tangipahoa Parish contractors researching possible Manchac Greenway improvements between Pass Manchac and Ponchatoula have yet to be announced, some of their conclusions are known: The proposed route will either be a widened old US 51 shoulder or a resurfaced 1920s Hammond Highway roadbed. The gap between Selser's Canal and S.E.R.R. Ave. in Ponchatoula will either be on a boardwalk in the swale between the CN railroad and I-55 rights of way or a boardwalk following the edge of the Joyce WMA on the eastern side of the tracks.

ADOPT-A-ROAD:

- A Greenway Trash Barrel Program was reconsidered and after noting the fine job the LA DOTD, their contractor Burns Maintenance Group, L.L.C. and Adopt-A-Road volunteer organizations have been doing, this proposed project was held in abeyance.

ST. JOHN MINI-PARKS, SWAMP TRAIL:

- Don reported the ground at both StJBP Manchac Greenway mini-parks (one just north of the Ruddock I-55 Exit and the other across from the Maurepas Swamp WMA Swamp Trail entrance) were recently cleared by heavy equipment. These areas will be further prepared while Don seeks adopters that will establish new picnic and fishing facilities.
- Preplanning for proposed improvements to the Maurepas Swamp WMA Swamp Trail include using gravel instead of lumber to raise and resurface the trail and a search for a funding source(s) before advancing the idea to the property's owner, the LA WL&F.

- A recent lunch-time inspection of Sunset Park on the Greenway on Lake Maurepas at Pass Manchac determined the Laplace Lions Club is doing an excellent job of maintaining this facility, Thank you Lions!

RING AROUND THE LAKE:

- At a recent public meeting, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser pledged to continue his Culture Recreation and Tourism Dept. focus on this proposal.

MEMBERSHIP

- Galen reported membership rolls have been updated with renewals planned for the end of the year. Thank you Don for a Lifetime Membership donation!
- Ben reported his efforts to finalized the membership trifold for printing.
- Ben, Galen and George Becnel will stand on a new committee to consider a proposal to improve the current FMG website and re-configure it for use on a smart phone with an interactive app.
- Galen proposed that FMG produce a series of Coroplast campaign sigs to post on the Greenway to solicit membership. He will submit a final design.

PORT MANCHAC UPDATE:

- James noted the status quo for the ill-placed facility has been maintained so far, however, it is still subject to change in order to better serve the public. The facility's governing commission is currently reconsidering its bylaws.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Wild and Scenic Film Fest 10/24/19
- River Parishes Tourism Commission canoe trip 10/25/19
- Board Retreat @ Williams' Camp on Pass Manchac 11/09/19
- 5k, 10k and 10 mi. Run @ Gator's Den 11/23/19

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, November 9, 2019 at the William's Camp on Pass Manchac. Time: T.B.A.

ADDENDUM:

On Sat., 9/21/19, five Friends of the Manchac Greenway picked up 15 bags of litter, 5 tires and located a dishwasher on the FMG Apopt-A-Road mile. Special thanks goes to Dennis and Lisa Williams who brought the bags and vests and got an early start.