

20140325 - FOA Board meeting - 6:30 PM - LWF

Attendees

Board: Charles Caillouet, Willie Fontenot, Charlie Fryling, Jim Delahoussaye
 Advisors: Don Haydel, Garren Sias, Michelle Maloney, Rebecca Triche, Woody Martin

Charlie opened the meeting at 06:37 PM

The Board approved the agenda.

Rebecca introduced Michelle Maloney as the Coastal Outreach Coordinator for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

We discussed Gen. Honore's conflict that prevented him from attending and his involvement in the Southeast Levee Board's lawsuit against the oil companies. Rebecca noted that LWF does not have a position on the suit. We also discussed the difficulties with filling in existing canals along the coast.

Charlie reported that he and Willie recently went on a tour near the coast with Harold Schoeffler and saw coastal erosion up close.

Old Business

Reports

Secretary's report - Charles

The Board approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Board email activity was discussed and no items required action.

January: sent out November minutes

Charles' statement to the Diversion Task Force was distributed

Treasurer's report - Charles

Paid LWF 2014 dues for \$125 and paid Name.com \$8.99 for Domain Name renewal

As of 03/25/2014 = Regions: \$1,811.21 , PayPal: \$104.50 - Total: \$1,915.71

Web site update - Charles

Events and news updated - still working to get past Board minutes up.

Recent events

Eagle Expo last weekend

Heritage Area update - Charles

The next meeting will be on 3/16/2014

The Civil War Speaker Series is being reworked as an ongoing speaker series.

A Request for Proposals is being prepared for a contract to identify and develop trails and heritage sites in the Area.

The curriculum is being distributed to school systems around the state.

ABP Update - Don Haydel

The Bayou Fourche dredging permit went through.

Sorrel landing and Bayou Amy landing are completed.

Don summarized the Atchafalaya and coastal bills in the current legislative session.

HB02 has 6.5m but has to make it through

May hit the trigger this year and bill is in to try to amend trigger wording

HB862 and SB469 have to do with enforcement ?

Don suggested that we pour over the maps at a future meeting and come up with suggestions on practical places to spend any money that becomes available.

Nomination of 2014 officers

Charlie, Jim, and Charles agreed to continue in their positions and the Board Approved the Nominations

Discussion of light Membership and Board member age:

Rebecca noted that Triangle T is having the same problems that we are; she thinks that the social model is changing

We don't have clear goals

Charlie suggested that the National monument around Lake Fausse Pointe could be a focus for us

Jim reported that location recording of the boat part of the boat-building doc was completed in high definition video and the boat is built. Special effects are yet to be done.

Jim also reported that some BP money will go to UL-L to study and report on damage to cultural sites by oil.

Special discussion - Legislative Agenda with Rebecca Triche and Don Haydel

This is a list of bills of possible concern to the Basin and the coast. Additional information on the bills can be found on the www.legis.la.gov web site. Many bills are not very clear at this time so you should check them out to see if you want to support or oppose them. Some comments below are based on input from other conservation groups.

HB148 - dedicates funds from spill to the Coastal Fund - GOOD
 HB490 - protects the Coastal Fund - GOOD
 HB587 - Eliminates some fund protections - BAD?
 HB810 - diversions effect on fisheries - BAD?
 HB850 - CPRA haz contract ?
 HB881 - public info on RESTORE act ?
 SB079 - Levee Board ?
 SB246 - Shrimping line changes - coastal changes ?
 SB305 - Chabert - Levee Board ?
 TBD additional Chabert Levee Board bills ?
 SB345 - Crow - Divert Spill funds to rural wireless connectivity -This is a policy that appears to go against RESTORE act rules - BAD?
 SB531 - more levee board limits - parishes - BAD?
 SB546 - Adley - preempt civil actions - only state can sue - BAD?
 SB236 - Remove Trigger for severance tax redistribution back to parishes and Basin Fund
 SB184 - land in St Martin - not a big deal
 SB324/HB353? - Year round hunting of hogs beaver and nutria on private property
 HCR13 - Annual Basin Plan - GOOD
 Non-native constrictor regulations ?
 Three bills give breaks to veterans and spouses on license fees
 Senate nat resource meets Wed AM
 House nat resource meets Wed PM

New Business

Charlie made a proposal to contribute to Boy Scouts for kayaks on the Swamp Base trek.
 Plans for upcoming activities
 We will not plan to present at this Mississippi River Commission high-water-trip meeting.
Third week in April: boat trip and presentation
We will plan on making the fall trip.

Upcoming Events

LA Earth Day - April 27
 Visitor center open house May 5,6,7

Next meeting place and time

Charlie will get a speaker
 4/22/2014
 Place TBD [Bluebonnet Library] and Time 6:30

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM