

**20160322 - FOA Board meeting - 7:00 PM - LWF Office****Attendees:**

Board: Charles Caillouet, Jim Delahoussaye, Carolyn Delahoussaye, Willie Fontenot  
Advisors and Guests: Karen Westphal, Pam Caillouet, Harvey Stern, Dr. David Spring,  
Rebecca Triche, Barney Callahan

**Vice President Jim Delahoussaye opened the meeting at approximately 7:30 PM and Secretary Charles Caillouet managed the agenda.**

Attendees introduced themselves.

**Old Business**

The January meeting minutes were approved with revisions:

Board member Carolyn Delahoussaye's name was added to the attendees.

Treasurer's Report - current month activity: [dues paid, DNS renewal]

2015 Regions Balance of \$1,200.42 + PayPal Balance of \$1,154.15 + \$125 pending deposits = \$2,479.57 Available

As of today: Regions Balance of \$1,250.42 + PayPal Balance of \$1,167.48 deposits = \$2,417.90 YTD Total

Review Open Actions from previous meeting

Update by Charles Caillouet on Cypress Preserve Concept

√ Charles met with Paul Kemp about working on an official high water determination.

√ Charles set up the meeting with Lisa Creasman at TNC

√ Charles revised the Cypress Preserve documents for distribution.

\* Charles [and Charlie] to meet with Sam Jones about Cypress in the Lakes.

\* Open item: meeting with Karen St. Germain -

She is busy with her new job heading Motor Vehicles.

Charles Caillouet will continue to work on setting up a meeting.

\* The FOA web site modifications are still in work. The site is stable.

Event reports:

Preserve activity: A meeting was held with The Nature Conservancy staff members on Mar 9 at the TNC office in Baton Rouge. A Summary of the meeting is attached.

Mar 2 Trace Commission meeting: The Trails Contractor has submitted a tentative Trail site map and the commission approved up to \$15K for Atchafalaya Welcome Center exhibits upgrade. Commissioner Charles Caillouet is working with Welcome Center staff and administration on technical issues involved in the upgrade.

A meeting was held on Mar 15 at the Welcome Center to begin the upgrade process.

Partner Reports:

ABP: The Annual Plan has gone to the Legislature after Research and Promotion Board and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority approvals but the budget outlook is bleak.

ANHA: The Water Heritage Trails contractor has released tentative site list and provided suggestions for Trail signage, in conjunction with replacement of faded small Heritage Area signs.

LWF: The 2016 Conservation Awards were announced and will be presented on April 2, 2016. The Governor's award will go to Danica Williams, founder of the Wish to Fish Louisiana program. Four of the awards went to employees, former employees, or programs of the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

A new affiliate, Bayou Vermillion Preservation Association reported contacts with a National Geographic Photographer with photos of the Lakes. It turns out that the photos are of bayous in the area, but they will send me proofs of the photos, to see if we can use them.

Willie Fontenot, the new FOA representative on the LWF Board, coordinated travel to the upcoming April 16 meeting in Woodworth.

Rebecca Triche reported on upcoming legislation related to LWF issues, including several feral hog bills appearing again this year. The Federation supports the creation of an agency and organization-wide task force to deal with the issues in a comprehensive way and opposes "hunting-only" solutions. She also noted that there maybe a move under way to tap additional money from Constitutionally dedicated, self-generated or externally generated funds, which the Federation also opposes.

Audubon: Karen Westphal described activities related to the Audubon sanctuary on the coast. Experiments are progressing with the recently-acquired larger dredge, a photo drone has been acquired for documentation, and work has begun on use of hay bales for re-vegetation efforts to jump-start growth in degraded marsh areas.

Bicentennial Cypress Identification: Harvey Stern described his efforts to determine the age of cypress trees inside and outside of the Atchafalaya Basin and his ongoing attempts to roughly correlate tree age with physical size through coring and measurements. He has identified a 500-year old tree in north Lake Dauterive with a 13+ foot circumference.

### **New Business**

#### 2016 Board Members

No action was taken on new Board members or 2016 Officer elections but a discussion proceeded about the future of the organization and the need to infuse it with new and younger blood.

After a continuous run of 10 years as an officer of the FOA, Charles Caillouet announced his intention to step down. He will continue to act as Secretary for the next six months, until a replacement is located. He will remain on the Board but will not serve as an officer.

\* Charles took an action to contact a list of resource people, created at the meeting, in order to locate potential replacements for FOA officers, Board Members and a leader of the Cypress Conservation effort, which Charles is not willing to continue to lead.

### **Upcoming Events**

Target Projects for 2015-2016

Ongoing Cypress Conservation Discussions

Mississippi River Commission hearings

EA Every Day - Year-Round Events

"Ask me" program at visitors center -

Special Session: Now

Congressional Committees:

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, reviewing the Army Corps of Engineers' reports to Congress on future water resources development projects. [...just in case they eventually vote on WRDA]

LWF Awards: April 2, 2016

Mississippi River Commission high water trip hearing: April 15, 2016

Earth Day 2016: April 17, 2016

(in the LWF booth: focus on invasives)

### **Next Board meeting place and time**

April 26, 2016

Location: New Audubon office on Corporate or at Bluebonnet Library if space is needed for Annual Meeting.

Time: 7:00 PM

Subject: Review of Cypress Conservation needs in Basin

The following meeting would be on May 24 (fourth Tuesday.)

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.**