

20160524 - FOA Board meeting - 7:20 PM - LWF**Attendees:**

Board: Charles Caillouet, Jim Delahoussaye, Carolyn Delahoussaye, Ray Brassieur
Advisors and Guests: Karen Westphal, Rebecca Triche

Vice-President Jim Delahoussaye opened the business meeting at approximately 7:20 PM.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Old Business

4/26/2016 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

Treasurer's Report

No current month activity.

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 \$2,198.42 + PayPal Balance of \$264.68 deposits = \$2,463.10 Total; Net income for 2016 = \$ -16.47

Review Open Actions from previous meeting

- * Open item: meeting with Karen St. Germain - still pending
- * The FOA web site modifications are still in work. The site is stable.

Event reports:

Tourism Week at Welcome Center with ANHA

Charles and Ashley manned a table on Tuesday, 5/3/2016

Ashley was also there on 5/2/2016

Ray reported that St. Martin citizens turned out in mass against a proposed Parish Zoning Commission permit that was perceived to allow exploitation of Lake Martin wildlife by convenience store and swamp tour operators around the Lake.

Partner Reports:

ANHA:

Trails contract marker text in review

AWC exhibits upgrade in work; displays on order; photo collection in work

Ray and Jim participated on a panel in Vidalia on diverse cultures, sponsored by the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. They reported that the event was worthwhile and suggested that it was representative of the type of event that ANHA should be sponsoring.

LWF: Rebecca Triche reported on the Legislative activity:

Lots of concern about diversion of dedicated funds; decisions are never final; constant vigilance is required; feral hogs extermination is still an issue

Reservations are due by July 8 for the LWF August Convention; check lawildlifefed.org for details.

Audubon: Karen Westphal reported on bird work:

Work is being done at Sherburne to track Prothonotary Warblers in migration with tiny logging recorders; same birds must be trapped each year to get data; have caught some.

Audubon has a drone for surveillance but it is not for water use.

2016 Board Members

Re-election of 2016 Board members was verified;

Board remains the same; all members re-elected except Paul Kemp, whose term expires in October.

2016 Officers Elections

New officers have not been elected, pending decisions on future direction of FOA;

Existing officers are now Acting, until a new election is held.

New Business

FOA Directions

Jim Delahoussaye suggested that if things don't change, it seems likely that the FOA will cease to function in a few months, and that we should perhaps revisit the idea of allowing the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to attempt to morph the group into its official Friends group.

Jennifer Guidry suggested at the April meeting that FOA was not very well suited to become the group that ANHA needs. One view is that the FOA needs the same organizational overhaul in order to continue to function, that the new Friends Group would need to fulfill its mission.

Ray Brassieur suggested that we should ask Debra Credeur what her requirements for the organization would be, then look at whether we think the goals are compatible and if the Board members are willing to support a transition. It would also tell us whether the group could continue to include any or all of the existing functions of the FOA, depending on the cooperation of any new members and officers.

Ray suggested that some of the FOA Board members might be better suited for membership on an advisory group to the ANHA if the FOA becomes a financial support group for the ANHA.

* ACTION: Charles Caillouet agreed to present the questions to Debra and bring more information back to the Board.

The Board agreed to discuss the results at the next meeting in Butte La Rose at the Delahoussaye Biological Experiment Station.

Upcoming Events

Target Projects for 2015-2016 are open for discussion; some are:

Cypress Preserve ?

Mississippi River Commission trip meetings ?

EA Every Day - Year-Round Events ?

"Ask me" program at visitors center -

ABP R&PB meeting: June 16, 2016 at 9 AM in Baton Rouge

Regular Session: Now, probably followed by another special session

Congressional Committees:

A 2016 WRDA bill is in review and moving through the House of Representatives. No new starts are shown in the Atchafalaya Basin and no projects have been deleted. Two Projects are listed in LA - on The Ouachita and Black Rivers, which flow into the Red above the junction with the Mississippi; and the Calcasieu Locks.

MRC Low Water Trip: TBD date, September ?, 2016

Next Board meeting place and time

June 28, 2016

Location: Butte La Rose Biological Experiment Station, south of the Atchafalaya Welcome Center

Time: 6:30 PM

Subject: Review of FOA directions and ANHA relationship

The following regular meeting would be on July 26 (fourth Tuesday.)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 PM.