

Laffites Cove Nature Society

Board of Directors Meeting

The Laffite's Cove Nature Society Board of Directors held a Board of Directors meeting on November 9, 2013. The meeting was held at the Galveston Country Club and was called to order at 9:00 AM by Bonnie White, President. Directors present were Bonnie White, Jim Walters, Ben Hock, and Phil Glass. A quorum was established. Susan Gonzales with CKM was present.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting. Upon motion duly made by Ben Hock and seconded by Jim Walters, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. Resolved that, the Board approved the minutes of September 14, 2013.

Ben Hock gave the Financial Report. Change to the Community Association Bank (CAB), which is a Mutual of Omaha Bank. Motion by Ben Hock and second by Bonnie White to accept the financial report, to approve the moving banking to Community Association Bank with the Signatures to be Bonnie White – President, Ben Hock – Treasurer, Susan Gonzales - Manager was approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Budget: Motion by Jim Walters seconded by Bonnie White, the Board by unanimous vote approved the 2014 budget with no increase to the assessment.

Discussion on investment was held. Motion by Ben Hock and seconded by Jim Walters, the Board approved to open a \$50,000 six month and a \$50,000 twelve month Certificate of Deposit. to invest in a FCIS insured institute chosen by Ben Hock.

Mort Voller - Preserve Report – Mort Voller provided a written report as follows:

Actions: New entrance has been created from Binnacle and invoice submitted for \$500. The parking area on Eckerts has been lined. The stolen interpretive sign has been replaced and another one with a typo has been re done and replaced. Heric landscaping cut back vegetation hanging over the pathways up to 6ft Fences behind Windlass (south) were cleared per some residents request.

Plans: Brenda and Mort have talked about more aggressive vegetation control and contracting out for LCNP habitat management. We increased the budget for the current year on the premise, Mort would not be able to do as much with a helper and volunteers as in past years, but we have not spent it yet, Mort was assuming I with volunteers and a somewhat expanded crew would do more late in the year, like late November/early December, when it would be cooler, less vegetation etc. I still hope to do that. It does not look like the SCA will be helping us anymore in 2013. But for next budget year it might be better to get some hard bids for more general habitat management on more of a turnkey basis. The concerns in the woods are still control of Tallow and Chinaberry (relatively easy), grape and poison Ivy vines, and McCartney Rose (very difficult)

The concerns in the wetland and prairie areas are Salt cedar and palms. The annual mow has tended to keep such plants within old boundaries but the existing salt cedar could be removed entirely. (Note I would leave some in SW corner of D). McCartney Rose is an issue on the south side of E also.

Mort has made contact with Chris Peterson (who Mort used to clear tallow's in the State Park and in LCNP) and a man named Ed Dolphin who might be interested in out type work. I plan to try to meet both of them later in November. Peterson is busy right now with Memorial Park in Houston. Peterson specializes in removing invasive species. He uses a core crew plus others as needed for jobs small or large. He tends to come once per year until the invasive is under control, then perhaps less regularly. Form past experience one would have to give Chris very firm guidelines for how we want activities handled and some supervision.

Mort also talked to Richard Gibbons (HAS), who has used Peterson on controlling privet, and with Cherie Obrien (TPWD) and Mickey Merritt (USFS), both of whom have given me advice in past. Cherie when on the LCNS Board wrote the Management Plan. If a budget placeholder is required now for 2014 I would reduce the minor maintenance budget and increase the major maintenance budget to a number more like \$25k for at least the first year of any contract...with a total budget of more in the \$35k range.

We are almost completely out of the herbicide recommended for basal bark or cut stump poisoning of tallow, poison ivy, chinaberry etc. I purchased it from Crop Production Services at 13622 E Hardy Rd. It is called Pathfinder II, and a 2.5 gallon container was (in December 2011).. \$53 with no tax. The active ingredients are Triclopyr (9.8%) and Butoxyethyl ester (3.8%) ...inert is 86.4%. I have plenty of dye. Pathfinder II is Garlon 4 already mixed with right amount of oil.

The Board in the workshop discussed resolution to the parking issue and will be making some changes. Painted lines to define parking spaces. Demarked a space for access to the mailboxes. The growth next to property owners property is being cleared off.

A homeowner purchased a buoy and requested reimbursement. Motion Ben Hock seconded by Jim Walters, the Board approved \$250, which was a portion of the homeowners expense but what the association has paid.

Jim Walters stated four (4) buoys have been placed to help with speeding and safety issues. An additional two have been ordered.

Areas of access used for maintenance was discussed as to either placing no pedestrian access or roping it off. Further discussion will be held with Mort at another meeting. Possibly additional signage will be considered.

Drainage for Laffites Cove is being reviewed as to its affects on drainage into the nature preserve. Drainage will be looked at and issues on drainage and driveway placement in Laffites Cove. The ARC will need to be aware. LCNS is going to look at the situation to see if there is an issue.

A member asked if the permit has been cancelled. We have not heard from the Army Corp of Engineers. A member stated a lot of trash was accumulating at his lot. The Board recommended that the property owner take some pictures so that they can see what is occurring.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Susan Gonzales

Recording Secretary