

Laffites Cove Nature Society (LCNS)

Board of Directors Meeting

The LCNS held a Board of Directors meeting on January 8, 2014 at the Galveston Country club. Bonnie White, President called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. A quorum was established by the attendance of Bonnie White, Jim Walters, Ben Hock, Brenda Dawson, Mort Voller, and Scott Weaver. Susan Gonzales with CKM was also present.

The minutes were distributed and review. Motion by Jim and seconded by Ben the minutes of Dec 14, 2013 was approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer report by Ben Hock discussed the financials are on line for members. The only budget item out of line is the expenditures on the buoys. Ben stated the new Certificate of Deposits was opened. The 2014 Insurance budget is in line based on actual costs.

Mort stated the twelve kids from the High School have joined Student Conservation and have volunteered to work in the Nature Preserve today. Mort stated this helps in giving them education and helps get work done in the Preserve. Today they are focusing on the Chinaberry trees and just general clean up. Mort stated that this past quarter we have concentrated on getting contractors that would come on an ad hoc basis. The work will not just be maintenance; it will be on a scheduled basis with some supervising. We are looking for someone who understands the Preserve and the maintenance that is needed without destroying the Preserve. Mort is going to try to work with a chosen contractor on specifics.

Discussion held concerning the preferred contractor for invasive vegetation work, Chris Peterson. There has been difficulty in getting in touch with Chris Peterson; Brenda Dawson stated she would follow up with him.

Annual meeting was discussed. There are two member Directors and one scientific member up for election. The Directors whose terms have expired will be running for re-election. An email notice will be sent out requesting volunteers for the Director positions. The Notice and proxy will be mailed on February 20 and deadline for receiving biographies will be February 14th. The meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2014, 7:45 registration, meeting starts 8:00, ends at 9:00 am. Brenda Dawson will be working on an information sheet to be mailed with the notice. The information sheet will include the "no wake" and notice to sign up on the website.

Jim stated that four (4) buoys have been placed and two (2) additional buoys have been ordered.

A question was asked as to the maintenance of the marsh grass. Questioned whether the Board has an obligation to enforce the maintenance of the marsh grass. Bonnie White stated the Board has an obligation but is not required to enforce. Bonnie further stated that no scientific way of maintenance has been determined. There are no plans, from the Board, to enact a process for resolving the marsh grass issue at this time. When the Board does come up with a plan it will be presented to the members for their review. Bonnie White agreed to try and create a formal position on the Marsh Grass. We are

still hoping to learn of (and study) a method by which we could partially restore a strip of shelf to levels that would support marsh grass, but which would be economically practical, aesthetically neutral and likely to be permitted.

No further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Susan Gonzales, Recording Secretary