

Laffites Cove Nature Society
Annual Members Meeting

The Laffites Cove Nature Society held a Members meeting on March 06, 2010 and called to order at 9:01 am by Chris Cahill, President. Scientific Directors present were Mort Voller, Phil Glass and Scott Weaver. Member Directors present were Gary Poltorak, Chris Cahill, Grant Rice and Jim Murphy.

Chris Cahill stated that pursuant to section 3.6 of the Bylaws, a quorum is present. We have two (2) Director terms expiring and one (1) Scientific Director term expiring. Those in attendance and a count of proxies received established a quorum. Guests present Dianne Puccetti and Patricia Grady. Each made a presentation for a position on the Galveston City Council Pct 6.

The minutes were reviewed. Upon motion duly made by Grant Rice and seconded by Phil Glass, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approved the minutes of March 14, 2009 as presented.

Chris Cahill – The website for LCNS is being developed specifically for the Nature Society. We as a board want to include on this new website the history of the Nature Preserve. Will Wright is working on the website.

Chris discussed the City of Galveston Water Waste Discharge settlement and stated that the City of Galveston will steer \$50,000 of wastewater fines to LCNS for environment use. Chris contacted Sharon Blue with the TCEQ but has not received a call back. Chris and Susan Gonzales will follow up. The use of the money must fall under the Special Environmental Program. We will need the procedure and application.

Chris stated that the LCNS is a non-paying plaintiff to a lawsuit against the Corp of Engineers vs. Anchor Bay. An Environmental Impact study was being done. Nothing has been heard from the Corp of Engineers since the injunction has been in place. No further action is needed at this time.

Bill Broussard gave an update for the Corp of Engineers. Information can be viewed on the Internet. The information on the Internet is only for display and not on criteria basis. It is important that a Land Use program be developed.

Wetland Ordinance – one aspect of it is that mitigation must be property in Galveston Island and have a 50' setback.

Spoil Site – The site is not ready for dredge spoil and when the time comes it will need to be made ready. Grant Rice had developed costs estimates to make ready the site. Since it is not top priority it was tabled. It will be expensive to due the dikes and weirs. Estimated costs are up to \$100,000. The spoil area may not be used but when the issue arises a project out in the bay may be submerged property on the north side of the harbor.

Discussion was held on the canal and silting in. It was agreed that Gary, Scott and Marty Baker would meet to discuss this issue and to see if the Pirates POA will join in to resolve. Phil Glass asked how bad a problem is the silting in. It appears the entrance off Cove Lane may be the only problem at this time. Susan will check for a survey done by Shiner Mosely on the canal area being discussed.

Financial Report – Susan Gonzales gave the report stating that there is \$171,000 cash in the bank, the collection rate for 2010 is 90% and attorney is handling delinquent accounts.

Mort Voller Report

Phase I – clean up all the debris, boats, etc. Shaneyfelt helped with the work and lawn crew.

Phase II – Initial watering of trees, setting up hoses, and hydrant supplies.

Phase III- Initial cutting of trees, worked with FEMA and Shaneyfelt worked on Ponds.

Phase IV – worked on irrigation with Minter, City of Galveston and Aqua Sprinkler.

Phase V – Removed or pruned the Preserve trees within the Preserve based on danger or damage to property.

Phase VI – Purchased and installed trees.

Phase VII – Purchase more trees and enhanced irrigated and did more clean up.

Spent \$28,000 for clean up of the Nature Preserve from damage by Hurricane Ike. Over 800 trees at 6” and less died. A lot of re-growth has occurred. The wax myrtles were replanted along pond. Replanted Mulberry trees. Plan to purchase a few more trees and filled in the holes. Grass seed will also be put out.

Gary Poltorak helped in getting estimates and obtaining bids from contractors. Shaneyfelt was selected. Along Windlass and the north side of Preserve “D” the chain link fence will be removed. A survey was done and owners were notified of the work. A post and rope fence will be installed. The cost for this project is \$6400.

Mowing in Preserve “E” will occur. The prairie areas will be mowed. The path around “E” was mowed to open it up for bird watching. A wooden bridge will be installed.

Preserve “F” west of sewage easement was cleaned up and the posts were redone.

Discussion was held on the areas that need to be completed and the funds needed. Upon motion duly made by Grant Rice and seconded by Scott Weaver, the Board adopted the following resolution by unanimous vote. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approved expenditure for \$5000 for Phase III.

Discussion was held on the replacement of fence and mowing that need to be completed and the funds needed. Upon motion duly made by Grant Rice and seconded by Mort Voller, the Board adopted the following resolution by unanimous vote. **RESOLVED**

THAT, the Board approved expenditure for \$5000 for fencing and periodic maintenance & mowing in Preserve “E”.

Mort asked Susan to send a list of all the invoices paid to Shaneyfelt.

The rope on the fence on Jibstay will be replaced. Mort has the yellow rope.

The Kiosk is up and more information will be added. The inside needs to be painted. Mort will be installing the signs for the Preserve and no wake signs.

Scott Weaver – Marsh Grass and Buoys

Two (2) Buoys’ were lost during hurricane Ike. Property owners need to replace Marsh grass. Discussion was held that all bulkheads are in violation of the Corp permit if there is no grass or a lessened intertidal shelf. Scott believes dredging is needed to rebuild the shelf. Jet ski lifts are installed and used in the protected zone and other types of items are also built in that area. Pirates POA, Laffites Cove POA and Laffites Cove Nature Society each have two (2) representatives on a committee whose purpose is to resolve the issues. LCNS representatives are Scott and Gary P.

The intertidal shelf was discussed – anything done in the water must be Corp permitted. Nationwide permit is needed for small-scale restoration.

The election rules were explained. Gary Poltorak, Jim Murphy and Bill Broussard were listed on the proxy. Bill Broussard was asked if he wanted to run and he declined. A request for nominations from the floor was made none were received. Nominations were closed. Election was by acclamation to elect Gary Poltorak and Jim Murphy. Upon motion duly made by Grant Rice and seconded by Scott Weaver, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board approved the results of the proxy vote to elect Gary Poltorak and Jim Murphy.

It was explained that the Scientific Board elects the scientific members. Upon motion duly made by Phil Glass and seconded by Mort Voller, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. **RESOLVED THAT**, the Board elected Scott Weaver as the Scientific Member.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Susan Gonzales
Recording Secretary