

**FOA Annual meeting - 7:15 PM - Schoeffler Home - LAF****Attendees:**

Board: Charles Fryling, Charles Caillouet, Jim Delahoussaye, Carolyn Delahoussaye, Ray Brassieur

Advisors: Don Haydel, Sara Krupa, Karen Westphal, Woody Martin, Helen Boudreaux, Dan Collins, Charles Williams, Amy Brassieur, Pam Caillouet, Harold Schoeffler

Guests: Martial Broussard, Ann Lowrey, Skip Andaya BSA, Andre Lyon

**President Fryling opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.**

**The Secretary reported that there are no changes in the 2015 Board.**

**The Secretary reported that the officers for 2015 are:**

Charles Fryling - President

Jim Delahoussaye - Vice-President

Charles Caillouet - Sec/Treasurer

**The Secretary presented the minutes of the last Annual Meeting.**

At that meeting, Ben Pierce of Evangeline Area Council reported to the board on the status of the SwampBase.

**The Treasurer presented the 2014 Financial Report and the current 2015 YTD Report**

The FOA total account balances at the beginning of 2014 = \$1,449.70

The balances at the end of 2014 = \$2,970.63, thanks to generous donations.

Between December 15, 2014 and February 14, 2015, we collected \$1,767.01 through the Atchafalaya crowd-funding campaign.

We donated the rest of the \$2,400 to the Swamp Base for two kayaks

The total FOA contribution approved by the Board was \$632.99.

The funds were delivered to the SwampBase at the March meeting.

As of April 28, 2015, FOA has \$2,250.25 in two accounts, a checking account with Regions Bank, and a PayPal electronic account, which is used for online account payments, as approved by the Board.

**Charlie Fryling presented the President's report**

**Reports:**

SwampBase:

President Fryling recognized Ann Lowrey of Lafayette as the top Achafalaya Donor.

Ann receives an autographed copy of Brian Piazza's Atchafalaya Book.

Skip Andaya of the Evangeline Area Council reported that SwampBase will host 60 treks this year in the Basin and is sold out for 2 years. They will host 89 trips next year for 14-21 year old boys and girls with adults. Skip took some bumper stickers to distribute and to identify our kayaks.

Special Update:

Dan Collins gave us an update on his whistleblower lawsuit against the State.

Dan's suit is based on his land work on the Bayou Postillion restoration project and his claim that the work was done to accommodate oil and gas exploration in the area. His claims are based on suspicious circumstances involving marketing of parcels in the area in conjunction with the dredging work and misnaming of a lease offering, ostensibly to mislead bidders and reduce the price of the lease. Dan worked for Coastal and the Atchafalaya Basin Program in the early years of the Program. The trial begins May 18 in Baton Rouge.

Ferol Hogs:

Charles Williams of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation gave an update on Feral Hog legislation in work.

Major Thibault has a bill in the LA House of Representatives to prohibit release and importation and regulate transportation of feral hogs. There are also bills related to the

permitting of night hunting, bounties for killing feral hogs, and the need for hunting licenses for the taking of outlaw quadrupeds.

#### Cypress Preserve Update

Harold stated that there are Teche Vermillion District gages at the Loreauville Canal structure that should provide a history of stage data in the lakes.

The Board members agreed to follow up with Board member Paul Kemp to determine the best way to proceed with the determination of a credible high water mark for use in delineating the State land boundary around the lakes.

#### ABP Report

Don Haydel reported that the Annual Plan passed the House Natural Resource committee but there is no money in HB2 (Capital Outlay.) The Research and Promotion Board is moving money from stalled projects to projects on State Land, including the closure of the unmaintained Corps opening that is filling in Grand Lake.

#### ANHA Report

Charles Caillouet reported that the Heritage Trail Contract is moving ahead and that Bayou Teche Project has received grants for floating docks.

#### Recent Events

Charles Caillouet reported that FOA participated in Earth Day BR with the LWF on April 19, 2015 in the Nature in Your Neighborhood tent.

Charles Caillouet represented FOA at the Coastal Day at the Legislature on April 22, 2015. Both the LA Coastal Plan and ABP Annual Plan were approved in committee.

#### New Business

Charles Caillouet presented a proposal to donate \$500 for printing more LWF Basin Fishing Books for kids.

1,000 have been printed and distributed at Earth Day and Step Outside Day;

The cost is about \$1 each.

ANHA is also likely to support a second run.

**The Board approved the proposal.**

Details will be presented at the next meeting.

#### Upcoming Events

Free Show Me The Coast 2015 workshop at LSU Journalism Reilly Center from 9-5 on May 1, 2015

<https://showmethecoast2015.wordpress.com/schedule/>

LWF Board meeting in Woodward, LA on May 2, 2015 at

ANHA/Trace Commission Meeting May 6, 2015, 10AM, Capitol Park Welcome Center

Atchafalaya Welcome Center Open House on May 4-6, 2015 during Tourism Week

Target Projects for 2015

Cypress Preserve promotion

Mississippi River Commission low-water-trip meeting

EA Every Day - Year-Round Events

"Ask me" program at visitors center -

#### Next Board meeting place and time

May 26, 2015 (fourth Tuesday)

At either Audubon or LWF at 6:30 PM.

The Secretary will notify the list with details.

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