

20151124 - FOA Board meeting - 7:00 PM - Audubon**Attendees**

Board members: Charles Fryling, Charles Caillouet, Jim Delahoussaye, Carolyn Delahoussaye, Willie Fontenot

Advisors: Don Haydel, Karen Westphal, Pam Caillouet, Charles Roulet, Rebecca Triche, Richard Goyer, Office of State Parks Representative

Guests: Lance Hatten, Superintendent, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve (JLNHP); Rae Emerson, Management and Program Analyst, JLNHP

President Fryling opened the meeting at 7 PM.

* The Board voted to sign on to a letter urging full Congressional funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. President Fryling will follow up on it.

All attendees introduced themselves.

President Fryling introduced Superintendent Hatten of the National Park Service JLNHP.

Mr. Hatten explained the organization of the Jean Lafitte system and some of the projects underway.

Mr. Hatten is actually Superintendent of both New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park and the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve. JLNHP six sites are spread across south LA, from Eunice to Chalmette.

NPS manages over 400 National Areas and offers 40 other programs to the public, including stimulating historic preservation investment through tax incentives, providing preservation and outdoor recreation grants, managing the National Register of Historic Places, designating National Recreation Trails, operating national historic landmarks, national historic trails, and national heritage areas, conserving rivers, planning, building, and preserving open spaces and outdoor recreation places, documenting historic buildings, structures, and landscapes, turning surplus federal land into local parks, acquiring surplus federal buildings for community use, providing educational programs which highlight local history with lesson plans or travel itineraries.

Charles Caillouet gave a presentation on the FOA Cypress Preserve Concept as an introduction to a discussion on the idea.**Discussion**

Mr. Hatten indicated that the first step in any designation process involving the Park Service was the Special Resource Study.

He had done some research on the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area creation and determined that the Environmental Assessment that had been performed as part of the Heritage Area Management Plan might help us to determine the feasibility of pursuing the designation of the Preserve. He was not complete in his review of the documents so he could not offer an opinion on the guidance that we might find in the Study. He cautioned that decisions in the Environmental Assessment/Management Plan document might argue against a designation. A full reading of the document should give us clues.

*Charles Caillouet is a member of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission, the managing entity of the Heritage Area and will review the documents and report on his findings.

Mr. Hatten

Public Law 109338 2007?

* Charles Caillouet will send maps to Mr. Hatten showing the relationships of the ANHA, the floodway and the proposed preserve.

* Charles Caillouet will add Mr. Hatten to the FOA advisors list to keep him abreast of any developments.

The Board and Mr. Hatten agreed to stay in contact.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Hatten for his candor and knowledge of the situation and offered hope that JLNHP and the Heritage Area would continue to work closely and that

Mr. Hatten would designate someone to replace Joe Llewellyn, the NPS representative to the Trace Commission, who recently left the area.

[At this time, Mr. Hatten and Ms. Emerson left the meeting to return to New Orleans.]

Old Business

The August 25, 2015 meeting minutes were approved

Open Actions from previous meetings were reviewed:

Charles Caillouet sent the Preserve map to Charlie

Charles Caillouet called Karen St. Germain about lunch to discuss her possible participation in the Friends organization, but she is still busy with transportation and budget issues.

She will be more available after the changes in the legislature early in the year.

Recent email activity was reviewed:

No additional action was required.

Treasurer's Report:

Current month activity: there was nothing to report since the last report.

Regions Bank account balance of \$1,380.12

+ PayPal account balance of \$176.45

= \$1,556.57 YTD Total assets

Web Site Status:

Charles Caillouet reported that all recent old minutes have been posted.

The site has been undergoing "Brute Force" attacks that broke the admin password and has probably been used to forward spam or malware.

A block of Dutch internet service center addresses have been blocked and user names and passwords on WordPress sites (News and EADays) have been changed to reduce vulnerabilities.

Event reports:

Charles Caillouet distributed coloring books at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in Wyoming in October.

Partner Reports:

ABP Report from Don Haydel and Charles Reulet:

The 2017 Annual Plan is now complete.

Meetings were not well attended and no changes were needed.

The Grand Lake/Bayou Pigeon "depth restoration" project is planned.

Boat landings are planned at Butte Larose and Wilson's Landings.

A permit application is at the Army Corps of Engineers for the Welcome Center Trail, originally proposed by Richard Goyer many years ago.

The NRIAS is back up and functioning online.

Skerrett Point now official

Skerrett Point: cape; approx. 8 acres; on Round Island 7.8 mi. NNW of Charenton; the name honors B.E.M. "Ben" Skerrett, III (1920-2005), Lafayette businessman, avid sportsman, and member of the 1971 Commission on the Atchafalaya Basin; Iberia Parish, Louisiana; Sec. 23, T12S, R9E, Louisiana Meridian; 29°58'49"N, 91°31'35"W; USGS map – Charenton 1:24,000.

ANHA Report from Charles Caillouet:

The trails contract is underway, site submissions were made by several Board members and are being investigated by the contractor.

LWF: Report by Rebecca Triche:

The Federation is commenting on the LWCF funding issue and on money allocations to projects by the Gulf Restoration Task Force.

Sierra Club: Report filed in absentia by Woody Martin:

Woody attended USACE Mitigation Workshop

Notes on USACE Compensatory wetland mitigation method available for public comment, Public meeting of Oct 28, 2015 – Woody Martin

Charleston method – currently being used in USACE Vicksburg District

Modified Charleston method (MCM) – proposed in USACE NO district, became controversial, congressional authorization specifically denied funding for MCM.

Louisiana Wetlands Rapid Assessment Method LRAM (proposed) replaces Modified Charleston method

LRAM is based in large part on the classifications of species and natural communities contained in the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> located within Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

LRAM is designed also to comply with the federal mitigation rule 33 CFR 332

The LRAM is a method for evaluating conditions of wetlands located on proposed project sites. This evaluation will be used to calculate unavoidable adverse impacts and compensatory mitigation associated with USACE-authorized activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The LRAM has been designed to promote consistent wetland assessments and to support data collection and comparison.

Comprised of a work manual and Excel worksheets, the intent of LRAM is to provide a rapid and repeatable assessment method that can be completed by users of various backgrounds and with limited field data. LRAM has several applications applicable to project managers, permit applicants, and mitigation bank sponsors including assisting applicants in evaluating the scale of a proposed project's compensatory mitigation. Additionally, users can evaluate a mitigation bank site to predict potential mitigation credits available depending upon the different restoration/enhancement techniques.

BasinKeeper: Report from Basinkeeper email update:

The Dan Collins whistleblower suit court date has been moved to December

Other Reports:

Charles Caillouet sent the Piazza Atchafalaya book to Ann Lowrey for being the largest contributor to the Atchafalaya campaign.

From Dan Kroes at USGS: 10/13/2015

"I regret to inform you that due to reductions in funding the following gages are scheduled to be discontinued within a month:

Murphy Lake

Beau Bayou

Lake Pelba at I-10

Bayou Fusillier of the Swamps

Bayou La Rose (in Beau Bayou management unit)

American Pass at Little B. Sorrel

I know that many of you rely on these gages for various purposes, however we unfortunately cannot fund these gages internally."

Cypress Preserve:

Harvey Stern activity - Lake Dauterive Cypress

Harvey was on the "Heart of Louisiana" TV report talking about bicentennial cypress.

There was a story on WWL on dying Cypress.

Jim Delahoussaye reported:

New maps will now have Millet Point spelled correctly because the agency in charge of place names has accepted the correction of the misspelling.

Gwen Rowland has a fiction book out on life in the Floodway, called "Postmark Bayou Chene."

The boat building movie that Jim and Ray were working on has been released as a short (17 minute) program because funding for the feature length version was not secured. It is called "In the mind of the Maker."

New Business

Elections in the State recently produced:

Gov. Edwards

Lt. Gov. Nunnegger (we will be sorry to see Lt. Gov. Dardenne go and hope for similar support for the Heritage Area from the new Lt. Gov.

It looks like there will be a Special Session dealing with budget issues early in the year so we should be prepared to support our issues.

Upcoming Events

Target Projects for 2015-2016

Cypress Preserve

Mississippi River Commission trip meetings

EA Every Day - Year-Round Events

"Ask me" program at visitors center -

Tulane Env. Law Clinic: Feb 19-20, Weinmann Hall, Tulane

Next Board meeting place and time

Christmas Party/meeting

December 22, 2015

President Fryling's home

Time 7:00 PM?

[The following meeting would be January 26 and is tentatively scheduled for the "Butte La Rose Biological Research Station."]

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.