

20150728 - FOA Board meeting - 7:20 PM - Wetlands Center

Attendees

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

Advisors: JoAnn Fryling, Pam Caillouet, Woody Martin, Jim Bergan

Guests: Thomas Doyle, USGS

President Fryling opened the meeting.

All attendees introduced themselves.

Special Presentation by Mr. Doyle.

Dr. Doyle gave us his background and explained his position and interests with the Wetlands Center and discussed possible partnering opportunities with the FOA. He visited several subjects that are of interest to the group and here are a few snippets of a stimulating discussion...

The Center has had a series of gages inside the Floodway since 1995 for internal research but has no gages in the lakes outside the Floodway.

Dr. Doyle is very interested in coring and tree conditions and has personal experience coring and aging trees.

LIDAR picks up minor features but has been oversold He has done ground GPS work that shows the limitations of LIDAR. When LIDAR hits water or vegetation, it can give errors in elevation of up to several feet because of reflections or blockage. It is good for a relative overview, but not necessarily for absolute data.

Cypress have to start in a dry environment and grow for 18-24 months without being inundated in order to survive. There are many variations in forest conditions and watering/dewatering constrictions that can affect the health of cypress forests.

The USGS Wetland Center would like to have information outside the floodway in the adjacent wetlands and might be able to put in a gage in the lakes to understand the relationships between the wetlands inside and outside the Floodway.

It might be useful to set up a meeting with other interested parties in the area to discuss data collection of various types.

Coring is not the only way to age trees; it is possible to tell something about the age of cypress by shape of the tree's crown.

Dr. Doyle observed that trees don't seem to grow as big as they used to and speculated that some causes might be different nutrients and/or different growing conditions.

Some trees were not lumbered because they were the pull anchors, some because they were hollow, others because they were damaged, so there are still some old, if not huge trees still in the forests.

In the coastal zone, trees are affected by storms and droughts; salt water often fills in where drought left openings in exposed bottoms or degraded marsh. Salinity rises and can stay up for a couple of years, inhibiting tree growth.

Cypress trees grow up to approximately 100m contours (above sea level?)

The Center is interested in stimulating citizen science opportunities.

Old Business

The June 23, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - current month activity:

Regions Balance of \$1,880.12 + PayPal Balance of \$176.45 =
\$2,006.57 YTD Total - \$500 uncleared LWF check = \$1,556.57

Transfer was completed of \$500 to LWF to print more fishing books.

Boundary determination of proposed cypress preserve is still pending; we still need good high water data and then a survey of current inundation at that level.

Event reports:

The Nature Conservancy recently announced the purchase of 5,000 acres in the Bayou Sorrel area for a Nature Preserve and Jim Bergan described the acquisition and TNC plans for the Preserve.

The regular ANHA/Trace Commission Meeting was held on July 8, 2015.

An ABP TAG meeting was held on June 24, 2015 and the Group decided to work with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority on selection of desirable sites for the possible construction of sediment traps to prevent sediment from entering the swamps and to allow CPRA to access the material for construction on the coast.

ABP R&PB meeting June 25, 2015 at 09:30 AM

Comments on the LA Black Bear delisting from the Endangered Species List were recently closed and President Fryling submitted comments for the FOA.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has released a report characterizing the transport of sediment through the various elements of the Old River Control Structure System

Upcoming Events

LWF convention - August 21&22, 2015

The Mississippi River Commission Low Water Trip Hearing will be held in Baton Rouge on August 21 and we will try to prepare comments for it.

Target Projects for 2015

Working on the Cypress Preserve designation proposal

Mississippi River Commission low-water-trip hearing

EA Every Day - Year-Round Events

"Ask me" program at visitors center -

Next Board meeting place and time

August 25, 2015 (fourth Tuesday)

Audubon at 7:00 PM if available

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.