



# Minutes of the General Meeting

of the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

January 11, 2019

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Lake Jackson

**Attendance by Members of the Board:** Orin Atkins, Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, Mickey Dufilho, Phil Huxford, Lisa Myers, David Plunkett, Kim Richardson, Dick Schaffhausen, Torry Tvedt.

**Attendance by the General Membership:** Vicky Adams, Ron Bisbee, Barbara Burkhardt, Jerry Eppner, Lou Golish, Jerry Krampoda, Ann Lange, Mike Lange, Herb Myers, Jo Myers, Tom Smith, Tom Taroni, Carole Wenny

**Refuge Staff in Attendance:** Jennifer Sanchez

A quorum being present, President Ed Barrios called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

President Ed Barrios welcomed the membership and thanked them for attending and for paying their annual dues. He noted that only members in good standing would be able to vote on the election board members who would serve in 2019

Lisa Myers presented nominees for board members that would serve in 2019: Orin Atkins, Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, Mickey Dufilho, Jerry Eppner, Phil Huxford, Herb Myers, Lisa Myers, David Plunkett, Kim Richardson, Dick Schaffhausen, and Torry Tvedt. Barbara Burkhardt moved, and Carole Wenny seconded the motion to elect the nominated candidates as members of the board serving in 2019. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer Dick Schaffhausen presented the December, 2018 Financial Statement, which showed a net balance of \$602,030.84. He also reviewed the P&L statement covering November and December of 2018. Specifically noted were the \$35,000 donation from Mrs. McGovern and the \$500 from Fluor Corporation.

Dick reviewed the FOBWR draft of our 2019 budget; this item will be considered during the meeting of the board following this general meeting. It was noted that an audit of the 2018 financial books will be made at a cost of under \$10,000. This expense item will be added to the 2019 budget.

Mike Lange reviewed the recent activities of pre-acquisition discovery of land parcels to the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. These parcels fall within an ~50 miles by 50 miles acquisition zone covering Brazoria County and parts of Wharton and Fort Bend Counties. Since authorized by Congress in the late 1990s, about 36,000 acres have been purchased. In 2018 the Snow Tract, which will be renamed the Cannon Bend Unit, was added. Public use facilities for this unit will be the focus of the ATFN19 fundraiser.

Another 1,887 acres three tracts in are currently in the process of acquisition. The Wade McNeill tract, a large, ~4,700 acre parcel of wooded wetland forest in Wharton County bordering the San Bernard River has just been offered by the owners for purchase by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mike also reviewed the land purchases being made on Follet's Island for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

A consortium of area nature groups is working on the purchase of a 162 acre tract of virgin prairie (never plowed, never cowed); this land is on CR213 just north of the Brazoria NWR and will cost around \$940,000. It is likely that the Katy Prairie Conservancy will take the lead on acquisition. Plans are to name this land after Flo Hanna. A field trip for Friends members will be scheduled for March, tentatively Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Refuge update:** Jennifer Sanchez reviewed the impact of the current government shutdown that began on December 21<sup>st</sup>. While the primary public use areas of the BNWR and the SBNWR remain open, buildings are closed. Jennifer, the refuge managers, law enforcement officers, and the fire manager remain on duty without pay. DEEP is canceled until the refuges reopen.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 2:21.

Marty Cornell

Secretary, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges.