

Minutes Board of Directors
Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges
12/4/15 (Draft 2/1/16)

Minutes by Mickey Dufilho

Meeting called to order by Ed Barrios, President, at 11:00 AM, Discovery Center

Attendees:

- Board Members: Ed Barrios, Mickey Dufilho, Phil Huxford, David Plunkett, Torry Tvedt, Marty Cornell, Jeanne Manry, Neal McLain, Tom Taroni, Ron Bisbee, Dick Schaffhausen
- Refuge Staff : Jennifer Sanchez

Minutes – Mickey Dufilho

- Minutes from 9/13/15 were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes was made by Marty and seconded by Ron. Motion passed unanimously
- Reviewed Action Register – **See Attachment A**

Land Acquisition – Mike Lange Trust for Public Land

Mike gave an update on land acquisition at Texas Mid-Coast NWR Complex

- 3.5 miles on San Bernard – Mike made an offer and it was refused
- Columbia Lake is for sale, about 300 acres – working on acquiring it
- 80 Acres north of Hwy 35 on Brazos River – it has poor access to property, working out details
- Follett's Island, a wetland area – TPWD has some of it. Mike is working on getting it for TPWD

Financial Update – Jeanne Manry – Attachment B

- Jeanne presented the financial report
- See Attachment B for detail of the Grant and financial report
- Motion made by Marty to accept the financial report. 2nd by Ron. Motion passed unanimously.

Grant Update – Marty Cornell

- The following grants are complete
 - 20100909 Discovery Center Displays (USFWS R2 CCS, \$20,000 + FOBWR match + \$30,000)
 - 20150405 Birds-of-Prey MC15 (Phillips 66 Corporate, \$10,000)
 - 20130915 Land Acquisition Discovery #2 a.k.a Houston Endowment. (\$300,000)
- The following grants are active
 - 20091123 Dow Woods Trail (Bastrop Bayou Crossing)
 - 20130201 Bastrop Bayou Crossing (\$70,000)

- 20130919 Trull Foundation toward Purchase of Poole Tract (\$10,000)
- 20140901 Houston Urban Native Garden (\$18,000, USFWS Region 2 Cooperative Agreement Award).
 - \$18,000 Awarded
 - \$13,412 Spent (30Nov15)
 - \$4,488 remaining.
 - “Remaining funds will be utilized for renting a chipper to remove invasive trees at the Ley Plaza Garden, purchasing interpretive panels and plants for a demonstration garden at the J.D. Robson Community Center near Herman Park.” Jennifer Sanchez
- Pending Grants
 - Bobcat Woods Trail Extension (TPWD Recreational Trails Program, \$160,000 + \$40,000 match)
 - Notified on 15Jun15 “selected to receive” grant.
 - Pending sanction from TDOT, Texas Historical Commission, TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment, & Federal Highway Administration and site visit by Trey Cooksey of TPWD, RT Program Manager
 - 3rd Pre-acquisition Discovery) (Houston Endowment, \$300,000, 1Q16)

A Taste for Nature Fund Raiser

- Marty reported the fund raiser netted \$54,000.
- Motion was made by Neal to spend up to \$10,000 to replace the lift pump system at Wolfweed" Reservoir. 2nd by Jeanne. Motion passed unanimously. Copy of motion is attached as Attachment C

Friends Mission Statement

Marty made a motion we adopt the following mission statement (below) for the Friends. 2nd by _____ Motion passed with one No vote.

The Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges supports the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex in their charge to manage the conservation and restoration of wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the Brazoria, San Bernard, and Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuges and to support and advocate for their public use mandate for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation and environmental education.

Email Votes from 9/12/15 – 12/4/15

- None

Adjourn: 12:00 PM

Attachment A

Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuge Board Action Register Updated 12/4/15				
Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Status	Comments
List Volunteer Opportunities - need to review list and put together a plan	Ed Barrios	30-Aug-15	On Going	Ed will get with Jennifer Sanchez to develop an updated list.
Internal Audit - Mickey and Jeanne	Mickey and Jeanne	1-Apr-16	Deferred to 2016	Still looking for auditor - Mickey will ask her CPA firm
Partnership Agreement - reconcile agreement and send draft	Ed Barrios	31-Mar-16	On Going	Dec 15 messages sent by EB to DM for update.
Movie on BNWR, highlighting EE opportunities	Tom Schneider	31-Jan-16	On Going	Needs closing caption, credits and titles
Spec out Rollup shutters for Cross Trails shelters	Marty Cornell	31-Mar-16	On Going	Looking for a supplier 3 shelters/ 2 sides each- No progress since Sept meeting
Develop a New Outdoor Environmental Education Display for our canopy	David/Tom	15-May-15	On Going	See on Heritage Day if we need to work on this.
Design Podium for Discovery Center	Ron Bisbee	31-Dec-15	On Going	Original builder moved, looking for others.
Activate new website	Ed	TBD	On hold	David will check with Krissy on this item
Draft a revision of the Bylaws to add restrictions to discretionary spending by board members, adding timing limitations	Ed Barrios	2-Feb-16	On Going	Bring in conflict of interest wording
Letter to Tom Smith to acknowledge \$10,000 donation	Ed Barrios	1/31/2016		

Attachment B – Financial

FOBWR FINANCIAL STATEMENT				
December 4, 2015 Board Meeting	-			
ACCOUNT BALANCE	-			\$279,224.36
-	-			
GRANT No. & Name	Grantor	Total Awarded	Amount Spent	Amt Available
Funded Grants & Allocated Funds				
20131230 McGovern Brazoria Refuge	Kathrine McGovern	\$97,000.00	\$44,057.30	\$52,942.70
20131220 McGovern San Bernard Refuge	Kathrine McGovern	\$67,000.00	\$7,255.02	\$59,744.98
20070803 Revolving Reimbursement, base acct	Houston Endowment	n/a	n/a	\$20,000.00
20130919 Poole Track Land Acquisition	Trull Foundation	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
20130927 Land Acquisition Discovery #2	Houston Endowment	\$300,000.00	\$291,171.67	\$8,828.33
TOTAL ALLOCATED FUNDS				\$151,516.01
REIMBURSABLE GRANTS				
	Grantor/Amount	Amt. Received	Amount Spent	Amt Available
20140901 Houston Urban Nature Garden	USFWS- \$18,000.	\$18,000.00	\$13,411.91	\$4,588.09
FOBWR PROJECTS				
		Allocated	Spent	Balance
46400 Birds of Prey	FOBWR	\$12,320.00	\$8,454.17	\$3,865.83
760300 Jr. Naturalist Program	FOBWR	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
FOBWR ANTICIPATED GRANTS/PROJECTS				
Repair & Expand Bobcat Woods Trail	FOBWR	\$54,000.00	\$0.00	\$54,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS & SPECIAL PROJECTS				\$214,469.93
NON ALLOCATED FUNDS				
20140403 Law Enforcement Restitution	Federal Court Fines	\$1,735.11	\$0.00	\$1,735.11
Non Allocated Funds				\$63,019.32
TOTAL NON ALLOCATED FUNDS				\$64,754.43
TOTAL OF GRANTS & NON ALLOCATED FUNDS				\$279,224.36

FOBWR Special Projects Financial Statement				
as of November 23, 2015	-			page 2
-	-			
NAME - DOW WOODS	Grantor	Total Awarded	Amount Spent	Amt Available
Dow Woods Trail, Pavilion, Bastrop Bayou Crossing				
20091123 TX Recreational Trails program	TPWD	\$200,000.00		
Dow Woods Trail	Dow Chemical	\$20,000.00		
Dow Woods Trail (by FOBWR Board) (Covering entry)	FOBWR General Fund	\$1,200.00		
20130215 Bastrop Bayou Crossing	Challenge Cost Share	\$70,000.00		
20131220 McGovern San Bernard Refuge(Cover Entry)	Allocated by FOBWR Board	\$23,100.00		
TOTAL ALLOCATED Dow Woods FUNDS		\$384,725.00	\$355,229.10	
Balance (see Grant Manager)				\$29,495.90
Bastrop Bayou Crossing Bid/Paid/Balance		\$102,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$12,000.00
To be distributed back to 'covering' entries when closed				\$17,495.90
NAME - HUDSON WOODS	Grantor	Total Awarded	Amount Spent	Amt Available
Joe Hudson Donated to Community Foundation	Joe Hudson	\$25,000.00	\$3,704.97	
H W Shelter From Community Foundation	Jennifer Sanchez 12/4/15			\$21,295.03
20131220 McGovern San Bernard funds 12/17/14	Allocated by FOBWR Board	\$5,616.62		\$5,616.62
Hudson Woods Shelter (by FOBWR Board)	FOBWR General Fund	\$2,100.00		\$2,100.00
TOTAL ALLOCATED Hudson Woods FUNDS		\$32,716.62	\$3,704.97	\$29,011.65

Attachment C

MOTION BY NEAL McLAIN

November 19, 2015

Whereas:

The Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR) Vice President Ron Bisbee has advised the Board of Directors that the "lift pump system at Wolfweed" Reservoir has "deteriorated and needs to be replaced" (project), and The firm of Seabreeze Culvert, Inc., of Stowell Texas, has submitted a quotation (No. 46581, dated 11//17/2015) in the amount of \$33,837.50 for the materials necessary to accomplish said project, and

All labor related to said project will be provided by the staff of the Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment (Texas R.I.C.E.) has offered to provide \$25,000 toward the project, and

Bisbee requests that the Board of Directors of FOBWR appropriate the sum of 10,000.00 toward this project, I hereby move as follows:

I hereby move that the Board of Directors of FOBWR appropriate the sum of 10,000.00 toward the said project.

Neal McLain

November 19, 2015