



FRIENDS OF BRAZORIA WILDLIFE REFUGES

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Friday, January 13, 2023 Venue: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Members in Attendance: (See attendance roster below)

Lisa Myers called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The proposed **agenda** was accepted as presented.

2023 Officers: Lisa proposed the following board members for 2023: Lisa Myers; Ed Barrios; Regina Tippett; Marty Cornell; Oron Atkins; Kim Richardson; Phil Huxford; Mary Schwartz; Mickey Dufilho; Ruby Lewis; Dick Schaffhausen. There were no nominees from the floor. Ann Lange moved to accept this slate; the motion was seconded by Jerry Eppner and approved unanimously.

Lisa acknowledged the following for their efforts in 2022:

- Members and donors
- The board
- GCBO for the use of their facilities
- Refuge personnel despite being short-handed

Lisa presented highlights of 2022 that included:

- DEEP returned with in-person field trips. Only four spring sessions held due to BISD cancelling bus funding. Resumed in the fall.
- Refuge walks continued – Big Boggy, McNeal Tract, Alligator Marsh, Peachtree Creek Forest, and Bird Pond.
- Outreach was in full swing for 2022. Total of 8700+ individuals reached.
- Joined three additional Chamber of Commerce organizations – Brazoria, Brazoria Hispanic, and Angleton
- Maintenance and Visitor Activities
 - Allocated Maintenance funds to SBNWR and BNWR
 - Purchased visitor benches
 - Canaan Bend fishing/observation docks
 - Cedar Lake Plantation Trail Maintenance
 - Refreshed Bobcat Woods Trail Pollinator Garden
- Migration Celebration
 - Cancelled in 2022 (COVID)
 - Held the photography contest and a drive thru fundraiser lunch at MacLean Park
 - Photo contest winners displayed at the mall on two Saturdays
 - Will have a drive thru fundraiser lunch in 2023 with photography contest winners displayed and birds of prey program on April 22
 - Dates for 2023 are April 29-30; 2023 planning is underway; volunteers are needed.
- Birds of Prey had a banner season
- Major Land Acquisitions—Many successes and progress
- Grants—McGovern, Knobloch and Hershey

- New Complex Manager welcomed – Bryan Winton
- Complex Volunteers of the year named – Ruby and Lana Lewis
- Challenges
 - Declining FWS budget and fewer refuge personnel
 - Aging Board of Directors and need for diversity
 - Post COVID volunteer malaise
 - Grants/funds for maintenance and operations
 - Growing the membership
- 2024 will be FOBWR's 30th anniversary.

Regina Tippett presented a Financial Update

- Income of \$330,064, primarily grants
- General donations of \$9,000
- Expenses of \$234,172
 - Largest expense was the Black Rail project
 - Second largest expense was land acquisition work
- Finished the year in the positive, \$99,239

Mike Lange gave an update on Land Acquisitions

Phil Huxford gave an update on Birds of Prey program.

- 18,000 students and teachers saw the program
- 39 schools participated
- 52 programs presented
- \$30,000 spent.

Bryan Winton gave an update on the refuges.

- Funding is still a challenge.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM. Lisa Invited members to attend the board meeting to follow.

Submitted by board member Mary Schwartz on behalf of Marty Cornell, Secretary

General Membership Meeting

Paid Does Y or N	<u>Name</u>	<u>Any changes to email, etc.</u>
L 1	Ray + Branda Bisbee	No
L 2	MARY SWARTZ	No
P 3	Cris Topala	No
L 4	Adalene Baker	No
P 5	Regina Tippett	No
L 6	Ed Barrios	No
P 7	Det. Schaffhausen	No
P 8	Janet Townsend	No
P 9	Thomas A. Aroni	NO
P 10	Oran Atkins	NO
P 11	David Dungen	No
P 12	Jeray Eppner	No
P 13	DAVID HEWITTE	NO
L 14	Ann Lantz	No
L 15	Mike Lantz	no
* 16	Bryan Winter	no
N 17	Ruby Lewis	
L 18	Vickie Adams	
L 19	Meyers, Lisa	
L 20	Ed Barrios	
L 21	Kim Richardson	
N 22	Herb + Jo Meyers	
L 23	Phil Huxford	
L 24	Mary Swartz	
N 25	Regina Tippett	
L 26	Oran Atkins	
N 27	Martin Hagne	
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FOBWR FINANCIAL STATEMENT, October 2021 Final

TDECU				\$90,477.47	
Merrill Lynch Cash				\$245,111.40	
Merrill Lynch Certificates of Deposit				\$149,458.02	*
ACCOUNT BALANCE				\$485,046.89	G
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FUNDED GRANTS and ALLOCATED FUNDS	Grantor	Total Awarded	Amount Spent	Amt Available	
20131230 McGovern Brazoria NWR non committed	Katherine McGovern	270,279.33	168,871.21	101,408.12	
20131220 McGovern San Bernard NWR	Katherine McGovern	127,000.00	70,095.17	56,904.83	
20130919 Poole Track Land Acquisition	Trull Foundation	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	
20181231 Houston Endowment Land Acquisition 4	Houston Endowment	325,000.00	300,972.19	24,027.81	*
20201228 Houston Endowment Land Acquisition 5	Houston Endowment	150,000.00	4,300.00	145,700.00	E
20170811 Cedar Lake Plantation Trail	ATFN 17 FOBWR	62,155.96	43,756.10	18,399.86	
20160728 Cedar Lake Cut Lands See NOTES \$30,000.00 Reimbursement	USFWS	30,000.00	30,000.00	-	*
20161205 Bobcat Woods Matching Grant (see NOTE)	FOBWR	246,694.90	246,146.44	548.46	A
20210722 Black Rail Habitat (\$78,000 Reimbursable grant)	USFWS	-	-	-	
TOTAL ALLOCATED FUNDS		\$1,221,130.19	\$864,141.11	\$356,989.08	
FOBWR PROJECTS		Amt Allocated	Amount Spent	Amt Available	
46400 Birds of Prey	FOBWR	36,688.00	12,250.00	24,438.00	*
Migration Celebration	FOBWR	32,573.06	11,844.31	20,728.75	C
20170101 BNWR Donation Box	Donations	1,892.57	716.86	1,175.71	*
20201231 General Donations, Membership Fees, Etc.	Donations	3,518.36	-	3,518.36	D
20210101 Barbara Burkhardt	Memorial	840.00	-	840.00	*
20140403 Law Enforcement Restitution	Federal Court Fines	7,916.11	6,080.76	1,835.35	H
20190601 ATFN 2019 Cannan Bend	FOBWR	211,436.29	164,328.22	47,108.07	*
TOTAL FOBWR PROJECTS		\$294,864.39	\$195,220.15	\$99,644.24	B

OPERATIONS		\$27,455.37	\$14,027.44	\$13,427.93	* E , F
FUNDS IN TRANSIT				\$14,985.64	* I
TDECU SAVINGS				\$15.70	
TOTAL Funds in Bank Accounts				\$485,062.59	

COMPLETED PROJECTS OR GRANTS

NOTES

20161205 Bobcat Woods Trail: Grant \$160,000.00 plus \$53,641.00 2015 ATFN plus \$17,000.00 McGovern plus \$16,053.90 refunds deposit acct

*A 20160728 Cedar Lake Cut Lands is now complete. Final reimbursement was received May 2021.

*C 46400 Birds of Prey 2021 beginning funds balance \$21,396.00

*D Migration celebration 2021 beginning balance \$19,051.00

*F 12/31/20 A blank check was stolen from a check book and made out for \$4,437.94 and cashed by TDECU

A fraud report has been filed with TDECU and the Lake Jackson police dept. 1/4/20. Reimbursed January 2021 full amount

*H Added new line to fully capture misc revenue & expenses; beginning balance consists of Dec 31, 2020 Excess Funds Available for Projects (-1,317.92), which was temporarily decreased due to stolen check on TDECU account (\$4,437.94)

*I Accounts Receivable/Payable & bank activity not yet posted

MOTIONS

*B Mar 2020 Combined Hickner Memorial Fund \$51,570.00 & 2019 ATFN (net \$53,866.29) & added \$50,000.00 Hickner donation

Mar 2021 reclassified \$56,000.00 from McGovern Brazoria

*E 11/13/20 Per Board guidelines 7% was allocated to Admin expenses from Houston Endowment # 4

*G Merrill Lynch account now includes three Certificates of Deposit for \$50,000 each. Maturity dates are Feb 03, 2022, Feb 03, 2023, Feb 20, 2024

Balance is net of unrealized market gains/losses and includes estimated accrued interest.