

Minutes Board of Directors
Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges
12/10/12 – DRAFT Marty's Revisions 11Jan13

Action items are in **BOLD**

Minutes by Mickey Dufilho

Meeting called to order by Ed Barrios, President, at 12:30 PM

Attendees:

- Board Members: Mickey Dufilho, Ed Barrios, David Plunkett, Neal McLain, Marty Cornell, Phil Huxford, Ron Bisbee, Tom Taroni and Denis Mudderman
- Refuge Staff : Jennifer Sanchez , Tom Schneider, and Shane Kasson

Minutes – Mickey Dufilho

- Minutes from 8/13/12 were corrected. Motion to accept Phil, second David. Motion passed
- Minutes from 8/31/12 special meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept Ron, second David. Motion Passed

Financial Report – Submitted by e-mail by Krissy Plunkett, Treasurer

- Account balance \$191,028.62
- Allocated funds \$154,876.24
- General funds \$36,152.38

Review of Action Items

- **Completed action items**
 - **Swap of Funds – Purchase 3 iPads for Jr. Naturalist Program instead of materials for Kiosk**
 - **Name Badges – Phil will bring examples of new name badges in order to have new badges made for the board**
 - **Mickey will get samples of shirts for Board Members. Decided this was not needed**
 - **H.R. 3009 – Revise and send letter from Friend's Board to Ron Paul, Randy Weber and members of the House Natural Resources Committee – Mickey Dufilho**

Uncompleted action items

- **Tom Schneider will purchase a sign to recognize Al Clarke by the date of the first DEEP session and invite the Clarkes to the program – Friends will pay \$1600 for sign. Due 2/1/13**
- **Marty will get with Mike Lange with Houston Endowment to pursue another \$300,000 grant for land acquisition. 2/1/13**
- **Marty will get with Shane to get information about getting a grant for Bobcat Woods trail upgrade. 2/1/13**
- **Purchase of Microscopes - 4 dissecting microscopes. Date ?????**
- **Name Badges – Phil will order after board members are elected in January – 2/1/13**
- **USFWS to prioritize volunteer opportunities – due 2/1/13**
- **Maintain catalog of volunteer opportunities – due 2/1/13 Who is responsible?**

- **Re-engage our past members – Ed will talk to Krissy to get current membership and Neal will send e-mail distribution list by 2/1/13**
- **Revised membership brochures – Done by whom?**
- **Review our email distribution list – Ed will review current membership list and e-mail distribution with Krissy by 2/1/13**
- **Sarah will work on design of business cards**

Current Business

- Volunteer appreciation dinner tentatively set of 2/13/13

Grants Update – Marty Cornell

- Marty reported that two grants have been completed since the last board meeting in August, to wit, the \$32,000 GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan Phase IV grant (20110729), and the Fish Casting Shelter near the Discovery Center (grant 20110928, \$3,000 from the family of Al Clarke)
- Ron Bisbee submitted the final report on the above Mottled Duck Phase IV grant to NAWCA in November and noted that total spending was \$28.50 over the grant amount. Ron listed the major accomplishments of this grant as:

313.5 acres of wetland/moist soil units were created and/or restored (original goal = 250 acres).

>2,000 acres of native prairie and wetlands treated for exotic invasive plants, primarily Chinese tallow.

Old 18" irrigation well was rehabilitated to double it's production of quality fresh water.

- ~~**Marty will check to see what the residual funds are on the Clarke Grant.**~~ The fish casting shelter is complete, in use, and awaits a dedication ceremony, which in turn is dependent upon when a plaque noting the memory of Al Clarke is delivered. Tom Schneider is working on getting this plaque made. It was noted that the \$77.89 spent on this shelter as stated in the Treasurer's Report above appeared to be inaccurately low. This could be explained by the fact that many of the materials used in its construction were donated from USFWS inventory, but the concrete work alone should have been more that the listed expenditures. Marty Cornell will get with Krissy Plunkett to clarify the actual costs. Board action will then be needed to release residual funds of this grant to our general fund.
- ~~**Dow Woods Grant – Refuge requested to have a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Friends to give \$70,000 from the Fish Passage funds to be added to the Friend's \$40,000 to complete the culvert, trail and support facilities at the Dow Woods. Marty moved to accept the Challenge Cost Share Agreement. Second Ren. Motion passed**~~ An opportunity exists for Friends to get a \$70,000 grant from USFWS funds dedicated to "fish passage structures" to build the crossing of Bastrop Bayou in the Dow Woods Unit of the SBNWR. To do so, Friends will need to enter into a cooperative agreement with the USFWS. The amount, if any, matching money and/or in-kind funds required of the Friends is at this point uncertain, but there is \$49,495.90 remaining in money that the board has dedicated to constructing this crossing as part of the Dow Woods Trail Grant (20091123); this residual is from both the remaining money in the Dow Woods Pavilion grant (20100623), and from McGovern gift funds

that the board has reserved for the bayou crossing. Marty Cornell moved that the Friends apply for this grant; the motion was seconded by Ron Bisbee, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

- ~~**Birding Initiative – Denis will check with Krissy to see what has actually been spent on this project. Denis thinks \$700.00 has been spent. Financial report shows \$282.91.**~~ From the treasurer's report above, it is unclear how much has been spent on our Brazoria Birding Initiative grant (20110926) Grant administrator Denis Mudderman thinks that about \$700 has been spent, although the financial report shows only \$282.91 in expenditures. Denis will check with Krissy to resolve this discrepancy. Denis recommended finishing the kiosk and two blinds before the Christmas season
- Marty reported that \$238,445.30 of the \$300,000 Land Acquisition Discovery grant (20111115) from the Houston Endowment has been spent.
- ~~**Texas Red Oak Tract - 212.7 acres will be purchased by complex Migratory Funds ????**~~ Our initiative, working with Mike Lange of the USFWS, failed to get funding for pre-acquisition and discovery costs to purchase the 212.7 acre Texas Red Oak Tract. We were seeking \$424,280 from the O'Quinn Foundation
- Friends is pursuing a second large grant (around \$400,000) from the Houston Endowment Grant working with Mike Langue, and with Suzette Chapman, who is writing grant for pre-acquisition and discovery. For this grant Marty noted that the percent participation of board members in financially contributing to the Friends group is needed; he thus requested that board members update their monetary and time contributions for 2012.
- Friends has received \$5000 in restitution money, registered as the Lansetta Restitution Grant 20120810,. This money will be used to replant trees.

New Business

- **Shane proposed to develop a grant for the 2013 Sea Turtle Coordinator. This concept is to provide an educational stipend for a local student. Motion by Ron, second Phil. Motion passed**
 - **Tom Taroni will find out how GCBO handles tax reporting and grant for a similar position at GCBO**
 - **Shane will write job description and will send to Marty, Mickey and Phil by 12/20/13**
 - **After job description is developed, Phil will contact Phillips 66 to see if there is interest in funding**
 - **Phil will contact Phillips for a contact name for Conoco Phillips**

Refuge Update – Jennifer

- Jennifer gave presentation on Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area proposal.
- Friends decided they did not need to be involved as long as the refuge had representation on the Advisory council. If Jennifer thinks the Friends need to be represented in the future, she will let us know.

Migration Celebration Update – David Plunkett

- Changes for Friday night event – no silent auction, dinner and speaker only along with photo contest.
- Trying to encourage exhibitors to be in attendance for both days.

Outreach – David

- 2/23/13 – Nature Day – Sea Center Texas

- 3/2/13 – Heritage Day Brazoria?
- 3/29/13 – Angleton Wal-Mart Bake Sale ?
- 3/30/13 – Brazos Mall?
- 4/6/13 – Brazos Mall?
- 4/12/13 – Migration Celebration Dinner
- 4/20-21/13 – Migration Celebration
- 5/4/13 Sweeny Pride Day?
- 5/9-10/13 – Coastal Expo-Beach Festival at Matagorda Bay Nature Park
- 7/6/13 – Coastal Expo, RiverPlace in Freeport?
- 9/7/13 and 9/14/13 – XHX at GCBO (mornings only)?
- 10/19/13 – 7th Annual KBR Kids Day on Buffalo Bayou?
- 11/2/13 – Prairie Day/Rosenberg?
- 11/16/13 – LJ Festival of Lights

Other announcements

- **Dec. 27 – Jan 1 – Open House at the Discovery Center. Denis requested volunteers to help and will send out a schedule for help.**

Adjourn 2:25 PM