

**Board Meeting**  
**Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges**  
**Thursday, August 9, 2011, Chili's Restaurant, Lake Jackson, Texas**

**Attendees:** Ed Barrios, Ron Bisbee, Marty Cornell, Mickey Dufilho, Phil Huxford, Neal McLain, David Plunkett, Krissy Plunkett, Jennifer Sanchez, Tom Schneider, Tom Taroni, Torry Tvedt.

President Ed Barrios opened the board meeting at ~1:00

Treasurer Krissy Plunkett presented the following financial report:

FRIENDS OF BRAZORIA WILDLIFE REFUGES  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
August 8, 2011

TOTAL FUNDS ON HAND	\$163,102.45
<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>	<u>\$142,954.80</u>
Deerslayer Program	\$780.00
Cox Native Tree Restoration	\$500.00
Dow Woods Pavilion	\$52,349.00
McGovern Brazoria Refuge	\$9,500.00*
McGovern San Bernard Refuge	\$28,100.00
Reforestation Program	\$2,500.00
Houston Endowment	\$20,000.00
Dow Woods	\$29,225.80**
 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	 \$20,117.65

\*McGovern will increase once reimbursed for half of Discovery Center Display costs.

\*\* Monies reimbursed from TPWD Dow Woods Grant (If not applied to DW could be freed up for cash flow on other grants.)

EXPECTED FUNDS

USFWS Reimbursement DC Display	\$9,750.00
Dow Community Grant	\$25,000.00

Marty Cornell noted that there is a balance of \$23,946.36 due from TP&WD for the Dow Woods Trail project upon our submittal of expenses for reimbursement.

**Grants:**

A report on the status of Friends grants was given during the general meeting that immediately preceded this board meeting. Noted was the granting of \$32,000 from the USFWS under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) for our Mottled Duck Conservation - Phase IV project. This is a reimbursement grant, requiring submission of receipts for compensation. USFWS is converting to a new accounting system, and will not be making payments for the next several months. The board agreed that Friends has sufficient reserves to begin the project and thus we do not need to wait for the resumption of the NAWCC reimbursement process to begin our project.

### **Spending Approval:**

Mickey Dufilho moved, Torry Tvedt seconded, and the board unanimously approved spending up to \$1,200.00 for supplies to support the DEEP; these supplies include books and easels. The costs are to be taken from our general funds, noting specifically that this expenditure reflects money from our bake sales.

Krissy Plunkett will be purchasing the Total Adobe Suite software at a discounted \$170 through TechSoup, who facilitate non-profit purchases through Adobe. In a like manner, Cisco has offered discounted flip cameras to non-profits and Krissy has purchased four 6-packs at \$55 each; this yields 24 flip cameras to be used in our environmental education programs. The camera's 4 gig capacity enables one hour of filming.

### **Partnership Agreement:**

Friends is required to execute a partnership agreement with the TMCNWRC. Denis Mudderman has drafted an agreement that complies with the new template from the USFWS. Denis, Jennifer Sanchez, and Ed Barrios are working to simplify the initial 17 page initial document. The refined proposed partnership agreement will be presented to the board for approval, then sent to the USFWS Region II for final approval. Once this is done, the Friends bylaws will require changing to reflect the obligations of the partnership agreement.

### **Refuge Update:**

Jennifer Sanchez covered several items in her update on refuge activities.

The CCP for the complex is nearing completion, and after approval from the region, must be published in the Federal Register with a call for public comment; this review period will last 60 days. Each board member will be given a disc copy of the document, targeting the end of September for disbursement.

The biggest recent initiatives of the refuge of late have been the execution of the Junior Naturalist pilot program, and finishing the Dow Woods projects. A group of YCC members were employed by the complex to finish the installation of the metal edging on the southeast segment of the Dow Woods trails. Work crews from the complex will now infill the path with crushed concrete. One goal is to have this trail completed by the October 15th opening ceremonies for Dow Woods.

The biggest problem currently facing the refuge is the severe drought. Critical water for wildlife is in part supplied through water initially allocated for rice farming, then flowed "downstream" into refuge ponds.

The drought will prevent the practice of management by controlled burning during the normally prime months September and October. Suggestions were made that it would be especially desirable to eradicate as much Chinese tallow as practical at the Dow Woods Unit before its grand opening. A "hack and treat" day by Friends was suggested.

Jennifer has prepared four issues of the complex newsletter "Refuge Beat", believing this to be an important communication tool. She requested help on this initiative. A "help wanted" request by Neal McLain for someone to take over the long-dormant FOBWR newsletter "Wing Beats" was included in the August TMN-COT newsletter.

At the October board meeting, Jennifer will present an updated priority list for refuge projects.

### **Dow Woods Open House, Saturday, October 15, 2011**

A committee is being formed to plan the above "coming out party" for the Dow Woods. After discussion, it became apparent that all of the Friends board of directors wants to be involved with this project. It is deemed important to also have representatives from Dow to participate on the planning committee. The initial meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, at 2:00 pm at the complex headquarters office, pending the availability of Dow participants.

### **Outreach:**

David Plunkett noted that volunteers will be needed for the Friends booth at the upcoming eleventh annual Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza at the GCBO on Saturday, September 10 & 17 from 8:00 until noon.

The Matagorda Bay Nature Center has requested Friends participation, with our reptiles, at a September 9th event at the Colorado County Fairgrounds in Columbus, Texas. David recommends doing this in partnership with the newly formed friends group from the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR.

Phil Huxford reported that Mike Leebron, the owner of the newly reconstructed Brazos Belle cruise boat, would like our help in developing a script of the flora and fauna likely to be encountered along the tour route of this boat on the Brazos River. The "Belle" is docked on the east side of the river, across from East Columbia. This request stimulated a suggestion that a Friends-only event might be of interest; it is thought that the fair is \$35 per person, with perhaps a capacity of 50 people. No action item resulted from this discussion.

### **Board of Directors:**

A revision of the bylaws of the FOBWR was unanimously approved by the membership at the general meeting immediately preceding this Friends board meeting. This revision authorizes up to 15 members to serve on the board. There are currently 13 board members. The bylaws allow the board to nominate and approve new members of the board to unfilled vacancies. Neal

McLain moved and Phil Huxford seconded a motion to add Sarah Heller to the board. The motion passed unanimously.

**Migration Celebration:**

Ed Barrios announced that Gary Clark has agreed to our week-early date for his MC12 kickoff address.

Marty Cornell stated that the MC11 analysis report is a work-in-progress, targeting the next board meeting for presenting the draft.

The next board meeting is set for Friday, October 7th, tentatively at Hudson Woods. The next general meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th, tentatively at the Discovery Center pending reactivation of the solar panel system.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM

Submitted by Marty Cornell, substituting for Friends Secretary Ed Johnson.