

**FRIENDS OF MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008, 1:00 P.M.  
TANGIPAHOA PLANNING OFFICE, CLAUSEN BULDING, CLUB DELUX RD., HAMMOND, LA.**

**Introduction/Welcome Guests/Quorum Call**

Board attendance:

Frank Neelis, Chair  
Alma Chasez, Treasurer  
Ben Taylor, Secretary  
Galen Schum  
Rev. Donald August  
Lisa Williams, USPS  
- 6 of 13 present - a quorum was not achieved.

Also in attendance:

Clay James, LADOTD  
Joey Hebert, Manchac Boating Assoc.  
Terry Jones, The Village at Port Manchac

**Acceptance of 8/29/18 MINUTES:**

- Without a quorum, no vote was taken, however, as the board had no comment or corrections to these minutes after prior distribution by e-mail they can be considered as accepted.

**Financials:**

- Alma reported a current bank account balance of \$2,881.82.

**Update on developments in St. John the Baptist Parish:**

- St. John Keep America Beautiful will have a litter clean-up October 15. Contact Za Maurin at (985) 703-0917 for information.
- The Laplace Andouille Festival will be held October 19, 20 and 21 in front of the St. John the Baptist Parish Courthouse on Airline Hwy. The Friends of the Manchac Greenway plans to have a booth there and is seeking volunteers.
- The final alignment of the new storm surge protection levee for the northern, developed areas of the Mississippi River's natural levee in St. John have been approved for construction. While the overall footprint leaves most of the wetlands south of I-10 connected to the Maurepas ecosystem, where it intersects with the interstate and old U.S. 51 (the Greenway) will cause local access problems.
- The Rev. Don reported the StJB Parish Communications Director is Baileigh Rebowe Helm and we should look to her office and the St. John Television station for assistance in promoting the Greenway and our group's activities.
- Don will be soliciting a large corporation in the parish to help fund a boardwalk on the gravel and dirt Maurepas Swamp WMA Trail just north of Frenier. This much-needed improvement would make the frequently flooded path more attractive and useful to the public.

**Bike Event:**

- Reminder: the 15-mile "Freedom Ride" bicycling event on the Greenway will be October 27 and start and end at Bec's on the Lake in Frenier Village, Laplace. The event will have a \$25 registration fee and a band, food and beverages available. A FMG information table will also be set

up.

### **Web Site:**

- (trumpet fanfare) The launch of the new web site prepared by George Becnel for the Friends of the Manchac Greenway is imminent!

### **Membership Committee:**

- Galen gave a report on his Survey Monkey survey of FMG Board members as to preferences for a membership program (fee, terms/renewals, etc.). Ben suggested also contacting prospective members on our current list of individuals who are interested in the Greenway with a similar inquiry.

### **Adopt-A-Road/Sunset Point:**

These groups have committed to the LA DOTD Adopt-A-Road Program so far:

- Manchac Boating Assoc. has previously been committed to the areas around Pass Manchac and the North Pass boat launch
- Friends of the Manchac Greenway - the last mile in the Joyce WMA area
- Bec's on the Lake – 1<sup>st</sup> mi. of the south end
- NOLA Kayak – Shell Bank area
- Canoe & Trail Adventures – Shell Bank area
- Wild Louisiana Tours – Shell Bank area
- Tangipahoa Sheriff's Dept. – Owl Bayou area

These groups must first sign papers and attend an orientation session at either the LA DOTD office in Laplace or Hammond. They will receive equipment and supplies from the local LADOTD office prior to each quarterly trash pick-up. Twenty more miles to go! Please forward any new adopter recommendations via e-mail reply.

### **Update on Restore Program/Consultants in Tangipahoa Parish:**

- Ben reported on a recent meeting with Parish officials overseeing an appropriation resulting from the BP oil spill. The primary focus of the investigation and study will be about what's been called the "Squeeze," the gap between the northern end of the Greenway and south Ponchatoula where the Canadian National Railroad and U.S. DOT rights of way come together. A thorough analysis of the costs, engineering and legal aspects of this project will be made.

### **Port of Manchac Update:**

- Fact-finding on the profit and loss history of this half-century old intramodal transportation site and the environmental consequences of re-developing it for housing and recreation are ongoing.

### **Vegetation Update:**

- With the recent adoption of the Upper Owl Bayou canoe launch site by the Tangipahoa Sheriff's Dept. and with the assistance of Entergy's vegetation management program, it is hoped a vegetation management template for the entire Greenway can be developed.

### **New Business:**

- Ben, George and Melinda will meet with Amber Garrard at the SLU Small Business Development Center on Oct. 11 to discuss developing a presentation for the Ring Around the Lake bike trail concept.

- Lisa expressed her idea of posting "No Dumping" signs at fishing spots on the Greenway. We will inquire with the LADOTD and report at the next meeting.

- Ben asked LADOTD representative Clay what it might take to change the highway signs at the interstate exits to the Greenway from "Frontage Road" to "Manchac Greenway" and, furthermore, to notify traffic on I-10 that the scenic Manchac Greenway is an alternate route north. Clay indicated the state legislature would have to be involved. Ben noted the LADOTD has previously recognized the Manchac Greenway on the highway's bike route signs and suggested letters from local municipal and parish officials may be needed for new signage.

### **Adjournment.**

### **Next Meeting:**

2:00, Wednesday, October 17, 2018, Turtle Cove Research Station Office, Galva, LA

Announcement: The November meeting will be at 2:00 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and will be held aboard the "Dr. Rob Express" Turtle Cove boat on its way to and at Turtle Cove Research Station on Pass Manchac. We'll return when we return. Dress for the weather.

Reminder: Check out the 20 min video on the "History of the Manchac Swamp Eco-System and Turtle Cove" at [www.southeastern.edu/turtlecove](http://www.southeastern.edu/turtlecove).