

FRIENDS of the MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) MEETING AGENDA 2:00, Thursday, November 17, 2022 @ the Gator's Den Sunset Stop "roundtable," Galva, LA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Thomas Dumas, Thomas Malik - St John Parish Council District 7, Frank Neelis - FMG Contractor, Tara Lambeth - St John Parish Planning and Zoning Director, Ben Taylor, Greg Za Maurin, Galen Schum, Dwight Williams - Pontchartrain Conservancy, Eva Hillman and Warren "Bosco" Torres - St John Parish Council District 2

10/27/22 MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Galen Schum reported that, after current obligations are met, the balance in our account will be \$7,290.26. Ben motioned to accept and Za seconded.

CONTRACTOR REPORT:

- FMG Contractor Frank Neelis reported attending a meeting of the Environment and Health Council of Louisiana where the problems of storm surges into Lake Maurepas were discussed.
- Frank also made note that the 2023 Coastal Master Plan is currently up for comment and that protection and long term planning for the Manchac isthmus/land bridge must be included. He made note of his further research on the possible use of Mangrove and bamboo in the shifting ecology on the isthmus.
- Eva mentioned Pontchartrain Conservancy has made this a target area and Dwight Williams urged our group to make comments.

GREENWAY PLANNING:

- Tangipahoa Parish - Ben was preparing a memo to urge Parish Councilwoman Bridgette DeLatte to reconvene the Tangipahoa Parish Manchac Greenway Committee. He also reported composing a letter to Tangipahoa Parish President Robbie Miller asking him to sign a Joint Use Agreement with the LA DOTD to claim the LA 33 roadbed (the old Hammond Highway) for future use as a pedestrian and cycling trail.

- St John Parish - Ms. Lambeth mentioned items pending: Sam Buckley of the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission is to help finalize planning for the Greenway in Laplace; her Scenic Byway grant application will be due after the first of the year; in order to finalize a Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority grant for Sunset Park, questions about habitat analysis, recreation benefits, etc. must be answered. Ms. Lambeth also noted she continues to research other grant opportunities for the Greenway in St John Parish.

- Regional Planning Commission - Ben related his recent communication with the RPC's Sam Buckley who advised him a report on the Louisiana Bootlace Bike Trail meeting in Mandeville is pending as well as plans for moving this project forward.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Ben reported on the recent Restore the Earth Foundation meeting in Akers about their impressive program to plant trees on the Isthmus of Manchac. Their long-term goals include promoting financial, intellectual, human, social & relationships in the isthmus and may hold opportunities for the FMG's collaboration.

- Lake Maurepas CO2 storage:

Tom noted how poorly the public was educated and prepared to accept this program, being told, instead, in no uncertain terms: "This what we're going to do."

Mr. Williams described some of the chemical processes involved in this program, noting the resulting carbolic acid must stay-put underground and the questionable integrity of the site's overburden due to unknown faults. He stated no land owners have yet granted permission for the necessary seismic surveying.

Mr. Torres expressed his concerns for Parish water wells and pipelines.

OUTREACH

- Za reported the placement of the live oak tree planted in memory of the Reverend Donald August is currently being approved by all concerned parties.

- The fourth quarterly litter pickup on FMG's adopted mile of the Manchac Greenway is planed for 9:00, December 10, 2022 from the Joyce WMA Swampwalk Boardwalk parking lot. Ya'll come,

COMMENTS

NEXT MEETING:

2:00, Thursday, January 25, 2023 at _____ (Frenier? Tara StJtBP?)