

FRIENDS of the MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) BOARD MEETING MINUTES- 2:00, Wednesday, April 26, 2023 @ Sunset Stop/Gator's Den, Galva, LA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tom Dumas, Lisa Williams, Ben Taylor, Dov Block (St John Parish Planning), George Coxen (Chief, Manchac Volunteer Fire Dept.) and Greg Za Maurin

The MEETING MINUTES of 3/22/23 were accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The current FMG account balance is \$7,820.47.

GREENWAY PLANNING:

Louisiana Recreational Trails Program - This program may be best suited for small improvements/attractions on the Greenway, ex.: paving the Maurepas Swamp Nature Trail near Peavine Road with gravel, park equipment at Sunset Park, etc. Further research is warranted as there is a July 1st deadline.

US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Program - Ben reported the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission advised they have applied for this grant to pay for a transportation plan for Tangipahoa, St Tammany, St John and St Charles Parishes. In addition, a proposed FMG application for this grant for the engineering needed to help solve the "Squeeze" in the marshes south of Ponchatoula would, therefore, be redundant and we were advised by NORPC to not pursue this.

St John Parish - Mr. Block reported word has yet to materialize about the Scenic Byways grant for a Master Plan for the Greenway. He will research the disposition of monies allocated by the parish for this purpose as well as his parish's application for a Hometown Grant.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Tree Plantings - Lisa reported she recently planted Bald Cypress and Live Oak on the Greenway. Za related that several tree were donated and planted recently by FMG, Keep America Beautiful and other organizations at a location in Laplace in memory of FMG Board member Rev. Donald August.

Sunset Park - St John Parish has redoubled its commitment to the upkeep of the park. Dirt to cap the rip-rap shoreline armoring is planned as are other park improvements.

Lake Maurepas CO2 storage - Ben described a recent e-mail detailing how interested parties can support four legislative efforts to curb the proposal to store CO2 under Lake Maurepas. See the attachment to this memo.

OUTREACH:

Adopt-A-Road - The FMG Litter collection on Saturday, April 22 was a success, with some twenty of Eva's Biology students pitching in.

NEXT MEETING:

2:00 Wednesday, May 31, 2023 @ The Gator's Den / Sunset Stop, Galva, LA