

## **FRIENDS of the MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) MEETING MINUTES**

**2:00, Thursday, September 29, 2022 @ the Turtle Cove Office, 87 Alligator Lane, Galva, LA**

ATTENDANCE: Tara Lambeth (St. John Parish Planning), Robert Arcuri (St. John Parish Council District 5), Frank Neelis (FMG Contractor), Eva Hillman, Ben Taylor, Greg Za Maurin, Dwight Williams (Pontchartrain Conservancy) and Dr. James Nelson.

### APPROVAL OF 8/25/22 MEETING MINUTES

#### FINANCIAL REPORT -

Galen Schum's report stated \$7,570.91 in operating funds are currently available. A mysterious \$30.00 stop payment debit will be explained at the next meeting.

#### CONTRACTOR REPORT

Frank learned Hwy. 30 (the old Hammond Hwy.) is still claimed by the LA DOTD in both Tangipahoa and St. John Parishes. He will now research if a former Joint Use Agreement for a bike trail on this track in Tangipahoa Parish can be duplicated in St. John.

Frank and Ms. Lambeth reported that Urban Systems' plans for Manchac Greenway bike paths from the Mississippi River levee-top bike path through Laplace are nearing completion and the plans for the Greenway from I-10 north should be the next phase.

Ben mentioned the Louisiana Bootlace Trail will be issuing a report about its recent meeting at the Mandeville Tammany Trace Trailhead and will include future directions for this project.

#### GREENWAY MASTER PLAN(S) / FUNDING

Tara Lambeth reported that St. John Parish's application for a National Scenic Byways grant to help pay for a Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway is still pending. In addition, the Parish has applied for funding from the Restoration Act (from the BP oil spill) for shoreline protection at Sunset Park on the Greenway.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE:

The St. John Parish Parks and Recreation Dept. has returned Sunset Park into nearly good-as-new-condition after it had been severely deranged by Hurricane Ida: there are mown lawns, repaired fencing, re-paved parking and all new picnic pavilions.

Eva reported 1,500 cypress tree were recently planted on Southeastern Louisiana University Development Foundation land on western Jones Island.

The Restore the Earth Foundation will have an organizational meeting at Middendorfs Restaurant in Manchac on November 11 to inform interested groups about planned tree planting activities in local LAW&F WMA areas. FMG Board Members Eva Hillman and Lisa Williams have agreed to represent our group.

Mr. Williams reported seismic work, test wells, prop-washing in Lake Maurepas and dredging in Lake Pontchartrain at the entrance to Pass Manchac have been commenced in anticipation of a carbon storage project under Maurepas. Port Manchac on the Greenway has been contracted to assist in this operation. However, poor prior public education about the project, its sudden "proclaimed certainty," a historic mistrust of elements in the oil & gas industry and of state regulators and the public's love of Lake Maurepas and surrounding wetlands have conspired to raise objections to this project.

Mr. Williams solicited questions he can submit at a future hearing on this project which he'll be attending. He can be reached at [dwight@scienceforourcoast.org](mailto:dwight@scienceforourcoast.org).

### OUTREACH

The 150 mile NOMA to NOMA Bicycle Race around Lake Pontchartrain will be on the Greenway the morning of Oct. 2 and FMG will set up an information tent and cheer-on the racers.

Za reported he is representing FMG's participation in the planting of a Live Oak tree to honor the late FMG Board Member Reverend Donald August. FMG members are encouraged to make a small donation toward this purchase.

Ben announced the third quarterly litter pickup on FMG's adopted mile on the Manchac Greenway will be 9:00, Saturday, October 22, 2022. Meet at the Joyce WMA parking lot for bags and safety vests and bring a grabber.

### NEXT MEETING:

2:00, Thursday, October 27, 2022 @ St. John the Baptist Parish Council Chambers, 1811 W. Airline Hwy., Laplace, LA