

DOG ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWS & QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes for Q2 Board meeting held January 7, 2023

Announcement Q3, 2023 Board meeting to be held **April 15**, at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club (weather permitting).

SPECIAL NOTICE: Duke Power's contractors are working on the installation of the new power system on DI for the next few months. They WILL at times block the road with their heavy equipment SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO DRIVE ON THE DUNES OR BIRD-NESTING AREAS. PLEASE do NOT harass them if they slow you down a few minutes because they are blocking the road. Try to BE COURTEOUS please.

We still have **CONTINUED ABUSE** OF COMPACTOR. THIS CANNOT HAPPEN. **No Wood. No Metal. No plastic. No electronics. No furniture** of any kind in compactor. **DO NOT PUT THAT STUFF IN OUR COMPACTOR.**

Ray Appen
319 N Main St.
Alpharetta, GA
30009

Label here

NEWS & QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATE

To: Fellow Dog Island Property Owners

From: Dog Island Conservation District Board of Directors

Ray Appen	Chairman	rayappen@gmail.com
Eddie Hudson	Vice-Chair	eddie@hudsonaircraft.com
David Brady	Treasurer	dbbrady59@gmail.com
Bill Stone	Board Member	williamstone1048@gmail.com
Nancy Kellett	Board Member	nkelllett@gmail.com

ITEM 1. AGENDA – April 15, 2023 DICD Board Meeting (10:30 AM Yacht Club) – Q2

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Chairman Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Island Manager Report
- 7 Volunteer Fire Department Report
8. Airport Committee Report
9. Old Business

- A) Duke Energy Grid overhaul
- B) Dog Island Hurricane Response Preparedness
- C) Amnesty Day
- D) Island Manager position
- E) Digital document repository update (SmartSheet)

10. New Business

- A) On-going or Board subjects
- B) Nominating Committee Report

11. Adjourn

ITEM 2. Minutes January 7, 2023 DICD Board Meeting

Call to order. 10:30 Board Members present: Appen, Hudson, Stone, Kellett. Brady out of town.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve Agenda made by Stone, second Kellett, unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of Minutes** from previous meeting: Motion to approve Stone, second Hudson, unanimously approved.

3. **Chair Report:** None

4. **Treasurer Report:** Dave left his report for the meeting and Stone reads into record. On budget for current fiscal year. Revenue is steady and all tax money is coming in as expected. Dave expressed concern that Island insurance expenses continue to escalate substantially. Of note, the District currently carries 7 policies including various Liability (General, Board of Directors, Property - dock, shop, land etc., Tractor and Truck vehicle insurance, LCM liability and pollution) policies. Dave states that we “are in good shape for the coming year.” Stone makes note that it is important that we have roughly \$80,000 currently in the FEMA match fund. We are on budget. Stone noted that it is important for property owners to understand that the District only receives a portion of overall ad valorem tax revenue that is paid by property owners – 4 mils of the total 14.25 mils collected by Franklin County within the DICD. That equates, Stone stated, to recently about \$100,000 per year in tax revenue to the District with which the District funds all services; pays the Island Manager; pays for all insurance policies, mandatory audit, submerged land lease, and bookkeeping services; and maintains all the equipment including the roughly \$25,000 per year in maintenance expense for the landing craft. So, Stone stated, that if a property owner pays say in round terms \$2,000 in property tax to Franklin County, the District gets a little less than \$500 of that \$2,000. A copy of Treasurer’s report is available for anyone who wants to request one. Motion to accept treasurer report made by Hudson, second Kellett, unanimously approved.

5. **Island Manager Report:** Randy said things have been steady/slow. Duke Energy/Primoris has been the main “activity” in that they are in process of moving materials over to the Island in order to rebuild our entire power grid. Stated that latter part of February or March he plans to haul the Landing Craft out. Randy suggested that we might wait for the new Island Manager to start before we haul out the landing craft so he (or she) can participate in that annual process. Stone reminded the Board that this year the landing craft must have an official marine survey (for insurance purposes) and that can be difficult to make happen, plus can be expensive. Randy mentioned that Dockside may have staff who can do the survey. Stone reminded Randy that we need to make sure that whoever we use to have the survey done must be acceptable to our insurance company so there must be coordination. Stone said he will find out what certifications our insurance company requires. Randy made the comment that the new marine survey will undoubtedly generate specific maintenance / repairs that must be made and that these will be unbudgeted expenses – please note Mr. Brady. Ray commented that the roads are looking better and better. Randy mentioned that the truck needs a water leak fixed. Lots of remodeling going on according to Randy. Temperature gauge on new tractor needs to be fixed and is under warranty according to Randy. Randy said he would put the tractor in the big container and haul it to Tallahassee for service and to get the temp gauge fixed. Motion to approve Report made by Stone, second Hudson, unanimously approved.

6. **Airport Committee Report:** Ray read Dr. Backerman’s report into the record. “No significant flooding. Turf in good condition. Low transient activity. No issues. Duke Energy/Primoris has taken over part of the taxi way area so Dr. Backerman said that it will need resodding/reseeding when they leave. Move to approve made by Stone, second Hudson, unanimously approved.

7. **Fire Department Report:** Not much going on. No first responder activity. Duke has moved one of their trucks out of the fire department building. Randy mentioned that Duke is supposed to be building a new storage building for their equipment and vehicles. The comment was made that this has been a possibility for quite some time. Ray brought up the idea of asking Duke to make space for District needs if they actually end up building a new structure. Chris Teaf made the comment that Dr. Backerman has transitioned out of being the Island’s primary health care go-to and that property owner and frequent Island resident Ed Atwell M.D. has volunteered to take over Ivan’s work on the Island. We all owe a huge note of thanks to both Drs. Backerman and Atwell. Chris Teaf suggested that we get a “Caduceus” sign for Ed’s house (that snake and shield thing). Ray said he would try to get the sign ordered. Ann Shanks noted that we still need another defibrillator box. Ann also noted that we need to create a map that shows the locations of the defibrillators around the island and also place the map in the kiosk by the ferry dock. Motion to approve made by Stone, second by Kellett, unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Duke Energy: Duke’s subcontractor Primoris has been bringing equipment over and has started work on the west end of the Island and are moving East. The schedule is such that they are trying to finish work on the west end and Cannonball

and both Narrows in advance of bird nesting season as well as turtle season. Primoris thinks they will be working on this for a number of months. Of note, Stone mentioned that the number of poles mandated by the upgrade being installed is at least double the current number in order to have a more secure / storm resistant system. Of note, Board member Stone has already invested a massive amount of personal effort, time, and energy meeting with Duke and making this huge (now up to \$3-5 million dollar investment) project a reality. We all owe Bill yet another “thank you.” Bill also reminded everyone that if you have question at all about Duke’s repowering the island, Rick Weaver is the contact for Duke and can be reached at 352-322-5376.

40 Acre Property Update: The Conservation Easement has been done. Final version of management action plan (dated August) has been completed. Request a copy from Mr. Stone if you wish. The property has been cleaned up during the September beach cleanup. Wooden bollards were installed (where informal roads were) in order to make sure that folks don’t drive on the property in any kind of vehicle. Ray brought up the question of whether there will be any kind of walkway markers so that property owners have a defined and easy to follow “path” to walk the property. Stone replied that for now that there were no plans to do this but did not rule out doing it at a later date. Kellett brought up status of the “stewardship fund” which is to provide funding for conservation efforts related to the 40 acres. This small amount of funds is available for studies relating to this unique parcel.

** Status of FEMA hurricane cleanup match was brought up. Stone said we have right at \$80K in the fund and will have \$85K after the District puts its annual \$5K in. The goal is to reach \$125K which would equate to 12.5% of the anticipated estimated 1 million dollar cost of the next big storm clean up. We would need the \$125k in order to qualify for FEMA/FL DEM match funds for storm remediation – assuming the anticipated cost.

** Also, a discussion was had regarding the lack of an official DI website. The Board - with Appen dissenting - is against having an official site that must be maintained. Appen made the comment that the Board needs to control or at least have the ability to control the DI narrative online or that someone else will do that in the vacuum created by the Board sticking its head in the sand.

Amnesty Day: Appen moved to table this ongoing topic until next meeting at which time Appen will move to have an official vote on Amnesty Day.

Island Manager Position: Copy of proposed RFP passed around. Advertising (locally and regionally) the position is scheduled. After publishing the RFP, potential vendors would have until March 15 to respond. At that time a non-Board review committee (Chris Teaf, Ken Jones, et.al.) would evaluate all submissions and quantify them by the pre-ordained value system, and then make a recommendation to the Board in the April meeting. Stone makes motion to adopt this RFP and its timeline. Second by Kellett, unanimously approved. Stone makes second point of business- makes a motion to **move the April meeting to April 15** instead of April 1 in order to provide the Board with a bit more time to process/deal with the contract letting of the new Island Manager, second Hudson, unanimously approved. If anyone wants a copy of the flyer for the position, contact Bill Stone.

Digital Document Repository (headed up by Board member Nancy Kellett): Background: Nancy /the Board has been working on creating a digital archive that is accessible both to the Board and the Public. The archive would store newsletters, documents, and other relevant data and would be a complement / supplement to The Island Guide which resides on DogIsland.net. The project has been going on for many months. Nancy proposed to budget \$7/mo for an **Smart Sheet Pro** account which would be the backend for the digital archive. Motion to approve Stone, second Hudson, unanimously approved. Appen brought up “who on the Board would manage the archive...”

NEW BUSINESS

Architecture Committee: There have been questions about this committee. To affirm, there is an Architecture Committee for Dog Island that must approve any new construction on the Island. Generally, the standards include minimum size (square feet) of a structure, composition, and position on lot as it relates to setbacks. Further, with regards to new construction on the Island, it is noted that in addition to compliance with building standards required by Dog Island, a new build or addition must also comply with Franklin County building standards and code. No new home construction on the Island is permitted without both an approved building permit from Franklin County as well as a sign off from the DICD Architecture Committee which currently is headed up by Larry Perlis.

MISC:

- Snowy Plovers have already been reported on East End and Narrows.
- Ann Shanks volunteered to organize a District sponsored Sea Oat purchase for anyone on Island who wishes to buy and plant Sea Oats this Spring. CONTACT ANN TO MAKE YOUR SEA OAT ORDER: 813-695-2304.
- Dead Vehicles: If you have a non-operational vehicle, please help us remove it by contacting Island Manager or Bill Stone. It is disrespectful to leave your dead vehicle on the island and not try to remove it. We WILL help you, just let us know.

** Please do not allow your children to play on and degrade island dune faces. They are our storm defense.

Motion to adjourn made by Kellett. Second Hudson. Unanimously approved.

AUDUBON REPORT

The Shorebirds and Seabirds of Dog Island February 2023

[Michael Ferrara, Audubon Florida Shorebird Biologist](#)

Hello Dog Island residents. Did you know that Dog Island is one of the most important nesting sites for the State Threatened Snowy Plover? As of 2021 there were only 412 adult Snowy Plovers in the state of Florida. Dog Island produced 11 chicks into the population, a record for our region. February 15th marks the beginning of nesting season for Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds. Audubon staff conduct weekly surveys on the island during this time of year. We look for signs of nesting in the sand and mark new sites with signage when we find them. Dog Island is often the 1st location in the state for Snowy Plovers to begin laying eggs. Along with Snowy Plovers, Dog Island also has other state threatened species nesting on the island including American Oystercatchers, Least Terns and Black Skimmers. During the winter months, Dog Island hosted a range of non-breeding birds including federally threatened Piping Plovers and Red Knots, state protected Snowy Plovers, Reddish Egret and American Oystercatchers. Other cool migratory shorebird and seabird species on the island include Black Terns, Ruddy Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers and American Avocets.

In order to protect these nesting birds, we ask that residents and island guests stay out of the areas we post. Posted areas may look empty but nests and chicks are camouflaged to protect themselves from predators. Additionally, following Franklin County's leash laws also helps protect nesting birds. Off-leash dogs can spook birds causing them to leave their nests. Exposed nests can be predated by other birds and crabs, covered with sand, or cooked under the hot Florida sun in as little as 15 minutes. Our shorebirds in particular can be very difficult to detect and unlike songbirds, these flightless chicks will run out of the nest in as little as a few hours after hatching. So while driving through middle narrows or walking along sections of string fencing please drive slow and be extra vigilant of what might be hunkered in the sand.

If you would like to get involved with helping to protect the shorebirds on Dog Island or would like to find out more information, please visit Audubon Florida's website: <https://fi.audubon.org/get-involved/coastal-bird-stewardship> or email me at Michael.ferrara@audubon.org.



Snowy Plover chick hunkered down shortly after hatching May 2022.

Goals for DICD 2022—2023 Fiscal Year

- ** Contract with a reliable, competent, qualified new Island Manager
- ** Fully fund the FEMA match storm response account, approximately \$45,000--\$55,000 needed
- ** Repair shop to make it weather/ rain proof
- ** Complete the Digital Records task as well as organize and file the District records in our storage facility
- ** Haul out and complete extended appropriate maintenance on current LCM. Have required marine survey performed
- ** Begin search and possible funding for LCM replacement—a two to three year undertaking
- ** Remove unwanted, non-District material from shop area
- ** Acquire forks for new tractor [harrow/disc possibly?]
- ** Finish the needed repairs to both District ferry docks
- ** Hold at least two public environmental education sessions
- ** Assist Duke in full completion of electric grid upgrade
- ** Assist beachfront homeowners with sea-oat acquisition
- ** Remove ALL derelict cars, carts, ATVs, boat trailers, etc.

Handy Reference Information

Dog Island Guide: Dogisland.net

Donate to Help the Island: Your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation can be given to any Board Member, or mail to Island bookkeeper Elisabeth Sheats at Small Business Concerns, DICD, PO Box 14288, Tallahassee, FL 32317. Make check payable to Dog Island Conservation District.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFO

Medical Emergency: Call 911

Schedule Landing Craft use: Randy Cannon, 850-528-5568 (*strongly suggested **at least** 30 days in advance*)

Fees: Golf Cart \$100 (\$0 if running vehicle is taken off in exchange); 1 axle vehicles, boat trailers, ATV, UTV \$400; Two axle vehicles or equipment, cars & trucks & vehicles under 12,500 pounds \$500; Dump trucks & over 12,500 lbs. \$600. All paid in advance / per landing event (exit from landing craft onto staging area). These are road use fees.

Schedule removal / disposal of Trash / Construction materials / Appliances / Dead batteries or Cars: Randy Cannon, 850-528-5568. Trash is charged at \$2 per cubic foot with a **\$25 minimum charge**.

Request Parking Lot Sticker for Carrabelle Lot: Ray Appen, RayAppen@Gmail.com, or 770-527-4042, No sticker = Towed. Please request AT LEAST 30 days **in advance**.

Fire Department: Randy Cannon or Ann Shanks- 813 693-2304

Wildlife/Turtles questions or info: Contact Terri Cannon 850-323-0508 or Randy Cannon 850-528-5568

Yacht Club info: Scott Gronholm: 770-337-9169 or Tim Ashton 229-672-0118

Ferry

850-879-4579 (Mike)

Ferry Schedule: (**this can occasionally be subject to change so always confirm with Mike in advance**)

March 1 - November 30

Friday leaves Carrabelle at 5:00, leaves DI 6:00

Saturday leaves Carrabelle at 10:00, leaves DI 11:00

Sunday leaves Carrabelle at 1:00, leaves DI 2:00

Monday leaves Carrabelle at 8:00, leaves DI 9:00, Leaves Carrabelle 6pm, leaves DI 7pm

December 1 - February 28

Friday leaves Carrabelle 5:00 leaves DI 6:00

Saturday: no run

Sunday leaves Carrabelle 1:00 leaves DI 2:00

Monday leaves Carrabelle 8:00, leaves DI 9:00, Leaves Carrabelle 5pm, leaves DI 6pm

DI PARKING LOT IN CARRABELLE:

Permit-Only Parking - No Permit = GET TOWED

When you get towed, don't complain; you were warned

Need a parking permit?

Request one AT LEAST 30 days in advance by email.

Email: RayAppen@Gmail.com

((in subject line put "Parking Sticker"))

This lot is very small. ONLY DI property owners or their children will be issued parking stickers.

Stickers must be affixed inside - drivers side and NOT taped.

Parking is available along Marine Street from the lot all the way to Hwy 98 if there are no spaces in our lot. DO NOT PARK ACROSS THE STREET THOUGH AS THAT IS A CITY TOW LOT.

Covenants and Restrictions

ANY COMMERCIAL USE OF ISLAND residences inside the DICD IS PROHIBITED BY DEED COVENANT.

-NO FIRES ON THE ISLAND AT ANY TIME!!!! without express and rare permission from Fire Chief Randy Cannon - 850-528-5568.

-No camping is allowed on Dog Island.

-Only household GARBAGE in dumpster. NEVER EVER metal, furniture, batteries, wood, concrete, construction materials.

-Speed Limit on Island is 25 MPH and give way to other drivers.

DOGS ON LEASHES - This is 100% critical as unleashed dogs are perhaps the greatest threat to nesting birds. Once a nesting bird is disturbed by an unleashed dog, often they abandon the nest.

-**Lights off on Beach** during Turtle Nesting Season May 1 - October 31 (Contact Terri Cannon with questions - 850-323-0508). See Terri Cannon about obtaining turtle-compliant lights. By state of Florida statute, non-turtle compliant lights CANNOT be used during Turtle Season. Remove all beach equipment / chairs, tents, etc. from Beach at night during Turtle Season.

-No off-roading with ATVs or other vehicles. No driving on the beach! There is no road west of Cannonball on Dog Island. Beach driving is illegal in Franklin County and Dog Island. SLOW DOWN and be careful!! Stay on roadways.

-If there is a Bird Nesting sign saying to Keep Out... Keep out and away...The sign means YOU.

