

# News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q1 Board Meeting Held 09/02/2023

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



**DOG ISLAND**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Important Alerts and Notices

Q2, 2024 Board meeting to be held January 6th at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club (weather permitting).

## Reminders

### A Little Help...

Recent issues that we need addressed for the benefit of our island community:

1. People have been placing carts, coolers and gas cans under the metal ramp on the island ferry dock. As the tide rises they become crushed, and more importantly, the ramp connection becomes partly detached and unusable. **PLACE NOTHING UNDER RAMP!**

2. People have been putting non-household garbage in our (kitchen/bath waste only) compactor. Metal roofing, folding beds, lumber debris, large cardboard refrigerator boxes, lawn chairs, etc. *do not go in there!* These materials damage and sometimes stop the ram on the machinery.

These large items and their like are put in the containers in the shop area by contacting the island manager at 850-943-0604. (Recently cameras have been placed at the compactor and shop area to distinguish who is abusing our debris removal systems.)

**ONLY HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE IN THE COMPACTOR!**



3. Please Slow Down! Recently someone in a golf cart was forced to leave the road as a family in a loud new UTV sped past them. There are hidden driveways, vehicles with no brakes, young people learning to drive for the first time out here. Let's not have an avoidable tragedy.

**CHILLAX ON OUR ROADS OK!! WHERE ARE YOU RUSHING TO?**

4. If you book a time to bring a car to the island -then be there on time and pay beforehand. Wasting 2/3 of the island manager's day by being late and non responsive shorts everyone. Also, if you don't belong to the DIYC and moor a boat, pay before you drive off and be sure to contact Ms. Backerman at 850-508-6608 before you even tie up. **BE RESPECTFUL AND PAY YOUR WAY!**

**Just A Little Help Goes A Long Way!**

## Special Reports

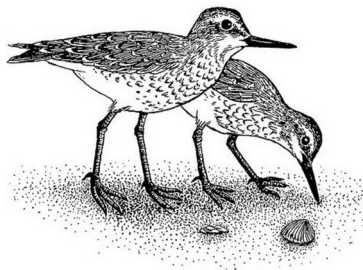
### Dog Island 2023 Post-Breeding Season Update

By Michael Ferrara, Audubon Florida

The 2023 breeding season on Dog Island is in the books. This year fell short of the success of the previous two seasons with predation being the biggest culprit. This year Dog Island had 35 Snowy Plover nests from February to July but only produced 3 fledged chicks from these nests. The most disruptive predators for Snowy Plovers this season were raccoons, fish crows, and gull-billed terns. Raccoons found most of the Snowy Plover nests before they were even able to hatch. There were 3 Wilson's Plover nests this year that successfully fledged 3 chicks. We had



3 pairs of American Oystercatchers lay 4 nests on the island. Even though all 4 of these nests hatched, the Oystercatchers were unable to fledge any chicks this season. American Oystercatchers are most susceptible to human disturbance and unfortunately chicks were lost around the busy holidays. We had a colony of least terns and a colony of black skimmers nesting on Dog Island but unfortunately neither species was able to hatch any nests on the island. After failing at Dog Island, the Black Skimmers moved to the reef off of Lanark village and successfully fledged twenty chicks there.



Although the shorebird and seabird breeding season is complete, Dog Island is a crucial location for migratory and wintering shorebird and seabird species. Moving through the area during the fall are federally protected species including Piping Plovers and Red Knots. Red Knots migrate considerable distances as they breed in the arctic and fly as far south as Argentina for the winter. Red Knots have been documented migrating up to 20,000 miles in a single year. One particular banded bird was given the nickname Moonbird, because it had flown the distance to

the moon and back over its life.

Audubon staff will continue to come out to Dog Island at least twice a month to monitor these birds as well as the other shorebirds and seabirds that spend their winters on the island. If you would like to get involved stewarding or to find out more information, please visit Audubon Florida's website:

<https://fl.audubon.org/get-involved/coastal-bird-stewardship> or email me at [Michael.ferrara@audubon.org](mailto:Michael.ferrara@audubon.org)

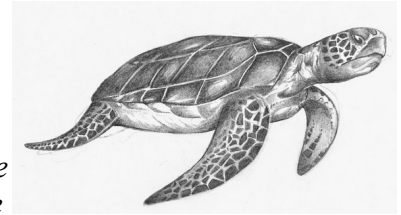
## 2023 Sea Turtle Season, Dog Island Florida

By Terri Cannon, Marine Sea Turtle Research Permit (FWC) #222

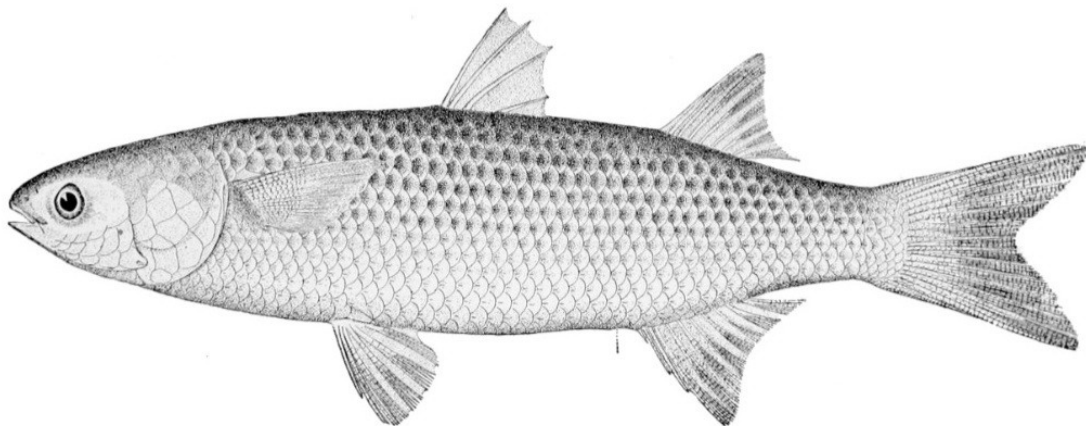
Species	Viable Nests	Successful Nest Hatches	Babies Made It To Water
Green	5	1	78
Loggerhead	20	13	950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1028</b>

Unfortunately, the ones that didn't hatch were washed over with the high tide from Hurricane Idalia.

*People are still leaving their chairs, kayaks, boogie boards and tents on the beach. Some leave their lights on under their houses. Also, people are still driving to the west end, causing harm, not only to sea turtles, but the nesting shorebirds. Dogs are still running loose, some without the owners in sight.*



It was an average year for the turtles, but on a better note, the whole state of Florida had a record number of Green Sea Turtles to nest this year.



# Minutes of the Q1 Board Meeting

## **Call to order:**

10:30am. Board Members present: Appen, Hudson, Brady, Stone, Kellett.

## **Approval of agenda:**

The agenda was amended to move Mr. Buckley's Island Manager report to the close of the meeting. He was making an emergency LCM run for Duke Energy.

Motion: Mr. Stone, second Mr. Hudson, passed unanimously.

## **Approval of previous minutes:**

Motion Mr. Stone, second Ms. Kellett, approved unanimously.

## **Chair Report:**

Chair Appen took time to note the island's miraculous hurricane Idalia near miss that did such damage to our neighbors to the east. He thanked islanders for their community minded efforts to help others prepare for this strong storm. Mr. Stone interrupted the Chairs report to suggest that the District support those impacted in the neighboring counties financially through Red Cross or Second Harvest. Mr. Appen and Mr. Brady offered to donate in lieu of the District but upon our behalf. They were thanked for that generosity.

Motion to approve Chair's report: Mr. Brady, second Mr. Hudson, passed unanimously.

## **Treasurer's Report (Mr. Brady):**

The District reconciles/amends our budget this time year as an annual practice, per FL Department of Revenue requirements. This does not alter the bottom line of our proposed budget but rather moves money amongst line items ensuring that no particular item is over expensed or funded. We cannot over expend any particular line item. He spoke to topics including interest income and the continuing rise in the cost of insurance etc. Mr. Brady ran through a proposed list of alterations explaining where each line item would fall after adoption of his and our bookkeeper's proposed alterations.

Mr. Stone moved that we adopt the suggested changes to the current budget which ends at the end of September as proposed by the Treasurer. Mr. Hudson seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Brady noticed the initial budget hearing for the upcoming fiscal year 23/24 is to be held on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September at 10 am at the DIYC because of state timelines and allowed meeting times.

Mr. Stone moved the adoption of the current ad valorem millage rate (4mils) for the upcoming fiscal year, in this a public hearing such that everyone is aware that it remains static and fixed for that time frame. Second by Mr. Hudson. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Stone made a motion to address an idea of the Treasurer's. The Board authorized Mr. Brady to move the segregated monies held in our FEMA match/Hurricane response account into a legal FDIC insured entity interest bearing account that increases its revenue, but still has it readily accessible if needed. Second by Ms. Kellett. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Kellett moved the acceptance of the Treasures report. Mr. Stone seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Island Manager Report:**

Due to Mr. Buckley's and Mr. Cannon's absence to accommodate the emergency needs of Duke Energy, none was made.

**Airport Committee Report:**

None was available except for a comment that the payment box, pole, and sign were on the ground after the storm. The Board authorized the Treasurer to repair/replace.

**Fire Department Report:**

The Fire Chief sent the following report: There have been no incidents since the last quarterly meeting. If anyone would like to have a training session on the fire truck this weekend, please call 850 528-5568. New roll doors have been installed at the fire house and the large fire truck has had its brakes repaired. Motion to approve by Mr. Brady, second by Mr. Hudson. Approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

A. Duke Energy grid upgrade: Mr. Stone reported that the last of the sub-contractor equipment was removed on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August after 10 months of work. He reminded everyone that the system remains lightning vulnerable and crews are still only available on island after many hours lag time. He noted that Duke does not have any machinery on the island currently to deal with any transmission issues and he has been in touch with them asking that instrumentalities be stationed here to rectify that shortcoming—as today's issue shows clearly. The subcontractor did leave all extra poles, wire, and transformers for our future needs. The disturbed airstrip parking area is supposed to be reseeded with native grasses. Mr. Stone has written to the Duke and Primoris representatives on behalf of the Board thanking them for their work and efforts.

B. Policy and Procedures review: This document has had two alterations in the last two year. The first was to adopt the State standards in regard to procurement processes; the second was to allow the District to allow financial transactions via electronic transfer. As this document continues to be reviewed and altered Mr. Stone made a motion to remove those sections that proscribe different areas of responsibility for Board members—roads, refuse, etc. He explained that while that is an excellent procedure in many places it does not suit our makeup and ways of operation. The Board functions through joint decision and funding, and through Board votes at quarterly meetings. The described individual responsibilities are not practical because decisions and resultant actions are carried out as a Board whole. Second by Ms. Kellett with the note that this review will continue. Passed unanimously. Mr. Brady suggested that Liz Brady could help with this redaction.

C. Website update: Ms. Kellett reported that Joe Clark continues to update the site for the District at <http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org> (also <http://dogisland.net>), adding newsletters and Mr. Buckley's contact information, etc. We also want to thank Pat Teaf for her work scanning twenty years of old paper copies of newsletters in order for the District to have an organized digital file and archive.

D. Island Manager Update: Mr. Buckley was unable to be present. His contract status was discussed along with the condition of the LCM and hook lift truck. It is apparent that at some point in the future the hook truck will need to be extensively repaired/replaced/upgraded. It was hoped he could attend the budget hearing on the following Saturday and have input on that process, repairs needed, timelines etc.

E. Digital Document Repository: Ms. Kellett has been investigating paying for the Smartsheet system and has concluded that in the short term it may not be right for our needs. She said that instead we could just use Google Docs and then move them to space available on the district’s website.

F. User Fees: The Treasurer added this topic to the agenda as he projected costs for the District looking forward. Regarding airport fees, next year \$7000 will be spent on it including insurance and maintenance. This year \$1700 was taken in. Mr. Brady made a motion to increase, beginning January 1, 2024, the membership fee to \$300 from \$200, the landing fee to \$30 from \$20, and the overnight parking fee to \$20 from \$10. These increases will bring spending and income into closer alignment. Second by Mr. Hudson. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brady made a motion to update the Road Use Fees (Resolution #9118, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020) elevating each category of vehicle by \$100 beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The rationale again was the escalating costs associated with operating the LCM: insurance, maintenance, etc. Golf carts will be \$200—no exception, one axle (trailers) \$500, ATV/UTVs \$500, two axle (cars/pickups) \$600, dump trucks and heavy equipment vehicle weight over 12,500 lbs. \$700 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Second by Ms. Kellett. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brady made a motion to have included in the agenda of the January 2024 regular meeting of the DICD the topic of Class III on site dumpster access, where possible: feasibility, cost structure, timelines, and restrictions. Second by Mr. Hudson. Passed unanimously.

### **New and Ongoing Business**

A. The Board seated, in his absence, Mr. Eric Will, who had a previous long standing charitable commitment and was unable to attend, and expressed a hearty thank you to Mr. Ray Appen as he stepped down from our Board. Mr. Appen was presented with an engraved vase thanking him for his long service and commitment to Dog Island. Mr. Appen has been Chairing the DICD since September of 2015. His generous time commitment and light hand with issues was appreciated and applauded.

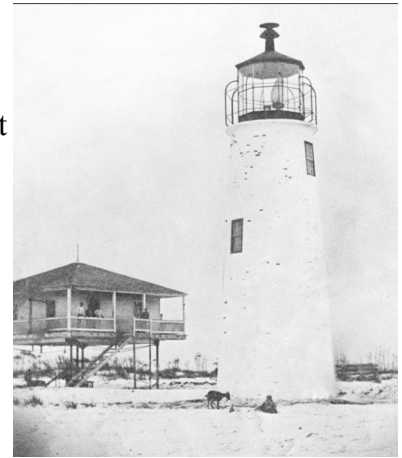
B. Officer Elections: Ms. Kellett moved a slate of officers for the coming year: Mr. Stone, Chair, Mr. Hudson, Vice Chair, and Mr. Brady, Treasurer. All three agreed to serve in those positions. Second by Mr. Hudson. Passed by acclamation.

C. As this was the Annual meeting of the DICD Board and a new fiscal year beginning, Mr. Stone presented a list of goals for the Board to consider. The idea being that we should be goal directed and where our “reach should exceed our grasp.” These goals were read into the minutes:

### **Goals for DICD 2023—2024 Fiscal Year**

- In January, sign a Two year contract, with included two year potential renewals, with the new Island Manager
- Fully fund the FEMA match/hurricane storm response segregated account, approximately \$35,000-\$40,000
- Repair shop to make it weather/rain proof and replace south facing roll door, and new well/pump/water system
- Begin the Digital Records task and complete/update the state mandated DICD official website task

- Have at least one of the garbage compactor containers be fully mended/painted, and the underpinnings of the compactor system replaced/repared
- Research possible funding for and design of an LCM replacement—a two to three year undertaking
- Remove ALL unwanted, non-District material from shop and surrounding DICD parcel
- Acquire appropriate forks for new tractor
- Finish the needed repairs to island ferry dock and adjacent finger dock—electrical, pilings, secure floating dock ramp, etc.
- Hold at least two public environmental education sessions
- Review and update Policy and Procedures Manual and the Dog Island Conservation District Plan
- Complete river ferry dock and LCM ramp repairs
- Remove ALL derelict cars, carts, ATVs, boat trailers from roadway and airstrip parking etc.



Mr. Brady moved them and Ms. Kellett seconded. Approved Unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Brady, second by Ms. Kellett, Approved unanimously.

## **Additional Meeting Minutes**

**Initial 2023-2024 DICD Budget Hearing.** Held on September 9th, 2023 at 10am, DIYC, announced and advertised. All Board members present. Mr. Brady, the District Treasurer, went through the revenue stream( ad valorem tax, Franklin County stipend etc.) projection thoroughly, and proposed revenue of \$203,174.00.

Mr. Brady then addressed projected expenditures, again line by line, explaining the rationale behind each. Of note were increases in insurance and contractual costs. These expenditures are in balance at \$203,174.00. Mr Brady, after reestablishing the current millage rate of 4mills, moved adoption of the presented 2023-2024 proposed budget. Ms. Kellett second. Approved unanimously. Mr. Brady will advertise per FL Dept. Of Revenue specifications.

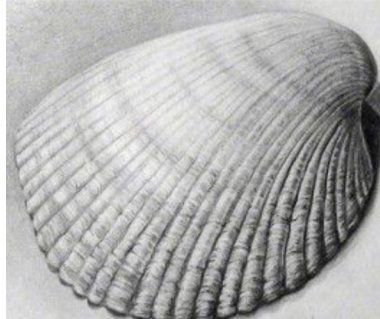
**Second DICD 23/24 Budget Hearing.** Held on September 19, 2023 at the office of Mr. Teaf in Tallahassee, FL at 6pm. All members present. The procedure is dictated by the rules of the FL Dept of Revenue. Two Resolutions were read into the record by Ms. Kellett, 23-01 adopting for 2023-2024 a millage rate of 4.00 mills for ad valorem taxes and 23-02 adopting a final budget of 203,174.00. Moved adoption Mr. Brady, second by Mr. Hudson. Approved unanimously

# Next Quarter's DICD Board Meeting:

January 6, 2024 (Q2) 10:30am at DICD Yacht Club

## Agenda

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) Island Manager contract
  - B) Additions to Class III removal language
  - C) Policy & Procedures Manuel
  - D) DICD shop repair
  - E) Hurricane Storm Preparedness
10. New Business
  - A) On-going or Board subjects
  - B) For the good of the order
11. Adjourn





**REMEMBER!**

NO CAMPING

NO FIRES

DOGS **100%** ON LEASHES

NO BEACH DRIVING

STAY AWARE OF TURTLE AND SHOREBIRD NESTING AREAS

**Handy Reference Information**

**DICD Website:** <http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>. Includes legal descriptions, financial reports, board member contacts, newsletter archives, and more about the DICD.

**The Dog Island Guide:** <https://dogisland.net/dog-island-guide>. A project that is independent of the DICD and contains emergency contacts and other information about living on the island: owning and building, transportation, longterm living, hurricanes, and island wildlife.

