

# News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q2 Board Meeting Held 01/06/2024

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



**DOG ISLAND**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Important Alerts and Notices

Q3, 2024 Board meeting to be held April 6th at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club (weather permitting).

## Stepping Up

As we settle into 2024 it is important to acknowledge and understand how many extraordinary people and organizations contributed a very gracious plenty to the stewardship, preservation, and enhancement of our island.

- Those individuals who contributed time, money and effort to ensure that our essential Volunteer Fire Department remains operational and of utility in times of need; Mr. Cannon's "get 'er done" usefulness and tenure as Fire Chief; Dr. Backerman's sincere dedication to the well-being of islanders through the gift of his expert medical services
- Those generous, thoughtful souls who contributed funds—recognizing our fiscal constraints and challenges—towards the District's storm preparedness account and to the District's general fund to underwrite programs and services such as the sheriff's patrolling assistance on busy holiday weekends, etc.
- Those who serve on the District's Board of Directors, including Mr. Will, our newest member, Mr. Brady with his responsibilities as Treasurer, and the steady hand of Mr. Hudson; and the relatively

new Island Manager Mr. Buckley for his willingness to commit to difficult and sometimes thankless work

- Those dedicated environmental advocates such as Ms. Cannon, our long-time sea turtle permit holder; Mr. Ferrara and Dr. Stahalla of Audubon for their years of work protecting the threatened and endangered sea and shorebirds nesting here (best of luck to them as they move on to new positions!); and to our excellent partner Ms. Ricketts of The Nature Conservancy for her knowledge, professionalism, and friendship
- Those who share their expertise and energy: Ms. Sheats, who prevents us from wandering in the fiscal wilderness via her bookkeeping, Mr. Urquhart ensuring that those having a medical emergency get off the island as well as his most days of the year services, and Mr. Jones, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Kellett and Mr. Clark, Mr. Perlis, and the Teafs et. al. who make themselves available in the service of their fellow islanders whenever called upon.



All the clichés about it takes a village, team effort, etc. really apply out here. Dog Island is a stunning, unique, and beautiful place, all the more so because compassionate and considerate people care enough to keep it so. THANK YOU SO MUCH for STEPPING UP!



# Special Report

## The Shorebirds of Dog Island Winter 2024

By Michael Ferrara, Audubon Florida's Carrabelle Shorebird Biologist

Hello Dog Island residents,

February 15th marks the beginning of shorebird nesting season, which then runs until the middle of August. Dog Island is usually the first location in the state for snowy plovers, a state threatened species with fewer than 200 nesting pairs, to begin laying nests. Last year was not a great year for any of our protected species nesting on the island (please see last quarter's newsletter). This year, staff are excited about the upcoming season as we plan to implement new strategies to help our snowy plovers, Wilson's plovers, American oystercatchers, least terns, and black skimmers find more success on Dog Island. Our biggest problems were predation, with raccoons and fish crows being the culprits. These species



have received protections due to population declines caused by habitat loss, among other issues. Over the past decade, intensive management efforts including monitoring, outreach, and protective symbolic fencing have helped to slow and in some cases reverse the declines of these species.

In order to protect these birds, we ask residents and island guests to stay out of posted areas and to follow the dog ordinances by keeping their dogs leashed on the beach. Off-leashed dogs can spook birds, causing them to leave their nests. Exposed nests can be predated, covered with sand, or

cooked under the hot Florida sun in as little as 15 minutes. When driving in middle narrows, please drive slowly and watch for movement in the road. Our shorebirds in particular can be very difficult to detect. Their chicks will leave the nest in as little as a few hours after hatching.

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 my coworker Natasza Fontaine at [natasza.fontaine@audubon.org](mailto:natasza.fontaine@audubon.org).

# Help Protect Our Sea Turtles

***Peak Nesting and Hatching Season  
is March through October***

Since ancient times, sea turtles have crawled onto Florida's beaches to lay their eggs. That phenomenon continues to this day, and it is up to us to ensure that they can do so safely and without disturbance.



## You Can Help!

***Thank you***

*for being a steward of Florida's  
incredible natural resources.*

### **Lights Out**

Artificial lights disorient sea turtles. Turn off property lights that are visible from the beach, and leave flashlights, lamps, cell phone lights and other temporary lights at home. Close window coverings or install window tint to prevent interior light from reaching the beach.

### **Give Them Space**

Do not interfere with nesting females, eggs, or hatchlings. Give them space, allowing sea turtles to find a suitable nesting area and ensuring hatchlings reach the ocean.

### **Leave No Trace**

Sea turtles need a clean, flat beach to safely nest and reach the ocean. Fill in holes, knock down sandcastles, and remove all furniture, sports equipment, and trash before you leave.

### **Let The Dunes Bloom**

Dune vegetation provides habitat for wildlife, screens artificial light, keeps beach sand in place, and protects coastal homes from storm surge. Help protect the vegetation by not walking through beach dunes.

# Minutes of the Q2 Board Meeting, January 6, 2024

## Call to order:

10:30 a.m. Board Members present: Stone, Will, Kellett, Brady. Hudson unable to attend.

## Approval of agenda:

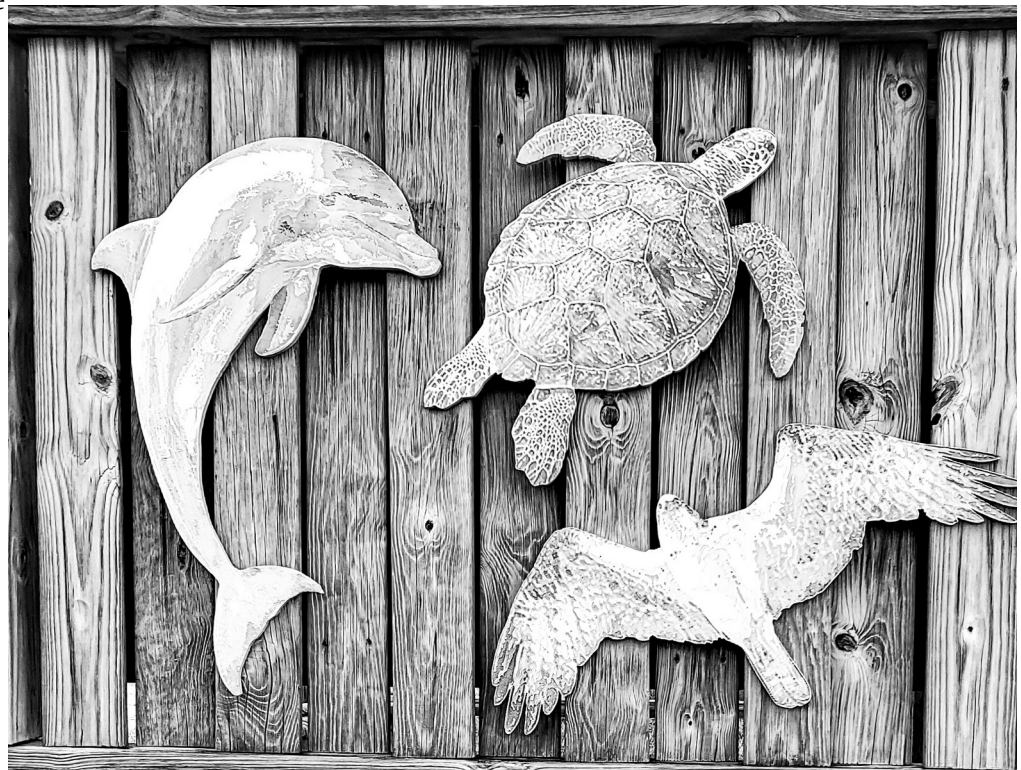
Ms. Kellett moved the adoption of the proposed agenda. Second by Mr. Will, approved unanimously.

## Approval of previous minutes:

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

## Chair Report:

The Chair took the opportunity to remind everyone present of the intended purpose and purview of the DICD as established in the enabling legislation by the Florida legislature. “To guide and accomplish the coordinated, balanced, and harmonious development of Dog Island...to promote the health, safety and general welfare...to establish, maintain, and preserve aesthetic values and preserve and foster the development and display of attractiveness, and to prevent congestion and the destruction of natural beauty.” The Chair then read the District’s Goals for this fiscal year stating that the enabling legislation is who we are and the Goals speak to our direction. Those Goals include a long-term contract for Island Manager services, a fully funded hurricane response, the needed repairs to our shop and docks, the complete removal and clean-up of unwanted derelict vehicles, trailers and carts, environmental programs, etc.



## Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Brady took the opportunity to run through and explain presented financial documents and the District’s adopted budget, both revenue and expense categories, and compare that to actual to-date 1st quarter receipts and expenditures. This covered ad valorem tax revenue, Franklin County contributions, interest income and contractual obligations, etc. He made clear that we are currently under budget, as planned for at this time on our fiscal calendar, and answered any and all questions regarding our financial process. The Chair thanked him for his efforts on our behalf. Ms. Kellett moved acceptance, second Mr. Will, approved unanimously.

**Island Manager Report:**

Mr. Buckley spoke of things being accomplished. New forks were acquired for the recently serviced John Deere tractor, the brakes were repaired by the dealership on the hook truck, two vehicles were removed, Class III white goods are loaded and ready for removal, etc. Mr. Brady moved acceptance, Ms. Kellett second, approved unanimously.

**Volunteer Fire Department Report:**

Fire Chief Cannon reported that all the doors, both roll and entry, on the firehouse have been replaced and that all the equipment is working. Addressing Duke Energy's proposed construction of a 1200 sq. ft. metal maintenance building on the firehouse grounds, proximate to the roadway and with all the vegetative barrier being removed, he along with Mr. Perlis and supported by the Chair have suggested to them a better alternative as we try and accommodate their needs. Engineered drawings have been given to Duke showing that the building would be better positioned behind the firehouse, and that would alleviate the concerns about their proposed inappropriate location and visual barrier removal. Both Mr. Cannon and Mr. Perlis were positive and hopeful that this alternative site would receive favorable attention from Duke. Mr. Gronholm asked about AED use training and requested Dr. Atwell at the meeting's conclusion to conduct such. Mr. Sparrow noted that online CPR and AED instruction exists for those interested. The locations of AED devices will be published by the District to enhance awareness of their island locations. Mr. Brady moved and Mr. Will seconded the acceptance of this report, passed unanimously.

**Airport Committee Report:**

The Chair acknowledged the island's recent loss of the longtime head of this committee, Dr. Backerman, and stated that we need to begin addressing the finding of his replacement. Mr. Gronholm said he may be interested in doing so and inquired as to its requirements and responsibilities. Mr. Cannon gave some history and information in answer to these enquiries. Mr. Gronholm stated that he would look into moving forward with reestablishing this committee as the airport is a strong interest of his. Mr. Sparrow offered to begin the removal of all the old tie downs. A discussion about airstrip serviceability and landing notifications then took place. The upshot was a motion to have this committee/Mr. Gronholm place a notice appropriately to pilots noting that it is entirely their responsibility to ensure the runway's status and availability, not the District's. Such would include a notice to air missions placed into the Airport Facility Directory stipulating that all responsibility falls to the pilot intending to use the airstrip relative to its current serviceability and placed wherever else deemed correct and necessary. Motion by Ms. Kellett, second by Mr. Will passed unanimously.

## Old Business

**A. Island Manager Contract:** The Chair gave some background on this item. Mr. Buckley's initial contract was for six months such that both parties had a trial period to adjudge suitability, etc. Should this new two year contract, with provisions for extending it through rollovers, be adopted, Mr. Buckley would be under contract for the agreed-to monthly dollar amount and with the same duties and responsibilities as in the initial contract. Mr. Buckley is willing to continue in this important contractual work and under the same provisos. Motion by Mr. Brady to approve, second by Mr. Will passed unanimously.

**B. Additions to Class III Removal Language:** Tabled until the April meeting.

**C. Policy and Procedures manual:** Pursuant to an adopted motion at the last District meeting that called for the redaction of this operational document, the Chair described the function of this document in light of its place alongside the enabling legislation and the DICD bylaws as the controlling documents under which the Board operates. That prior motion called for the removal of that language describing certain areas of responsibility for every Board member (a member would be responsible for solid waste, another roads, etc.) which was an untenable methodology and just not feasible as the Board and District is currently configured and operated. The Chair took that task on and removed that specific language and forwarded a working draft to all members for their review prior to the current meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brady to adopt this working version with the caveat that it be further edited and brought back to the Board at the April 2024 meeting, noting that it is both a living document and one which should reflect best and actual operational practices. A second by Ms. Kellett, passed unanimously.



**D. DICD Shop Repair:** Mr. Will had taken on this task and reported his findings and suggested actions to repair this leaking structure. After locating and contacting the original manufacturer of the structure he obtained a quote to get replacement panels and base plate for the two long (50 ft.) sides and three panels of the upper section (the N. and S. end panels are no longer available and would need welding repair) for \$7710. He also got a recommendation from the material manufacturer for an installer/contractor. If the District finds them accommodations for four days and brings their equipment over at no cost this contractor, who specializes in these structures, quoted \$13,600 to repair by

replacing the plate and panels provided by the District on our structure beginning in either February or March. Mr. Will recommended early March allowing for the time to make the structure ready for such work. This repair could serve to extend the life of this needed structure 15 or 20 years. A new similar structure may cost as much as \$200,000. This repair, plus other needed work on the structure, would be conceivably less than \$25,000 in total. After considerable discussion Mr. Brady motioned to move forward with this repair as described, second by Mr. Will and passed unanimously.

**E. Hurricane/Storm Preparedness:** In order to ensure that everyone is aware of the Board’s actions, and the history of this topic, the Chair laid out a fairly concise litany of responses already performed and those actions needed or ongoing. Much of what has or is being done is in a reaction to how the response to Hurricane Michael showed how the District needs to be prepared to take care of the island’s debris removal, etc. ourselves (with of course, the assistance of funds from FEMA and the Florida Department of Emergency Management) without relying on the offices of Franklin County. In fact we are determined by them to be a “standalone” entity, like the cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle, although we have signed reciprocity agreements between us. Thus the District has signed pre-event contracts with a consultant to liaise with FEMA and FLDEM and a debris removal contractor. We have an adopted Emergency Plan document, as well as a segregated fund specified and designed to meet the “match” requirements incumbent upon us to access those Federal and State funds. (Those monies can also be utilized for other storm response measures should those government programs change.) That account currently has \$87,319 in it towards our goal of a minimum of \$125,000. This all assumes a storm costing \$1,000,000 (for Dog Island the Michael cost was \$1,300,000 in FEMA/State of Florida, and \$300,000 in grant funds acquired later to remove homes and debris from our beaches, a cost those government entities were unwilling to provide). There arose several great questions and a protracted discussion among those present and the Board. The Chair and Treasurer emphasized that more needs to be done to be hurricane ready, but that the District is far more prepared than years ago.



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*Chair Note—Donations to this Response Fund or our other categories of need are tax deductible and would be greatly appreciated. This can be done by sending a check to DICD, PO Box 14288, Tallahassee FL, 32317-4288. Please write on the memo line General Funds or Hurricane Response, etc. so it can be directed accordingly.*

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## **New Business**

**A. Ongoing or Board subjects:** Mr. Brady moved the authorization of the Island Manager to hire the necessary personnel to repair the river ferry dock, the material already being in hand. Second by



Mr. Will passed unanimously. The Chair spoke about the District's ongoing cooperative efforts assisting in the protection of nesting shore and seabirds with Audubon and The Nature Conservancy. On summer holiday weekends, as a group effort, we hire Franklin County sheriffs to patrol the East end and the Narrows. Those officers recommended, after last year's efforts, that we post those areas with signs clearly citing the relevant ordinances relating to ensuring full leash law compliance. Mr. Brady made a motion that we assist, up to \$250, as our share in the production (which will cost \$1200) and placement of these signs, second by Ms. Kellett and passed unanimously.

**B. For the good of the order:** Mr. Sparrow spoke to a change in ownership of the Moorings in Carrabelle and their discomfort with the security arrangements for packages coming to their establishment, held there, and then picked up by Dog islanders. Mr. Sparrow suggests in light of their concerns that islanders adopt adjusting their package delivery address for UPS, FedEx, and Amazon, etc. His experience and research suggests the following: Your Name, HC 63 Box (XXXX-your number), 93 Tallahassee Street, Carrabelle, FL 32322. Using that address your package will come to the island with the regular USPS delivery.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Will by acclamation.

## **Please Help The Dog Island Conservation District Stay Beautiful!**

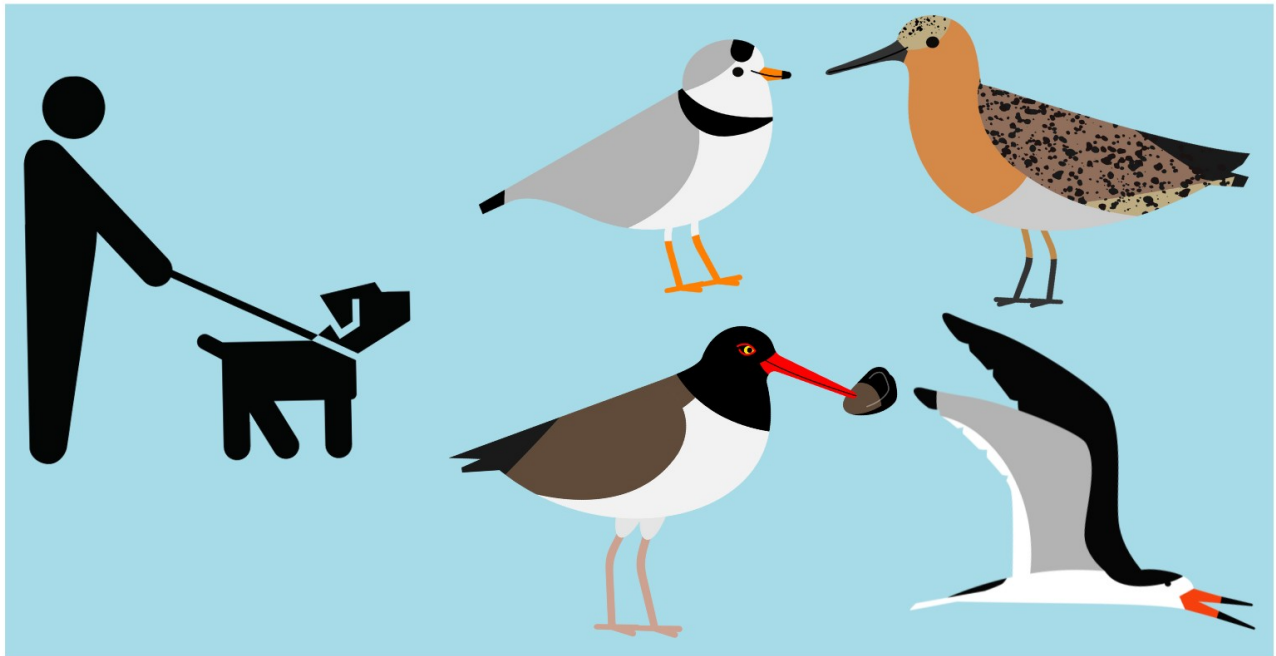
To have derelict vehicles, golf carts, boat trailers, four wheelers, etc. removed at no charge, contact Mr. Greg Buckley, our Island Manager, during office hours and arrange for their removal.

To dispose of non-household kitchen/bath items such as lumber, appliances, furniture, roofing materials, large cardboard packaging/boxes, etc. please contact Mr. Buckley and arrange with him where and when to place such items and please pay the \$2.00/square foot cost. No credit cards accepted.

Remember—Household garbage (Kitchen/Bath) **ONLY** in our compactor **PLEASE!**

**THANK YOU for your Assistance! Greg Buckley (850) 943-0604**

# Dogs Must Be Leashed At All Times



Unleashed dogs scare state-protected shorebirds and seabirds. When scared, parent birds abandon their eggs, stop feeding, and waste energy.

**Every dog is perceived as a threat.**

**Dogs running at large are subject to fines up to \$250 (Ordinance 2021-03). Harassing these birds is a violation punishable up to 60 days imprisonment and/or \$500 fine (Sec. 68A-27 FAC).**

Report violations to Franklin County Animal Control 850-670-4733



How to be a wildlife-  
friendly pet owner!



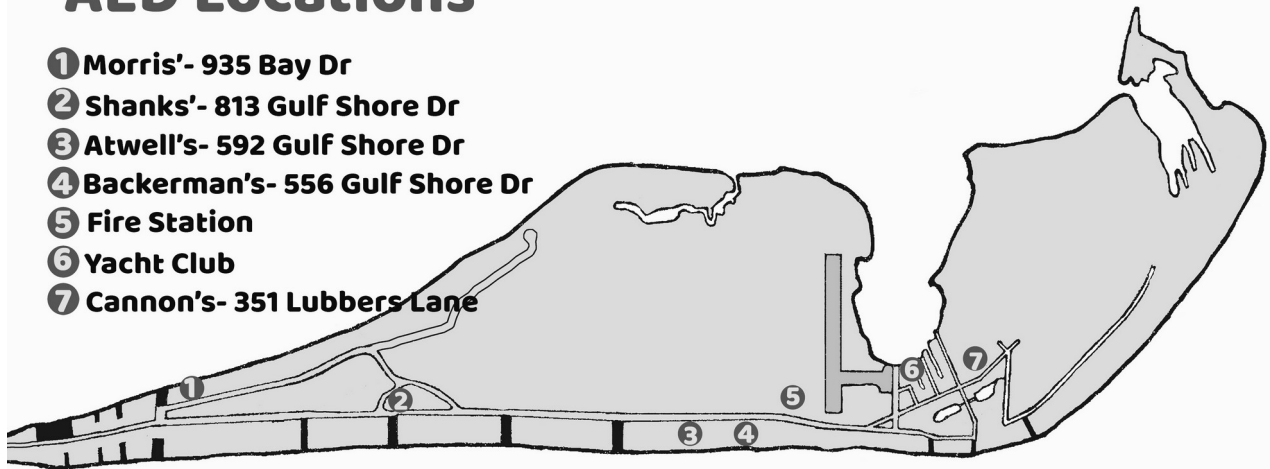
# Next Quarter's DICD Board Meeting: April 6, 2024 (Q3) 10:30am at DICD Yacht Club

## 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) Policy & Procedures Manual
  - B) Additions to Class III removal language
  - C) DICD shop repair
  - D) Goals/Progress
10. New Business
  - A) Report of the Nominating Committee
  - B) On-going or Board subjects
  - C) For the good of the order
11. Adjourn

## AED Locations

- ① Morris'- 935 Bay Dr
- ② Shanks'- 813 Gulf Shore Dr
- ③ Atwell's- 592 Gulf Shore Dr
- ④ Backerman's- 556 Gulf Shore Dr
- ⑤ Fire Station
- ⑥ Yacht Club
- ⑦ Cannon's- 351 Lubbers Lane



**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, long-term living, hurricanes, and island wildlife.