



# SOUTH LOUISIANA WETLANDS DISCOVERY CENTER COMMISSION

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2011 5:00 PM

317 Goode Street

Houma, Louisiana 70360

**Present:** Brenda Leroux Babin, Wendy Billiot, Nicole Cotton, Paul Sammarco, and Martha Thibodeaux

**Absent:** Sharon Alford, Angie Corbin, and Mike Pellegrin

**Guests:** Emily Elmore and Joy Tingle

**Staff:** Paul Guidry

### I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE

- Paul S. called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Paul Guidry took attendance. A quorum was present.

### II. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST 23, 2010 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- Paul S. asked for any discussion. There being no further discussion, he asked for a motion.
- **Brenda Babin moved, seconded by Martha Thibodeaux, "THAT, the Commission accepts the August 23, 2010 regular meeting minutes." Paul S. called for a vote on the motion offered by Brenda Babin.**

**UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:**

**YEAS: B. Babin, W. Billiot, N. Cotton, P. Sammarco, and M. Thibodeaux**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: S. Alford, A. Corbin, and M. Pellegrin**

**There being no other discussion, Paul S. declared the motion adopted.**

### III. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

#### 1. Nominations of 2011 Executive Officers

- Paul S. asked for nominations. Wendy B. stated she would like to have Paul S. stay on as President for another year. Martha T. stated everything that the commission started is still in the works and not finished yet. Brenda B. stated she would like to stay on as Vice President for another year and also stated she did not think the other two officers would mind.

- **Wendy Billiot moved, seconded by Nicole Cotton, "THAT, the Commission retain the 2010 executive officers for 2011 contingent upon Angie C. and Sharon A. agreeing to stay on." Paul S. called for a vote on the motion offered by Wendy Billiot.**

**UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:**

**YEAS: B. Babin, W. Billiot, N. Cotton, P. Sammarco, and M. Thibodeaux**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: S. Alford, A. Corbin, and M. Pellegrin**

**There being no other discussion, Paul S. declared the motion adopted.**

- Paul S. then spoke about the outstanding position on the commission. He stated a letter had been mailed out to Reggie Dupre to have the Levee and Conservation District nominate someone to fill the position.

#### 2. Progress on Indirect Cost Recovery arrangements

- Paul S. asked Paul G. to report. He stated he had sent an email to Jamie Elfert asking her to investigate the situation, but he had not heard back from her. Paul S. asked if the Commission could use the parish's IRC. A discussion ensued.

- **Brenda Babin moved, seconded by Wendy Billiot, “THAT, the Commission use the Parish’s Indirect Recovery Cost until one for the Commission is determined and to use this figure unless the one for the Commission is different.” Paul S. called for a vote on the motion offered by Brenda Babin.**

**UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:**

**YEAS: B. Babin, W. Billiot, N. Cotton, P. Sammarco, and M. Thibodeaux**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: S. Alford, A. Corbin, and M. Pellegrin**

**There being no other discussion, Paul S. declared the motion adopted.**

- 3. Interim arrangements for a dedicated Center – Specific options and recommendations regarding existing state or parish buildings**
  - Paul S. asked if Juana had spoken with Travis about the status of the Duhe building. Joy replied she had and she was on way to discuss it. Wendy B. asked if anyone knows the status of the Duhe building. Brenda stated she thought the building was owned by the parish. Wendy B. offered to speak with Michel Claudet about who owns the building and what are the future plans.
  - Paul S. informed the board Michel Claudet suggested offering BTNEP space on the second floor of the Government Tower if BTNEP would agree to move into the Center permanently once it is built.
  - Paul S also spoke about the \$2.1 million in BP funds that are available for tourism. He spoke with Michel Claudet about the funds and found the Center falls into two areas 1) activities and 2) municipal project. He also stated Michel thinks the Center would fit.
  - Brenda B. and Wendy B. agreed to form a committee to create a proposal
- 4. Briefing on foundation meeting and activities**
  - Paul G. reported on the upcoming World Wetlands Day on Feb 2.
  - Joy Tingle spoke about the upcoming Lady Bug Ball and how the Center was now in charge of it. She also asked for the Commission to help out with the event.
- 5. Next Meeting Date**
  - The next commission meeting date is **Monday April 11**. All meetings will begin at 5:00pm at the Folklife Center, Houma.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Wendy Billiot to adjourn at 6:05 pm.