

# News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q3 Board Meeting Held 04/06/2024

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



**DOG ISLAND**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Important Alerts and Notices

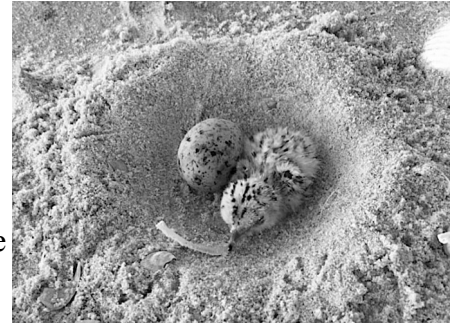
Q4, 2024 Board meeting to be held July 6th at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club (weather permitting).

# Stewardship and Respect

We can embrace protecting Dog Island through informed and common action.

*“The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.” -- Lady Bird Johnson*

The Dog Island Conservation District has adopted proscriptive Resolutions, e.g., speed limits, a ban on open fires; Franklin County has established enforceable ordinances with associated penalties, e.g., no driving on the beach, dogs must always be on a leash, “leave no trace” requiring the removal of all items from the beach at sunset, prohibiting camping anywhere on Dog island, lighting restrictions for marine turtle protections; and the state of Florida and the Federal government have numerous laws which afford, via fines and penalties, protections for endangered sea/shorebirds and nesting sea turtles to ensure their survival.



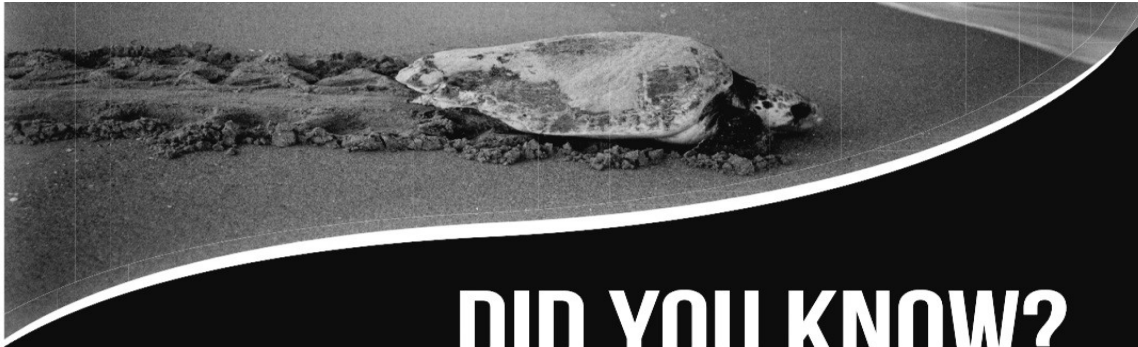
Those being the legal imperatives, wouldn't we Dog islanders, who share a love, concern, ownership and appreciation for this unique and extraordinary place, rather base our everyday actions which impact the environment on these shared values and understanding rather than legal injunction? Protecting nesting and migrating birds, our shared water lens, the dunes and maritime forest, and our nesting vulnerable species of sea turtles can be our mutual

endeavor; our regard for these will show our regard and respect for one another—as they thrive, so do we. We can be thoughtful and deliberate while turning out lights when they are not absolutely needed; yes, that helps sea turtles nest, but it also allows us and our neighbors to view an unpolluted night sky. We can refrain from driving or walking near nesting shore birds, since like the canary in the coal mine their breeding success illuminates the health of our island; as we protect these endangered birds, we protect Dog Island. As we always leash our good dogs, which can truly help critically threatened shore birds successfully nest on our open beaches and thus avoid extirpation, that also ensures that no older islander or child will ever again fear a large dog running and jumping at them on the beach.



We, through joint informed actions, mutual and inclusive respect, concern for one another's safety and an appreciation of the part the natural world plays in keeping Dog Island an untrammled and unique retreat can be the stewards that these times call for and work to preserve something so easily and forever lost. Inform yourselves, become advocates about our environment here, and instruct your children, your guests, and your workers about how we true islanders respect this place and act for its continued preservation, motivated by an abiding affection for Dog Island's beauty and importance.





# DID YOU KNOW?

## LIGHT POLLUTION THREATENS WILDLIFE!

**For billions of years**, life has relied on Earth's day-night rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviors. It's encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night. Research shows that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many species.

### Artificial Lights Disrupt the World's Ecosystems



Sea turtles live in the ocean but hatch on the beach at night. Hatchlings find the sea by detecting the bright horizon over the ocean. Artificial lights can draw them away from the sea, stranding them on land. In Florida alone, millions of hatchlings die this way every year.

Many insects are drawn to light, but artificial lights can create a fatal attraction. Declining insect populations negatively impact all species that rely on insects for food or pollination.

Nocturnal mammals sleep in the day and are active at night. Light pollution disrupts their nighttime environment.

### Artificial Lights Endanger Many Bird Species

Artificial lights can disrupt the migratory schedules of birds causing them to leave too early or too late in the season, missing ideal conditions for nesting. Birds that navigate by moonlight and starlight can wander off course. Millions die every year by colliding into illuminated buildings.



# Minutes of the Q3 Board Meeting, April 6, 2024

## Call to Order:

10:33 a.m. Board Members present: Mr. Stone, Mr. Will, Ms. Kellett, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Hudson.

## Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Brady motions approval, Ms. Kellett seconds, approved unanimously.

## Approval of previous minutes:

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

## Chair Report:

The Chair began by addressing the reprinting of the laminated island information “Best Friend” placards and distributed some to those present and some to be shared with neighbors. These ready-to-hang placards reflect new phone numbers and updated addresses. The Chair expressed the hope that these give islanders baseline facts, rules and procedures such that everyone is working from the same song sheet and is in furtherance of his desire to have everyone clear on our shared goals and processes. It includes reminders about everything from observing the no-wake zone and using 911 for all emergency calls to our shared limited freshwater resource. In summary, let’s all get on board with best practices living out here. The Chair also spoke about his work with the Duke Energy tree-trimming crew and the agreement to trim where agreed upon (orange flagged) and that while they are here working to give them room so that they can stay in the roadways as they do their necessary minimal trimming near the transmission lines.



## Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Brady distributed to the Board the bound and complete State-mandated audit, stating that it was a clean audit where no violations were found, and no recommendations were put forth. The second topic was the DICD financials through March of this year. He noted that while the checking balance currently seemed low, that was because he was trying to leave funds in the SBA account before transfer to gain the maximum interest on those funds to the benefit of the District. We are still awaiting the remaining outstanding ad valorem tax revenue. Mr. Brady also talked of his desire to see both the Hurricane Response fund and the SBA “rainy day” accounts be funded to the goal amounts of \$125,000 each. He reminded the Board of rising insurance costs being incurred, increasing 10 to 15% each year. He then asked if there were questions; there being none, he took the opportunity to publicly thank our bookkeeper for her professional efforts on the District’s behalf. Motion to approve Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Hudson, approved unanimously.

## Island Manager Report:

Mr. Buckley began by stating that with Mr. Cannon’s help he was able to remove 11 vehicles and a considerable amount of old nonfunctional equipment from the island. The shop has been cleaned out.

One of the garbage compactor receivers has been patched/welded enough to be serviceable for some months but will eventually need to be replaced (\$12-15,000). Mr. Buckley asked for the funding to repair the hook truck flatbed, which was given. He stated that he was getting bids and costs associated with new electrical wiring at the shop and to implement the placing of security cameras at the river ferry dock. He addressed his continuing and ongoing efforts to maintain the LCM and improve and maintain the roads, and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding grading equipment, wood chips, drainage, and history of the topic. Mr. Cannon offered his knowledge and experiences as a basis to proceed with mitigating the road pooling by creating flow into the ditches, breaking up the underlying hardpan, and augmenting the resulting low spots with sand from the roadside and, if needed and available, wood chips. Mr. Buckley was thanked for his considerable efforts. Mr. Brady moved the report's acceptance, Ms. Kellett seconded, approved unanimously.

### **Volunteer Fire Department Committee Report:**

The Fire Chief, Mr. Cannon, spoke to and thanked Dr. Atwell for his willingness to help and serve the Fire Department and asked for others who are interested to become more involved. The Fire Department is going to hold CPR classes soon and has acquired a Dodge Durango to be utilized as an island "ambulance" to assist in getting people off the island in an emergency. He asked that islanders keep in mind the time required and the difficulties of getting off the island in such a medical situation, including life flight and vessel transport. He described how the new e-dispatch system functions to notify the Fire Department in a 911 emergency via cell phone notifications and locations. Ms. Kellett moved and Mr. Brady seconded the acceptance of this report, approved unanimously.



### **Airport Committee Report:**

The Chair noted that Mr. Gronholm was absent for this meeting but is the proposed head of this committee. Mr. Sparrow has been working with Mr. Gronholm and spoke about what he and Mr. Gronholm are trying to accomplish. The Board had asked that clear information be put out to the relevant governmental and interested pilot bodies regarding our airstrip, and Mr. Sparrow had researched this and reported his findings on the need to update this information. Mr. Cannon stated that for several years he had been the person who provided information to the state of Florida for their annual necessary reporting regarding the airport and would work with the new committee to ensure continuity. Mr. Sparrow has developed a draft five-year plan for the Board to review and addressed some other technical possible needs of our airstrip. He was asked to get Mr. Hudson's input and continue to work with Mr. Gronholm regarding the short- and long-term needs and requirements of the airstrip. Motion to approve by Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Brady, approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

**A. Policy and Procedures Manual:** The Chair stated that he had sent electronic copies of the suggested redactions to this manual to the Board prior to the April meeting for their review and passed out hard copies to those in attendance who requested one. He described and outlined these most recent suggested changes to the document. This revision focused solely on the financial procedures that are utilized by the District: banking accounts, bookkeeping and reporting processes. The current manual's language was outdated, and the proposed changes will bring the DICD more in line with best and actual

practices. The District's bookkeeper had been asked to note where these changes could be made to update and make our procedures clear, complete and understandable from her professional vantage point, and the proposed changes were designed by the Chair to reflect those and the Treasurer's ideas through the proposed wording and redactions. These changes make the document a clearer and more accurate guide as to how the District conducts its financial business. There being no further alterations suggested, Mr. Brady moved the adoption of the presented revised manual, which was seconded by Ms. Kellett and adopted unanimously.

**B. Additions to Class III removal language:** Mr. Brady presented and moved for consideration (and passed out paper copies) of Resolution #444 codifying Class III costs and procedures. This resolution covers construction debris, white goods and non-household garbage removal. Prior to this meeting, the cost of said removal (\$2.00 per cubic foot) was reflected solely in Board votes, and the processes were left undefined. This resolution lays out the removal process and container availability in black and white, thereby giving the island manager a clearly documented (with associated costs) way to deal evenly, transparently and fairly with all islanders requesting this service. Mr. Will seconded the motion to adopt, which passed unanimously.

**C. DICD shop repair:** Board member Mr. Will has headed up the shop repair endeavor and described the tasks accomplished to date and those still needing attention. As of the first week in March the contractor had installed all the purchased materials, i.e., bolts, side panels, roof sections and sill materials as described in their contract, along with some additional bolts required, and work was performed to refasten the door frame to the foundation. The end sections will require further repair (welding possibly), liquid rubber paint will need to be applied to further seal the structure, and electrical work is still needed. Mr. Will and Mr. Buckley, through two motions, were authorized to hire a qualified electrician to rewire and install improved lighting in the shop and to add a weatherproof receptacle at the LCM finger dock to total no more than \$5500.00 (\$5000.00 shop, \$500.00 finger dock). These motions were made by Mr. Brady and seconded by Ms. Kellett, passed unanimously.



**D. Goals/Progress:** The Chair reviewed progress made towards the District's "Goals" adopted at the Annual meeting six months ago. 1) The District now has in place a two-year contract with the new island manager. 2) The District remains \$30,000 shy of our established goal for hurricane preparedness via a fully funded response account (please, if you can, send a tax-deductible donation to DICD, PO Box 14288, Tallahassee, FL 32317 with Hurricane Account on the memo line). 3) Shop repair is ongoing but moving towards completion. 4) Digital records task is currently on the back burner, as we are using the official website for this task. Thank you, Joe Clark! 5) One compactor receiver is now mended with six months to one year remaining on its service life. 6) The search for replacement LCM funding is ongoing, and continuous servicing on the current vessel is allowing this. 7) Many of the large derelict items have been removed from the shop area with several remaining. Thank you, Greg Buckley! 8) New forks for the tractor have been purchased. 9) Repairs of the island ferry dock continue, including the lime rock bulkhead, the out-of-place girder, and suspending the ramp. 10) The two environmental programs envisioned have yet to be scheduled. 11) Some structural stabilization has been done to the river ferry dock, but handrail and other work remains. 12) While several derelict cars

have been removed from the roadway, some remain, along with the need to clear boats and trailers from the airstrip tiedown area.

## New Business

**A. Nominating Committee Report:** The nominating committee, consisting of Ms. T. Cannon, Ms. I. Carrol and Ms. R. Nix, has asked the two members of the Board whose two-year terms end in September if they would consider serving another term in office, and Mr. Brady and Ms. Kellett agreed to do so. Next year, three current members' terms will be at an end as described in our bylaws. Mr. Hudson asked that the process be explained for clarity about being nominated and asked to serve or run for a Board seat via election. The Chair referenced the bylaws and enabling legislation and clarified that should someone want to run for a Board position they would, by June first, need to submit ten property owners' signatures to the Chair asking for that person to be placed on a ballot, and an election would then be held to fill that term in office. The nominating committee process is to ensure a full five member Board in lieu of an election. Mr. Brady and Ms. Kellett were thanked for their willingness to continue to serve the District.

**B. On-going or Board subjects:** Ms. Kellett asked the Chair to speak about his recent work regarding sea turtle/wildlife lighting. While attending a regional environmental stakeholders meeting in Apalachicola the Chair spoke with representatives of the Archie Carr Center at UF, DEP, the Alachua Conservation Trust, TNC and Audubon. The upshot was a small grant to have representatives from the Sea Turtle Conservancy come to the island and conduct some home lighting evaluations and educational outreach. The basic facts are that sea turtles are adversely affected by artificial home lighting during all phases of the nesting and hatching process and that by minimizing/redirecting and turning off lights whenever possible islanders can promote sea turtle long-term viability. Education is key to this effort. (90% of the sea turtles hatching in the US do so in FL. Therefore, keeping lights low, off when not required, or of long wavelength, i.e., FWC approved red/amber can make all the difference.) Dog Island, because of its low population density, has a real opportunity to be impactful to nesting success. If we make ourselves a DarkSky community, we not only promote sea turtle and other wildlife survival, but that allows us, our families and guests to see the stars, the moon and the Milky Way and tune into our natural world of bright days and dark nights less encumbered by sky glow caused by unnecessary lighting. The simple solution is to PLEASE at a minimum **\*\*turn off your exterior lights when not needed.\*\***



Ms. Shanks spoke about additions to Fire House equipment and repairs made there recently. A cleanout was conducted and that led to a question of payment to the District by them for disposal of discarded items. Mr. Hudson made the motion to waive such fees for the Volunteer Fire Department, a second by Mr. Will, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Sparrow again reminded residents of the best practice for having packages delivered to the island. The address formula is Name, 93 Tallahassee St., and then Dog Island box address and zip code. (93 Tallahassee St. is the Carrabelle post office's physical location.)

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Will, passed unanimously.



## **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/cubic 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**



# Coastal Conservation Efforts on Dog Island

Dog Island residents are well aware of the singular beauty and importance of its natural resources. The barrier island is characterized by its rich coastal habitat and long history of conservation. You yourself might even neighbor the Nature Conservancy or Dog Island Conservation District land that protects almost 75 percent of the island. **Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT)** is a non-profit land trust based in Gainesville, Florida working with communities across Florida to conserve land for the sustained benefit of wildlife and people alike. In 2015, ACT teamed up with the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida's Levin College of Law Conservation Clinic, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sea Turtle Conservancy, and other partners to develop a pilot program to focus on coastal conservation of sandy beaches for the purpose of protecting sea turtles on Florida's coasts. This program has taken ACT across the state from the Panhandle down to the Florida Keys, working with landowners and agencies to protect sandy beaches for the benefit of nesting sea turtles.

ACT began working on Dog Island in 2019 when local families made a generous donation of 30 acres of beachfront property on the west end of the island for permanent protection, now known ACT's Pam Firman Preserve. The year before Hurricane Michael had destroyed Pelican Inn, scattering debris and rubble across the shoreline, impeding natural revegetation and creating barriers underneath the sand for sea turtle nesting. In response, ACT worked with Florida Sea Grant, island residents, the Dog Island Conservation District and ACT supporters to remove concrete, rebar, and woody debris to restore the beach on the Pelican Inn property and protect it in perpetuity. The dune and beach habitat on the former Pelican Inn parcel is now naturally revegetating and building dune structure. In the summer of 2022, the Dog Island Turtle Patrol reported that two Loggerhead sea turtles and a state-threatened Snowy Plover nested on the protected parcel, a testament to the quality of the habitat regeneration that has occurred and the resilience of Dog Island. ACT has continued to work towards conserving additional areas on Dog Island, now holding a conservation easement on the 40-acre property known as the Dog Island Preserve owned by the Dog Island Conservation District east of Tysons Harbor. This beautiful passive recreation area is now forever preserved for all residents of Dog Island, both wildlife and human alike.



Working with ACT to protect your coastal property can achieve your conservation and estate planning goals as well as protect the uniqueness and vital ecosystem function of your land. Protecting your land leaves a lasting legacy for Dog Island into the future. Land protection isn't a one size fits all approach, and property rights can benefit both conservation and the people that live on the land. ACT can help coastal landowners understand and choose from a number of different options to achieve their family legacy and conservation goals. One option is the Coastal Conservation Easement (CCE), a legal tool developed by ACT to permanently protect private coastal property to benefit wildlife while also keeping the property in private ownership. ACT also accepts outright donations of private property. Some conservation options can result in income tax deductions. If you are interested in conserving your land and becoming a part of the beautiful conservation success journey of Dog Island, please contact ACT at [info@alachuaconservationtrust.org](mailto:info@alachuaconservationtrust.org).

# Next Quarter's DICD Board Meeting: July 6, 2024 (Q4) 10:30am at DICD Yacht Club

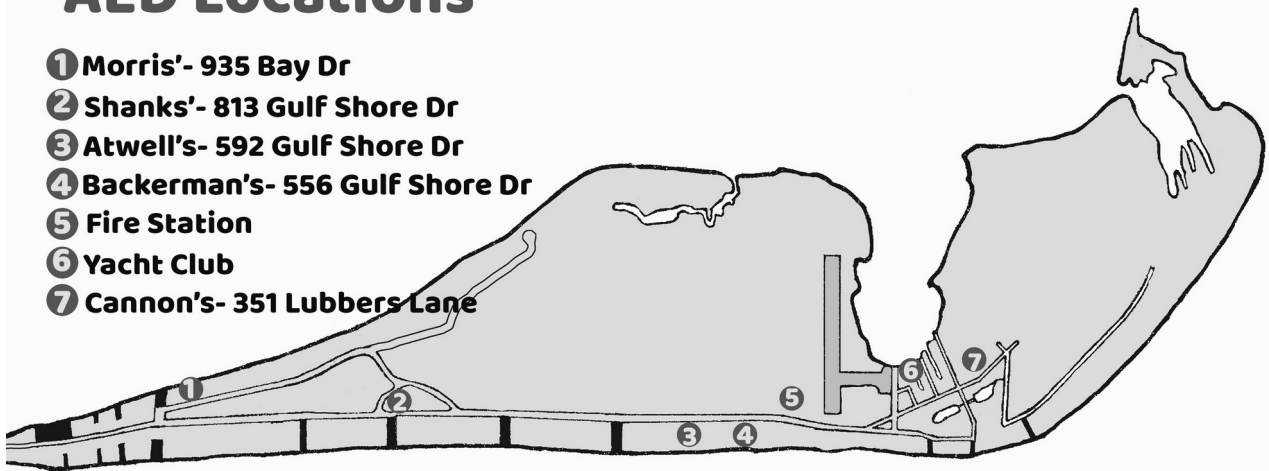
## Agenda

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) DICD shop repair
  - B) Hurricane preparedness
  - C) Parking
10. New Business
  - A) On-going or Board subjects
  - B) 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



## 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.

REMEMBER!

