

# News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q3 Board Meeting Held 04/05/2025

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



**DOG ISLAND**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Important Alerts and Notices

All boat trailers that remain after July 31st, 2025 in the airport tie down area  
will be removed and hauled off as junk.

Q4, 2025 Board meeting to be held July 5 at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club, weather permitting.

## Announcements

### Come One, Come All!



#### Dog Island Volunteer Fire Department Annual **Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, July 6th 2025, 8:30-11am at the fire house. Proceeds benefit our Dog Island first responders and fire department volunteers. Book and puzzle exchange as well! (To help set up or clean up or

for further info contact Ann Shanks 813 695-2304. Thank you for your help!! )

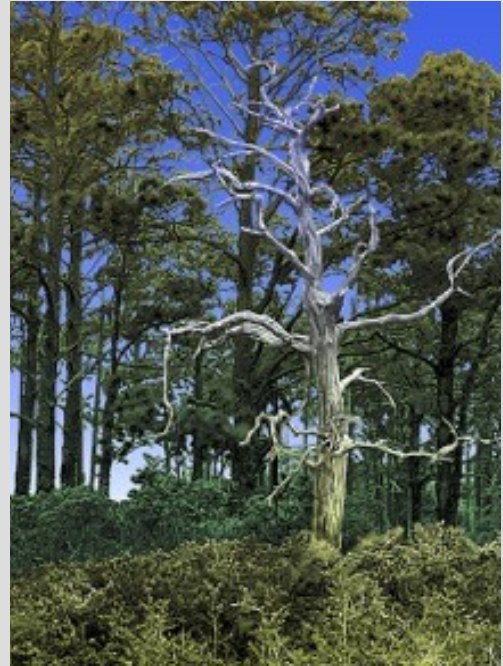
### Save the Date!



Saturday, September 20th 2025 for the **International Coastal Cleanup**.

Annual event begins with us gathering at Tyson Harbor Ferry

Dock, 8:30-12. Fun, Environmental Action, Community, and Lunch!!



#### **Bradlee Shanks Art Show**

*July 5th and 6th 9am- 5pm*

*Reception- Saturday the 5th 1- 4pm*

*Dog Island VFD*

### Reminder from Randy Cannon, Fire Chief



Be aware of both fire dangers and our limited fire fighting and response capabilities. We have two functional performing fire trucks and willing volunteers, but time, notice, logistics, and the nature of the island can easily cause delay. This is even more so the case with emergency response to get someone off the island and to a hospital. Keep these factors in mind as you visit the island and the DIVFD will do its very best to keep everyone safe and healthy—but we need your help and consideration.

**BEWARE OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE!!** Think Safety!  
If seen, contact FWC/Franklin County Sheriffs/Dog Island VFD.

**Dial 911 in an emergency!!**

### **Keep Dog Island Beautiful**

Islanders-- Please contact the Island Manager, Mr. Buckley, at 850 943 0604 to have removed from the island derelict vehicles, carts, boat trailers etc. at no cost to you, and connect with him as well about Class III construction debris, white goods, large non household garbage items and pay the \$2 a cubic ft cost; make sure to place it when and where instructed in the open top dumpsters at the shop.

**Road use, Class III removal, and other fees can now be paid via credit card!**

PLEASE remember to only put household (kitchen/bath) garbage in our compactor!!



Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **Thank You Alachua Conservation Trust For Your Help, Expertise And Willingness To Work!!**

In early May two ACT professionals came to Dog Island, conducted their annual review of the Preserve and amongst other tasks, picked up lots of refuse at an old extremely soggy dump site there. Awsome !!



### **A Note on the Passing of Len Morris**

Dog Island, late last year, lost a true gentleman, an excellent neighbor, a great father, grandfather, and great grandfather, and a long-time committed DICD Boardmember and Treasurer. Len and his wife Pat lived here in a bay side home, built by her father, surrounded by spaniels, good will, and smiles towards everyone. They always exhibited a sincere heartfelt love for Dog Island and its unique simple way of life.

Len will be long remembered by many and will be sorely missed for years to come, for he was a pleasure to know and be around. Rest in Peace.

## A Message from the Chair

*The way to thrive is to help others thrive; the way to flourish is to help others flourish; the way to fulfill yourself is to spend yourself. --Alvin Plantinga*

*There can be no stewardship without stewards. --John Jay Jackson*

*No one ever became poor by giving. --Anne Frank*

### Stewardship



We Dog Islanders have such an opportunity to do that rare thing, an unmitigated great right thing. We can enjoy, appreciate and experience this beautiful unique place with our family and friends, and yet, at the same time, with little effort, conserve and preserve Dog Island, one of the few remaining locales in Florida with uncrowded open beaches, pristine maritime forests and radiant dark night skies.

To do this well we ALL, every one of us, need to become thoughtful stewards as seen in and reflected by our daily actions and respectful ways of living out here. By becoming reliable and resourceful stewards, we can keep this a special retreat for years to come for both the natural and human communities. Such stewardship is not onerous. It is as simple as a beach walk; slowing down on our roads to keep everyone safe; obeying the no wake zone; directing outdoor lighting downward, shielding it and making it long wave length (and of course turning it off when not needed); leashing your good dog and respecting the posted bird nesting areas; having non-operable vehicles removed ASAP; not planting non-native invasive plants; properly disposing of waste of all types; helping to preserve our remaining dunes and natural beach vegetation; donating time and resources to keep our infrastructure capable of sustaining our minimal requirements; learning about our limited freshwater lens; reminding others that Dog Island allows neither open fires, camping, nor beach driving; remembering that Dog Island is an internationally recognized Important Birding Area...



**RESPECT, ENJOY, PRESERVE, SHARE, SUPPORT...**

**-----STEWARDSHIP!!-----**



## From Audubon's 2024 Coastal Summary Report



Thank you to the Dog Island volunteers who helped with our postings over two work days. Photo: Col Lauzau/Audubon Florida.

### Partnership on Dog Island Becomes Bright Spots for Birds

Nestled between the Saint George Sound and the Gulf of Mexico, Dog Island is a haven for both birds and people. Audubon has recently strengthened partnerships with residents on the island, as the beaches act as a critical nursery for nesting sea and shorebirds, especially Snowy Plovers.

#### NEWSLETTER

Audubon staff contributed articles about protecting birds in the Dog Island Conservation District newsletter. Topics have included the start of nesting season, Red Knots, and migration.

#### VOLUNTEER EVENT

At the start of nesting season, Audubon staff "post" protected areas to keep nesting birds safe. What does that mean? Signs are installed in the sand and joined together by brightly colored string—with 100 signs in this location, it's a lot of work!



In 2025, 14 volunteers from Dog Island met Alie MacVicar, shorebird biologist, and Collette Lauzau, Panhandle shorebird program manager, on the sand to help.



“With so much help we were able to divide and conquer with some people distributing signs across the east side of the island, while others dug holes and installed the signs, and the last group focused on string and flagging. Everyone was very enthusiastic and excited about the work we were doing.”

— Alie MacVicar, Shorebird Biologist

#### THANK YOU

Thanks to engaged residents and helpful volunteers, Audubon hopes to see a successful nesting season for a range of species on the island. An extra thank you to William (Bill) Stone, Chair of the Dog Island Conservation District and Dog Island resident, for being such an amazing proponent of conservation efforts and our volunteer events.

# Audubon Update

Alie MacVicar, Audubon Florida

Nesting season is officially in full swing across the Panhandle! Out on Dog Island there are currently nesting Snowy Plovers, Wilson's Plovers, and American Oystercatchers. This nesting season you might hear people using terms such as "threatened" and "imperiled" when referring to our shorebirds. While these terms are commonly used to describe many species, the State of Florida officially designates threatened and imperiled species according to criteria set forth by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), an agency that considers factors such as population size, habitat status, and potential threats. Snowy Plovers and American Oystercatchers are both currently considered "threatened," while Wilson's Plovers are listed as an "imperiled" species. Threatened species are at imminent risk of becoming endangered. These species, as well as Florida's other imperiled birds, face threats from habitat loss, human disturbance, predation and climate change.



Myself, Audubon's Carrabelle Shorebird Biologist, and my partner Zach Matchinski, the Audubon Apalachicola Shorebird Biologist, do our part to contribute to the research of these critical species by monitoring nesting activity. We aim to keep track of how the nests are progressing, if any are lost, potential causes for the loss, and if they hatch. Once hatched we follow chicks until they are fledged and can fly.



Although there are slight variations, most of our shorebird species incubate their eggs for around a month. Once hatched the chicks leave the nest immediately, and you may even see them running around the shoreline while their parents keep a watchful eye. It will take around another month before they are fledged. Young chicks are in their most vulnerable state and must survive many threats before leaving the safety of their parent.

Dog Island provides much needed critical nesting habitat for Florida's shorebirds, thanks to the miles of



relatively undisturbed coastline. In February with the help of amazing local residents and volunteers, Audubon was able to prepost much of our nesting habitat. It is a big job that takes lots of helping hands! Thank you to all of those who came out to assist. You played an important role in protecting the critical beach nesting birds of Dog Island, and we couldn't have done it without you! Everyone can do their part to help the birds have a successful nesting season this summer by adopting Share the Shore principles while out on the beautiful beaches of Dog Island!



Here are a few ways you can help keep disturbances to a minimum for our busy beach-nesting birds:

- **Share the shore** – Give birds plenty of space. Getting too close can alarm parents, causing them to expend precious energy defending their nests.
- **Respect Posted Areas** – Roped-off sections of the beach are home to nesting birds. Even if you don't see them, remember that birds and their nests are well camouflaged.
- **Keep Pets Away** – Even well-trained dogs can pose a threat to nesting birds. Always follow leash laws and keep pets away from nesting areas.
- **Avoid Feeding Wildlife & Stash the trash** – Feeding wildlife (especially seagulls) will attract predators and can be detrimental to our nesting birds. Keep beaches clean by picking up all your trash after a day out in the sun.

If you would like to get involved in shorebird stewarding or to find out more information please visit Audubon Florida's website [www.audubon.org/florida/projects/coastal-stewardship-florida](http://www.audubon.org/florida/projects/coastal-stewardship-florida) or email Alie MacVicar, Audubon FL's Carrabelle Shorebird Biologist, directly at [Alexandra.Macvicar@audubon.org](mailto:Alexandra.Macvicar@audubon.org). Please consider joining our Facebook page by searching "Florida Panhandle Shorebird Stewards" in the Facebook search bar.

# Minutes of the Q3 Board Meeting, April 5, 2025

## **Call to Order:**

10:36 a.m. Board Members Present: Stone, Will, Kellett, Brady, Hudson

## **Approval of Agenda:**

Ms. Kellett moved the adoption of the proposed agenda, second by Mr. Brady, approved unanimously.

## **Approval of the previous minutes:**

Motion Mr. Brady, second Mr. Will, approved unanimously.



## **Chair Report:**

We are at the height of sea and shorebird nesting season. The string lines delineating these protected areas are in place on the two Narrows and the East End. (Thank you, Dog Island volunteers, for assisting our friends Col and Alie from Audubon in the setup.) Audubon has a new shorebird biologist working here, Zach Matchinski, so welcome him and help him help us protect the numerous threatened species that nest on our island. When walking near these areas, give the birds space by walking in the wet sand with dogs leashed. There is a strong Franklin County leash law which applies in the District.

Now is also the time to begin consideration of sea turtle nesting, which gets underway in May. **LIGHTS OUT FOR SEA TURTLES**; they dig the dark. Remember to turn off lights when not needed....it's easy to do. Also, leave our momma turtles alone and give them room. Franklin County has a Leave No Trace ordinance which stipulates that beach chairs, shade tents, and other beach items be removed at the end of the day, as well as requiring holes to be filled to allow the turtles safe beach access.



Turning to the need to repair the Tyson Harbor ferry dock, the Chair stressed our desire to refurbish this 75-year-old structure and make it usable into the next 75. The bulkhead and Bailey bridge sections need complete replacement, and our budget is not adequate to cover this once in several decades' expense. A direct appeal for funding will need to be implemented. To donate, please send a tax-deductible donation to the DICD with capital improvement/ferry dock on the memo line.

The Chair brought up the upcoming hurricane season and reminded all islanders to begin preparation by clearing up debris under homes, preparing for storm damage, and putting a waterproof name tag in vehicles.

Also, please be aware that in the last couple of months WWII unexploded ordnance has washed up, which has happened many times over the years. Leave such objects alone, contact FWC at 850-245-7716, Franklin County sheriffs, or our volunteer fire department, and let professionals come deal with this situation.

The next District meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on July 5th, 2025.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Brady, the District Treasurer, distributed our completed annual mandated audit and fiscal reports. He was pleased to announce that the audit was "clean" with no findings and was completed very early this year. He thanked those responsible for this positive result: our bookkeeper Elisabeth Sheats, Mr. Buckley, and Mr. Urquhart.

Looking at the fiscal reports, he commented that monies are moved among accounts, savings/reserve to checking, as it is received to maximize interest income for the District. He noted that the District is fine fiscally in comparison to our annual budget.



Mr. Brady then took a few moments to speak to potential Federal and State tax and other policies which could possibly impact the DICD. The Chair thanked Mr. Brady for his efforts on our behalf. Ms. Kellett moved acceptance, second Mr. Hudson, approved unanimously.

#### **Island Manager Report:**

Mr. Buckley reported that there had been no major equipment repairs necessary this quarter, but that our equipment, particularly the hook truck, is rusting at a furious rate. Blasting and painting will need to be done nearly continuously to keep it operating.

Eight nonfunctioning vehicles have been removed in the last three months, and the new District compactor household garbage receiver has been brought to the island and is ready for use.

Mr. Buckley voiced his satisfaction with the new credit card reader for payments and said it “is the way to go for him, the District and homeowners.”

The LCM has not yet been pulled out of the water in Carrabelle to have the bottom work done, but it is imminent. Until then, he is proceeding with topside tasks to keep the maintenance moving forward. He thanked Vinay Bose for the use of his skid steer for roadway work.



Mr. Buckley asked that a strong point be made to islanders about the contractors and workers brought out by them to the island due to some recent incidents. **\*\*YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. THEIR ACTIONS REFLECT UPON YOU. MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND OUR RULES, SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES, INCLUDING WHERE THEY MAY GO, WHERE AND HOW THEY DEPOSIT WASTE, AND APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR LOADING AND UNLOADING CARGO.\*\***

Mr. Brady moved acceptance, Ms. Kellett seconded, approved unanimously.

**Volunteer Fire Department Report:**

Fire Chief Cannon reported that things have been quiet. Duke Energy is about to begin construction of their new building behind the fire department structure, and, as part of this project, they have agreed to

install a gutter system. The captured fresh water will be directed into two large holding tanks for the fire department's use.

Brady moved, and Mr. Hudson seconded the acceptance of this report, passed unanimously.

#### **Airport Committee Report:**

The Chair said that Mr. Gronholm, the acting Chair of the committee, was absent, but they had spoken about the dredged DIYC sand and its possible use to fill low spots on the runway. The appropriate screen material is being obtained, and the sand would be piled for storage after screening and spread in limited quantity lifts over time. This was confirmed by the contractor performing the Yacht Club work.



Mr. Brady brought up the collection of annual landing fees which are lagging and the daily landing and tie down collection process formerly handled by Dr. Backerman. Discussion ensued to clarify this process.

The Chair asked for a motion to deal with the abandoned boat trailers near the Tyson Harbor ferry dock in part of the designated airport tie-down area. The District has asked repeatedly for these to be removed by their owners, but no progress has been made. Mr. Brady made a motion to require these trailers to be removed by their owners to their property by July 31, 2025. After this date, the island manager shall remove them to the Franklin County landfill or scrapyard as appropriate. Seconded by Mr. Will, passed unanimously. PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE CERTAIN FOR THIS REQUIRED ACTION.

#### **Old Business**



**A. Fee Schedule Consideration:** Mr. Brady distributed the current fee schedule resolutions passed by the DICD, including Road Use and Class III removal fees. He proposed the following agenda item for the July 5th 2025 DICD Board meeting. The District's costs continue to escalate, and these proposed changes are in reaction to that reality. Regarding Class III (construction materials), he recommended no change to the current \$2 per cubic foot removal charge when the items are taken to the shop and placed in the containers as directed by the island manager. What would change is the cost of a delivered—when possible—open container to an island property. A large container, now \$1150, would increase to \$1200. Shorter containers, now \$750, would increase to \$800. For Items placed in these containers exceeding the side wall height, the current fee of \$210 would increase to \$225. Mr. Brady expressed his desire for these fee changes, if adopted on July 5th 2025, to go into effect on August 1st 2025. Mr. Brady also proposed an agenda item for a new Road Use fee schedule, which, if adopted, would take effect January 1, 2026. All vehicle categories, from golf cart through heavy dump truck, would be charged an additional \$50 above the existing fee schedule rate. The Chair noted that this would appear under Old Business in the July agenda. Finally, Mr. Brady then brought up for discussion and to be agendaed for the July 5th meeting an additional Road Use fee relating to transporting equipment on a non-District barge. After paying the initial Road Use fee, the transporter could pay a fee for a particular time frame (up to six months) to utilize that same vehicle and method of transport multiple times during that period. As an example, lime rock is not something our LCM is suited to move in quantity due to its excessive weight. This proposed change, if adopted at the July 5th meeting, would go into effect August 1st, 2025.



**B. Ferry Docks:** The Chair reviewed repairs after Hurricane Helene to the Tyson Harbor docks. The LCM finger dock was destroyed by the storm, and the lime rock revetment immediately adjacent to it was undermined. Both have been rebuilt using the set-aside funds in the FEMA/Hurricane Response fund. The District, via our agent Mr. Jones of Rhumbline, is seeking reimbursement for these expenses through the programs of FEMA and the Florida Department of Emergency Management. This has been a laborious, time-consuming process, but we are hopeful of a positive outcome. Regarding the Tyson Harbor ferry dock and its necessary refurbishment, the Chair said some donations have already come in, and the intention is to make a direct appeal to islanders stressing its importance and imperative need of redoing its deck, joists, railings and bulkhead. If you would like to send a tax-deductible donation toward this endeavor, it would be appreciated. Please mail such donations to DICD, PO Box 14288, Tallahassee FL 32317 with capital improvement/dock repair written on the memo line. A brief discussion of commercial use of the two ferry docks followed.

**C. LCM/Compactor Receivers:** These topics were addressed during the island manager's report.

## New Business

**A. On-going or Board Subjects:** The Chair read into the record the Nominating Committee Report. This committee consisted of Ms. Cannon, Ms. Perlis and Ms. Teaf. They contacted those currently serving, and Mr. Will and Mr. Stone agreed to serve another term on the Board. They also nominated by unanimous vote Mr. Ed Atwell to take the place of Mr. Hudson who is stepping back from that role. The Chair then outlined how this process works according to the enabling legislation and District bylaws. This committee is tasked with ensuring that there is a full five-member Board. If anyone desires to become a Board member outside this nominating process, they will need to gather 10 property owners' signatures and present them to the District Chair prior to June 1st. An election would then be held for this two-year term. The Chair thanked Mr. Hudson for his long service to Dog Island and its residents to applause and THANK YOU ED!!! He also thanked Mr. Atwell for his willingness to serve.

Mr. Hudson closed the meeting by commenting on how Dog island is a place to enjoy, which he has personally done since the late 1950s, again to applause, thanks and encouragement.

**B. For the good of the order:** Ms. Kellett noted that she had renewed the DICD's membership in the State Surplus Property Program.

### Adjournment:

Mr. Brady moved adjournment and Mr. Hudson seconded.

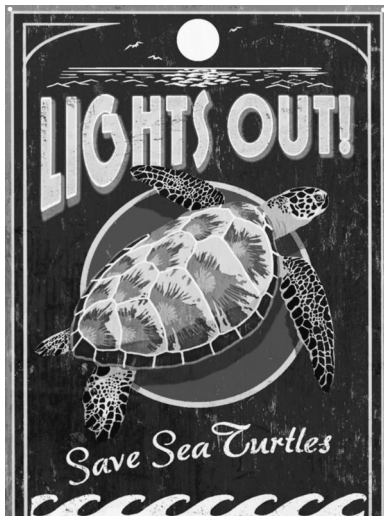


×××**Sea Turtle Nesting Season is Now!! \* MAY 1st- October 31st**×××

Please help Dog Island have the best nesting season ever.

**\*\* Leave no Trace \*\***

According to the Franklin County Visitors' Guide, the county's "Leave No Trace" ordinance is in effect for *all* beaches in the county. This ordinance requires removing all your stuff from the beach at days end- chairs, kayaks, tents, fishing gear etc. and fill in any created holes; Anything that could be in their way! Remember sea turtles can't back up and these things left out on the beach can impede and sometimes trap them, not allowing them to lay eggs and can even cause their deaths. As well, these beach items can prevent the turtle hatchlings successfully crossing the beach and reaching the ocean often causing their deaths.



Unleashed dogs can and do dig and disturb nesting. Leash 'em please.

And it is so crucial to turn off *all* your exterior lights before dark!! Turtles become disoriented by these bright artificial lights and the sky glow created by them. Franklin County ordinances, Chapter 5, describes all coastal lighting regulations.

YOU CAN HELP. WE CAN EASILY PERFORM THESE SIMPLE ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THESE FANTASTIC CREATURES.

THANK YOU!!

**Terri Cannon, Florida Sea Turtle Nesting permit holder--FWC #222  
Call 850 323-0508 to report a crawl/nest.**

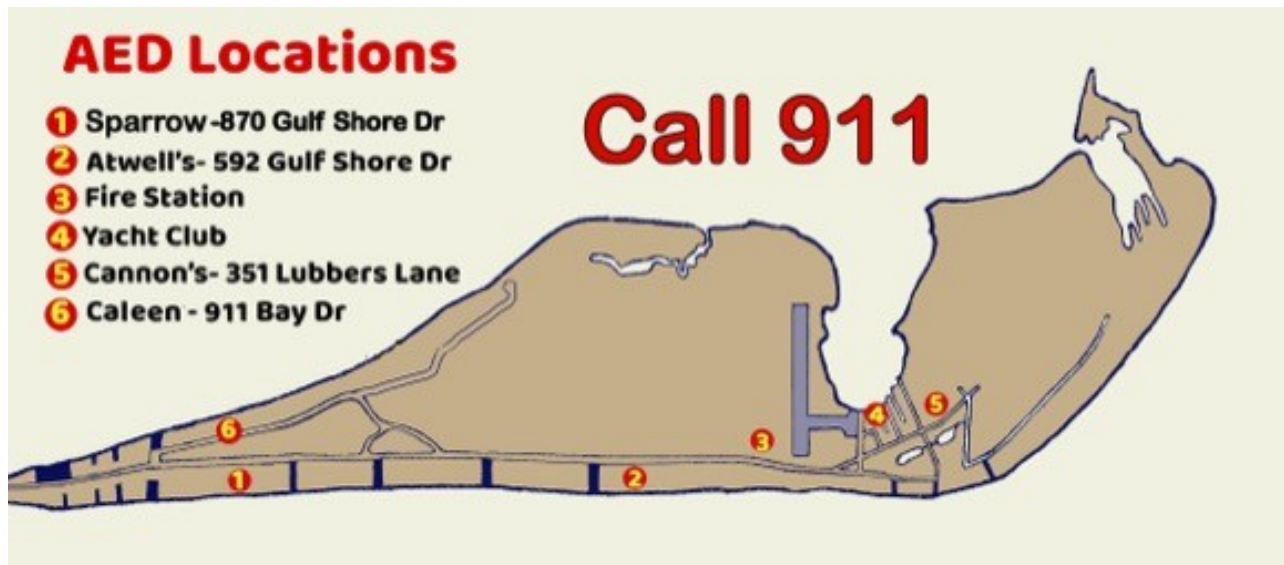




## Next Up: Q4 2025 DICD Board Meeting: July 5, 2025 10:30am at DICD Yacht Club

### 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) Fee Schedule Consideration
  - B) Ferry Dock
  - C) LCM
10. New Business
  - A) On-going or Board subjects
  - B) For the good of the order
11. Adjourn



### Handy Reference Information

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

## REMEMBER!

