

News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q1 Board Meeting Held 08/30/2025

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



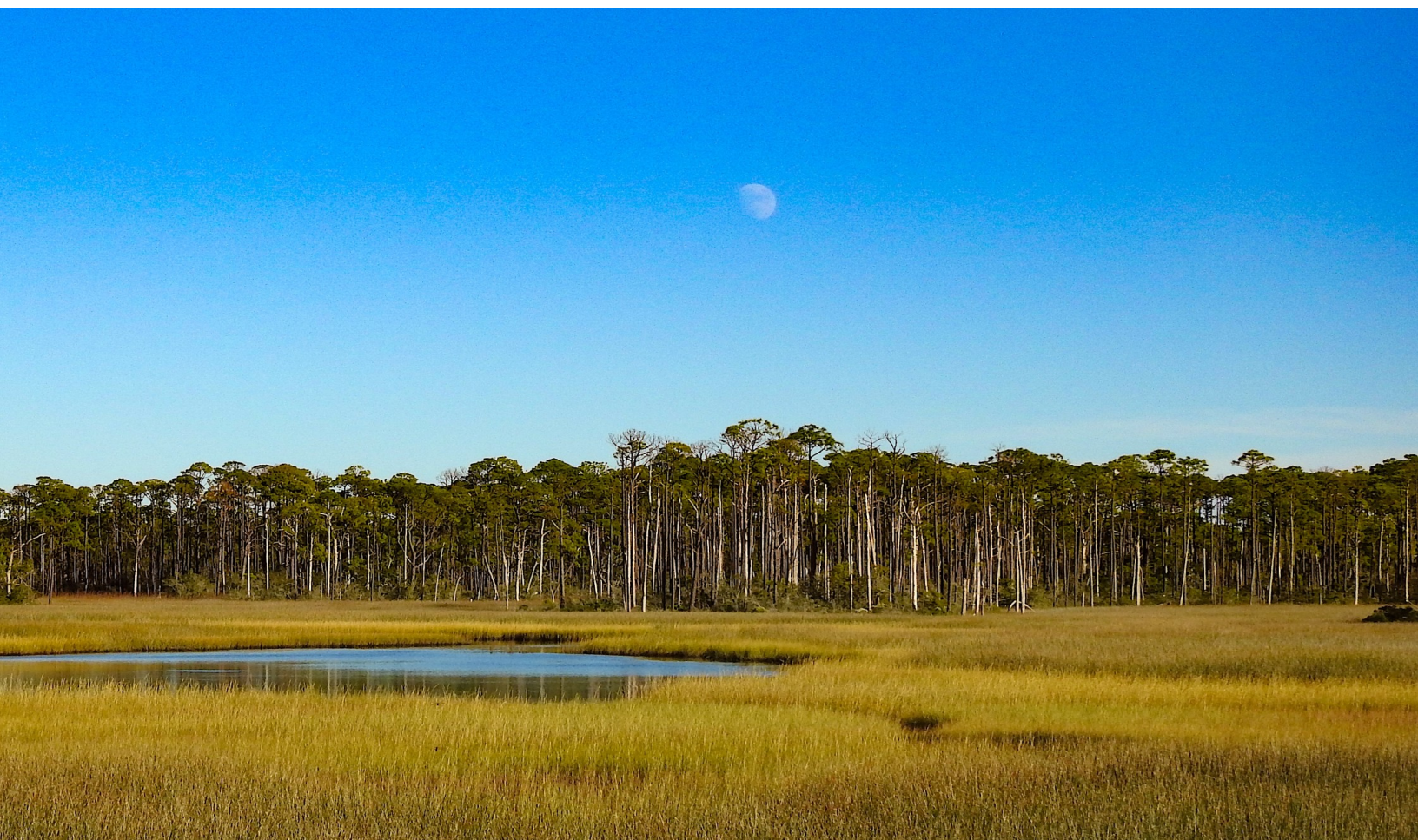
DOG ISLAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



All photos in this issue (except aerial on p.2) are by jsclark.net: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCvtwS>.

Important Alerts and Notices

- Q2 Board meeting to be held Saturday January 3, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club, weather permitting.
- Additional 2026 quarterly Board meetings on April 4th, July 4th, and September 5th.



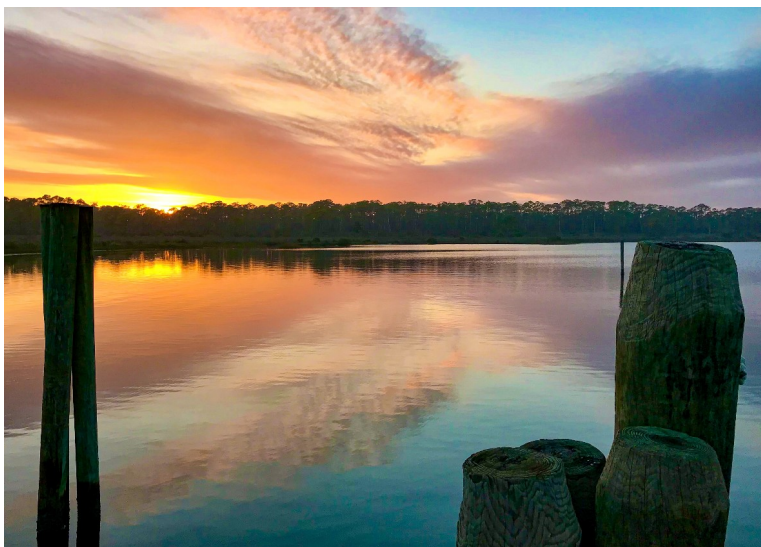
From the Chair

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. — Winston Churchill

No one has ever become poor by giving. — Anne Frank

Never hesitate when you have an impulse toward charity. — Mark Manson

WON'T YOU PLEASE?



Dog Islanders, please help us repair our aging ferry dock here on the island with a generous tax-deductible donation. This essential resource has served us well for 70+ years, but now the dock and its bulkhead need a reworking to give us more dependable decades of use. To date, about 40 individuals and families have contributed to this once-in-a-generation need (with several being extremely generous), which has the District nearly halfway to our funding goal. To raise the required amount (\$135,000+), we need the other 85 Dog Island home-owning families to step up. I

am asking you to please contribute. The District is constrained by very limited taxing and revenue stream options, an inability to apply for federal funds due to the COBRA Act, and the limited-access nature of this passenger ferry facility. Therefore, it falls upon us, we who care about and for Dog Island to fund this essential capital improvement. We must rely upon ourselves, our community alone to fund this major capital infrastructure improvement. I do realize that we all have competing worthy causes to support, but this year I would request that in your giving you prioritize the rebuilding of our Tyson Harbor ferry dock. I assure you that this rebuild is a genuine need for us, and that it cannot be put off much longer. With your help, this renewed ferry dock will be something we can all utilize and appreciate far into the future. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.



Donations: DICD, PO Box 14288, Tallahassee, FL 32317 (Memo line- Ferry Dock rebuild)

Minutes of the Q1 Board Meeting, August 30, 2025

Call to Order:

10:32 a.m. Board Members present: Mr. Stone, Mr. Will by phone, Ms. Kellett, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Hudson.

Approval of Agenda:

The Chair noted that the seating of new Board members and the election of officers needed to be added as the first item under New Business. With that addition Ms. Kellett motions approval, Mr. Brady seconds, approved unanimously.

Approval of previous minutes:

Motion to approve by Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Hudson, approved unanimously.

Chair Report:

The Chair said that he had recently discussed reports of poor water quality at nearby beaches with some concerned grandparents of young children. Calling the Franklin County Health Department on behalf of the District, the Chair was informed that three sites, St. George Island, Carrabelle Beach and Alligator Point, are tested frequently, while Dog Island cannot currently be added as a testing site, as he requested. The official suggested that islanders should review the findings from these locations, especially at this time of year when ocean temperature is elevated, evaluate them considering possible individual situations, e.g., immune deficiency, elderly, or open wounds, and make prudent personal decisions based on these nearby sample findings. The Florida Department of Health website “Florida Healthy Beaches,”

floridahealthybeaches.com, allows users to look up these reports. The Chair then remarked that the ferry parking lot in Carrabelle is not intended to be used for long-term vehicle storage, and vehicle owners need to make other arrangements for that. The limited parking there is intended for the use of homeowners as they travel to and from the island. The Chair then recognized Mr. Ken Jones of Rhumblin for his work as our authorized agent and liaison with FEMA, FDEM and Franklin County Emergency Management, particularly in preparing our Hurricane Helene emergency response reimbursement request, and hopefully those funds will arrive soon. The Chair then read a list of accomplishments into the minutes (see page 9 of this newsletter).



Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer distributed the current District financials along with a proposed updated 2024-2025 budget for Board consideration. The budget modifications are necessary to prevent individual line items from being overspent, and the new budget with these adjusted funding lines, if approved, would then become the DICD final budget for the current fiscal year. Mr. Hudson motioned approval of this

amended fiscal year 2024-25 budget, Ms. Kellett seconded, and after a short discussion it was adopted unanimously. The Treasurer then spent a few moments speaking about the extensive work recently done to our LCM and that cost. As his final topic he announced that the following Saturday, September the 6th at noon the first 2025-2026 budget adoption hearing would take place at the DIYC (notice of this meeting had been on the front page of the recent DICD newsletter), and at that meeting a tentative budget and millage rate for the upcoming fiscal year are to be adopted. Ms. Kellett motioned approval of the Treasurer's report, second by Mr. Hudson, approved unanimously.

Island Manager Report:

After a question by Mr. Brady about the LCM work and status Mr. Buckley enumerated the many repairs, including the replacement of studs which fasten the inspection covers, fabricating several new covers themselves, replacing gaskets, scraping, sand blasting, priming and painting the hull, repairing holes, and pulling one of the prop shafts and replacing some bearings, all through hot and rainy weather. Some minor repairs remain, but it is back in service. Continuous maintenance will be necessary to assure its ongoing reliability and utility. The hook truck motor is fine, but rust is gnawing away at its body. Mr. Buckley said that in early October he plans to bring a welder to the island to patch the household garbage compactor body. All the abandoned boat trailers have been removed from the tie down area of the airstrip, and one vessel is left to move. In closing his remarks Mr. Buckley announced that he would not be renewing his island manager contract on its scheduled renewal date, January 1, 2026.



Volunteer Fire Department Committee Report:

The Fire Chief, Mr. Cannon, spoke about the ongoing repair and maintenance of DIVFD fire and response equipment, and that everything was currently up and running. He said that after today's DICD meeting they would be conducting training at the firehouse, focusing on procedures for first aid response and emergency evacuation, along with the usual fire and foam truck training. The DIVFD will be conducting training of this nature at the fire house after every DICD scheduled meeting for anyone interested, and he encouraged islanders to connect with him for training any time. Finally, there has been nothing further from Duke Energy regarding their proposed maintenance building.

Airport Committee Report:

The committee members, Mr. Gronholm, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Atwell with the assistance of Mr. Sparrow, are working on improving this facility. There now are new airport signs and payment boxes; Mr. Gronholm is selling Dog island aviator paraphernalia to help defray airport expenses; fund raising is underway to possibly purchase more suitable mowing equipment for the airstrip and taxiway which would be less impactful; and annual fees are actively being solicited and collected.

Old Business

A. Emergency Communication System: The Chair tabled this issue due to Mr. Grape's absence. Mr. Grape had been tasked with researching the availability, cost and applicability to Dog Island of such a system.

B. Ferry Dock Update: The Chair said the District needs to raise more money via donations to repair the Dog Island ferry dock. The substrate, the pilings and the floating dock sections remain solid after the work done to the structure about 16 years ago, but the Bailey Bridge WWII-era joists, decking and rail systems need to be replaced. The bulkhead, where the dock meets the shore, also will be dug out and completely replaced. Drawings have been done, and a permit has been issued. District general revenue is not adequate to the funding of this project, as its cost is greater than our tax revenue for an entire year. The Chair said that he was placing his hopes in the generosity of islanders and the thought there will be a "bandwagon effect," as more islanders are moved to make tax-deductible donations.



C. Policy and Procedure Manual addendum: The Chair distributed copies of the proposed Procurement Policy addendum that had been presented for review at the July meeting of the Board. He gave a short history of this topic, noting that the District currently has as part of our Policy and Procedure Manual the State of Florida procurement policy (Statute #287). Today's addendum is simply a point-by-point enumeration of these policies, which gives the Florida Department of Emergency Management what they asked for. Thanking Mr. Jones and Ms. Kellett for its preparation, he asked for a motion to adopt the presented addendum which Mr. Brady made, seconded by Ms. Kellett, which passed unanimously.

D. Fee Schedule Consideration: Previously tabled was an addendum to Road Use Resolution #9118 proposed by Mr. Brady which would deal with vehicles brought to the island by vessels other than the District LCM. (A road use fee is charged regardless of how a vehicle or piece of equipment reaches the District.) This proposed addendum would charge a fee for the duration of the vehicle or equipment stay and allow for multiple trips within that time frame. For discussion Mr. Brady moved this addendum, and Mr. Will seconded. Because there was no copy of the proposal at the meeting, and a series of questions asked at the prior meeting still needed to be addressed in the language of the proposal (see minutes of July 5, 2025 District Board meeting), including enforcement, responsibility for oversight and compliance, duration of vessel at landing, equipment utilized on only a single property etc. the Chair suggested to Mr. Brady that these questions be fully addressed in his proposed addendum for consideration at the next meeting. Ms. Kellett moved tabling this proposed addendum, Mr. Brady seconded, approved unanimously.

E. Helicopter Services Pad: Mr. Gore at the previous DICD meeting put forward the idea of constructing a helicopter pad on the island for emergency services. Mr. Gore is an emergency room physician and suggests that having such a pad available would ensure that these air care services would

be more likely to respond when called. This could shorten the time to receive assistance in a critical medical emergency substantially. He spoke of a traditional 40x40 foot concrete pad as a possibility, along with a raised marine grade platform, which would mitigate the occasional rain-induced flooding. Many planning and due diligence questions were raised by those in attendance. Mr. Sparrow shared some information about the appropriate publications dealing with such matters. Ms. Kellett motioned Board support for further research of this idea, including firming up construction plans, placement, minimal requirements, feasibility and funding numbers, which was seconded by Mr. Brady and passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Seating of Board Members and Officers' Election:

Mr. Eddie Hudson is stepping down from the Board after many years of dedicated service to island citizens with many terms spent as our Treasurer. The Chair presented Mr. Hudson with a monogrammed shirt and a cake to be shared with his family and friends in attendance after the meeting. Mr. Hudson expressed his gratitude for being allowed the privilege to serve a place he has loved since childhood and which he now shares with his children and grandchildren. The Chair spoke of his abiding affection and respect for Mr. Hudson. Mr. Atwell was asked to step forward and assume his two-year seat on the Board. Mr. Will and Mr. Stone also were seated for another two-year term. Ms. Kellett moved the following slate of officers for the coming year: Mr. Stone, Chair; Mr. Will, Vice-Chair; and Mr. Brady, Treasurer, second by Mr. Will, passed unanimously.



B. On-going or Board subjects: The Chair said that he was extending the Aftermath Debris Removal pre-event contract which ends in October for six months to get us through the current storm season, unless there was a Board member objection. After the extension, this contract will need to be put out for competitive bid per our procurement requirements. Approved with no objection.

C. For the Good of the Order: Every year at this Annual meeting the Board establishes a list of goals for the District for the upcoming fiscal year. The Chair read into the minutes the proposed goals, which Mr. Brady moved approval of and Mr. Will seconded, approved unanimously. (See list page 10.) Ms. Kellett proposed the following Board meeting dates for the current fiscal year: January 3rd 2026, April 4th 2026, July 4th 2026, and September 5th 2026. Motion to adopt by Mr. Brady, second by Mr. Will, passed unanimously. Ms. Kellett reminded everyone that the International Coastal Cleanup was scheduled for September 20th.

Adjournment:

Ms. Kellett then moved adjournment, which was seconded by Mr. Will, passed unanimously.

2025-26 Budget Hearing:

On September 6th, 2025 at noon at the DIYC located on Dog Island at a public hearing, the DICD Board members unanimously voted (all members being present) to adopt both the current 4 mills ad valorem DICD tax rate and this tentative \$231,000 operating budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. They also unanimously voted to not move \$5000 into the FEMA Match/Hurricane Response fund at this time as we await our Hurricane Helene reimbursement funding and to evaluate moving such general revenue annually.

Dog Island Conservation District
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
 October 2025 through September 2026

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income		Expense	
Funds carried forward	2,921.00	605 · Airport Expenses	7,500.00
500 · Franklin County Grant	20,800.00	610 · Administrative Expenses	40,000.00
503 · Franklin Co Garbage Tipping	6,500.00	625 · Dock Expenses	5,000.00
505 · Tax Income	136,269.00	635 · Election Expense	1,000.00
509 · Interest Inc. - Petty Cash	10.00	654 · Truck and Tractor	10,000.00
510 · Interest Inc.-Checking	1,000.00	655 · Non-Allocated Services	13,000.00
512 · Interest Inc.-SBA	4,000.00	656 · Legal Expenses	2,000.00
514 · Interest Income – Other	2,000.00	657 · LCM Maintenance	5,000.00
515 · Airport Fees	2,000.00	659 · LCM Operations	7,000.00
520 · Road Use Fees	28,000.00	660 · Roads Expense	70,000.00
560 · Class 3 Trash Removal Fees	15,000.00	663 · Island Stewardship	4,000.00
570 · Donations-General	10,000.00	664 · Garbage Comp. Maint. & Op.	5,000.00
580 · Other Income	2,500.00	665 · Class 3 Trash Removal	5,000.00
Total Income	<u>231,000.00</u>	666 · House Hold Garbage Removal	2,000.00
Gross Profit	231,000.00	670 · Shop Expenses	5,000.00
		673 · Submerged Land Lease	3,500.00
		675 · Transportation (Ferry Service)	19,000.00
		680 · Capital Outlay	15,000.00
		682 · Principal	10,500.00
		683 · Interest Expense	1,500.00
		Total Expense	231,000.00
		Net Ordinary Income	0.00
		Net Income	0.00

Affirmed unanimously (Mr. Atwell not attending) by the DICD Board on September 16th, 6pm, at an advertised public meeting held at 8113 Longmeadow Dr. Tallahassee FL.

DICD Accomplishments 2024 -2025 Fiscal Year

- Removed all debris from roadways and beaches from Hurricane Helene; expense to be reimbursed.
- Purchased and replaced shop roll door damaged by Helene; expense to be reimbursed.
- Rebuilt LCM finger dock destroyed by Helene; expense should be reimbursed.
- Rebuilt Tyson Harbor protective revetment; expense should be reimbursed.
- Purchased new household garbage compactor receiver.
- Pulled LCM out of water and performed bottom work, painting, welding, new inspection covers, and prop shaft.
- Initiated hang tag parking permit system for Carrabelle River parking area.
- Began accepting credit cards for fee payments.
- Continued strong partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society for Sheriff's patrols; completely funded via donation.
- Began process of Tyson Harbor ferry dock rebuild; designed, permitted and \$55K raised via donation to date.
- Designed, produced and distributed sea turtle nesting information placards.
- Performed the other myriad daily functions of the District at a high level.



DICD Goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

- Raise the remaining funding required to rebuild the Tyson Harbor ferry dock, put the contract out for bid, and complete the work.
- Continue raising funds toward the goal of \$125K in the segregated FEMA match/hurricane response fund and replenish it to the pre Helena damage amount with some of the FEMA and FDEM reimbursements from the funds expended due to that storms damage.
- Post an RFP for a pre-event debris removal contractor, as our current contract is expiring. Institute a long-term contract with the winning bidder.
- Sand blast and paint the large open construction debris dumpster as maintenance and to lengthen its service life.
- Weld, repair, and paint the garbage compactor body to eliminate gaps, refuse escapes and leaks.
- Complete remaining maintenance tasks on the LCM that were not completed when it was pulled out of the water over the summer of '25.
- Increase efforts and funding in the protection of nesting endangered sea turtles and sea- and shorebirds. Continue to have a strong relationship with our environmental partners the Nature Conservancy, the Alachua Conservation Trust, and the Audubon Society.
- Finish removing abandoned boat trailers and all other items from the airport tie-down area near Tyson Harbor. Allow native grasses to reseed and cover the area.

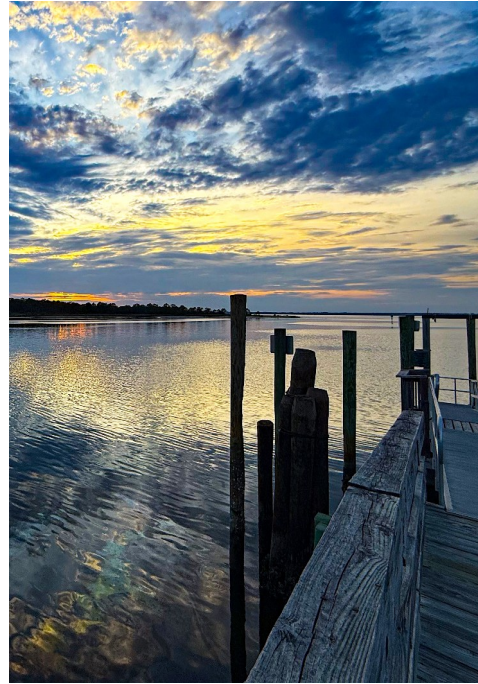


Next Up: Q2 2026 DICD Board Meeting:

January 3, 2026 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) Emergency Communication System
 - B) Ferry Dock update
 - C) Current DICD contracts
 - D) Fee Schedule Consideration
 - E) Helicopter services pad
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!

