

News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q4 Board Meeting Held 07/04/2026

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



DOG ISLAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Important Alerts and Notices

- Q1 Board meeting to be held Saturday September 5th, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club, weather permitting.
- DICD 2026-27 budget hearing 12:30 (after Q1 Board meeting, same date and location).

From the Chair

Experience is what you get while looking for something else. —Federico Fellini

The only good thing to do with good advice is pass it on; it is never of any use to oneself.
—Oscar Wilde

Anyone who isn't embarrassed of who they were last year probably isn't learning enough.
—Alain de Botton

Patience, Grasshopper

Allow me: I am going to pretend that you are new to the island and have not yet learned the how and why of our unique place.

First, like wherever you have come from, in any emergency dial 911.

You may think that the entire island is the Dog Island Conservation District, but the DICD ends at the western edge of Cannonball. (There are signs showing road ends.) Driving beyond there is driving on the beach, which is illegal in Franklin County by ordinance. Also, you are trespassing in that there is no road access on the West End, as the lots run from bay to beach. While driving in the District, you must stay on the platted roadways and please go slowly everywhere. There are numerous blind driveways, and that vehicle you are approaching on our single-lane roadway could be driven by a child learning to drive. This is neither Atlanta nor Tallahassee-- where are you rushing to? Please relax, watch for people on sunset cruises who may not be paying full attention, and pass this caution on to your family and guests.

In this vein, it is not disrespectful to inform and instruct family and guests, but rather it is showing a real regard for your island neighbors. This extends to those you hire and have on the island to work for you. Please speak with them and lay out acceptable behaviors and practices, and vet workers properly and completely before they arrive. Again, respect the welfare and safety of your neighbors as you would your own.



There is no camping anywhere on Dog Island (a Franklin County ordinance), on private lots, our beach and bayside, or on the Preserves. Remember there are no public restrooms or drinking water sources anywhere on the island, so this is a health, aesthetic, and safety issue. Also, no open fires are allowed on the island. They pose a danger to us all.

There is a No Wake zone in Tyson Harbor from the nearest channel marker to the docks. Going slowly and off plane keeps moored boats from striking each other or dock pilings, and it allows safer boarding or unloading from the Yacht Club slips and the ferry dock. Please contact the DIYC dock master to arrange a slip if you are not a member, and do not leave an unattended boat at the District floating dock.

Our freshwater lens, typical of most barrier islands, is a lake of fresh water that floats on the saltwater-saturated sand that composes Dog Island. We tap this lens via our shallow wells for potable water but remember that this lens also receives the outflow from your septic systems. Solids can build up in the tank, limiting its effectiveness and potentially affecting the drain field. (Pumping the tank out periodically is recommended where possible.) Don't put harsh chemicals into the system and use environmentally friendly cleaners whenever possible. Maintenance and thoughtful usage is an imperative. Finally, locate your tank and drain field so they won't be driven over and damaged.



Our dogs: In Franklin County (Dog Island) all dogs must be leashed by ordinance.

Please, let's do this for our threatened and endangered nesting shorebirds and the safety and wellbeing of our neighbors. Unleashed dogs running through or near open beach nesting areas can make these birds abandon their nests or young offspring. So, leash your dog and walk down in the wet sand, giving sea and shorebirds some undisturbed space. Also, no one, child or older adult, on the island should ever feel fearful or threatened by someone's unleashed pet jumping up on them or nipping at their heels as they walk our beaches and roads. (To be clear, I don't blame the dog for acting like a dog; it's up to the owner to maintain control.)

One of the great things about Dog Island is our dark skies (lack of light pollution) which helps our baby sea turtles find their way, allows for great stargazing, and helps reduce the sky glow which disrupts natural cycles in so many places. (Again, there is a Franklin County ordinance regarding lighting.) You can help keep our skies this way by minimizing the use of outdoor lighting to when it is truly required for safety, shielding the bulbs and directing the light downwards, utilizing the minimum wattage

necessary (a 40-watt bulb out here looks like 100 watts in town), and using long wavelength FWC-approved amber bulbs. The easiest thing is just to be conscious of light usage and turn them off when not needed. Speaking of assisting our sea turtles, remember to take all beach gear in at night, fill in holes, and knock down sandcastles, all of which can be obstacles for nesting sea turtles. Give them plenty of space and turn off your flashlights if you spot them and report crawls to Terri Cannon, our permit holder.

Finally, one last maxim: Only household garbage (kitchen and bath trash) goes into the compactor! Do not use it to dispose of roofing, microwaves, old decking pieces, refrigerator boxes, or any other bulky items that could damage or clog it. You can arrange for the removal of non-household refuse by contacting the island manager and scheduling a time to place it in the appropriate container in the shop area and pay a fee. This system is essential to keeping the service operational. Thank you for your assistance and compliance.

As Mark Twain said, “Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”



Identifying the 7 marine turtle species



Minutes of the Q4 Board Meeting, July 4th, 2026

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

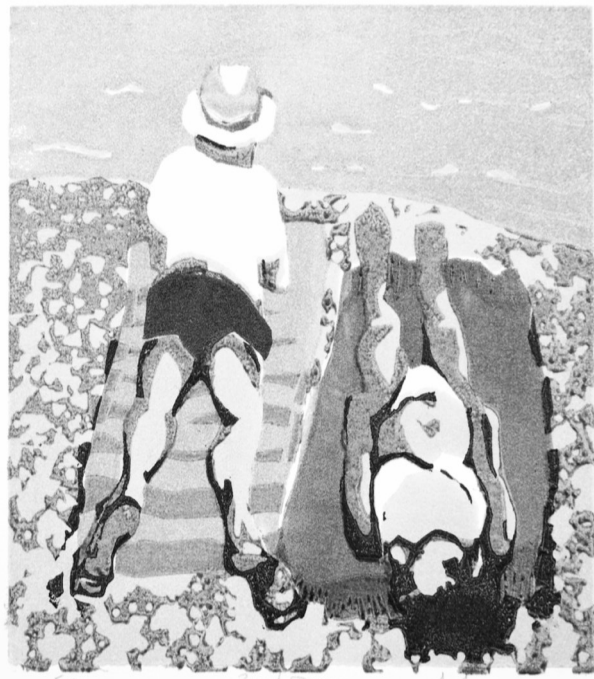
Approval of previous minutes:

Motion to approve by Mr. Brady, second Mr. Atwell, approved unanimously.

Chair Report:

The Chair (Mr. Stone) said he had several topics that he wanted to bring up. He asked again for any physical mailing address and email updates to be sent to him at williamstone1048@gmail.com. He thanked those individuals who had stepped up to help an islander having a sudden coronary event near the ferry dock the previous day and expressed his sympathy to the family for this tragic event. He requested for everyone in attendance to be mindful of heat safety and their vehicle's speed as they traverse our narrow soft sand roadways lined with hidden driveways. He noted that per Terri Cannon the island already has 15 sea turtle nests (one green, the rest loggerheads) and that now was the time to be turning off our outside lights at dusk when not needed and to be moving beach gear back to your home at day's end; i.e., doing everything possible to promote the welfare and success of these fantastic visitors. The Chair then offered his sincere thanks to TNC and Audubon

for their great cooperative effort in support of the Franklin County Sheriff's four officers who are patrolling the East End, Bay and Narrows on this exceptionally busy summer weekend. The sheriffs' presence helps protect the nesting areas for endangered shorebirds, keeps boaters and guests safe and promotes a calm and safer holiday on the water and beaches. Thank you to these great sister organizations for their financial support, donating islanders and the officers themselves for their efforts on our behalf. The Chair then remarked that he has had the privilege to serve more than 30 years on the Board of the DICD and that he now would like to turn to the topic of succession planning. For example, he has asked Board member Ms. Kellett to be the keeper of Board documents, agreements, contracts, and resolutions, and he has asked Board member Mr. Will to assume more oversight of the physical plant responsibilities, such as the restoration of our ferry dock, the coordination and support of the Island manager, and hurricane preparedness efforts. The Chair spoke of some very positive accomplishments over the last few years, e.g., Duke Energy's/Primoris's four-plus million dollar



replacement of our energy grid, the \$600,000 purchase and set aside of the 40-acre Preserve, the generosity of so many kind islanders in helping to fund the ferry dock rebuild, the hurricane response fund and the holiday weekend patrol joint program which has now been in place for five years. He thanked Mr. Joe Clark for his work establishing and maintaining the DICD website, and the continuing efforts of Mr. Jones and Mr. Teaf on an array of issues.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Brady distributed to the Board and those in attendance the financial statements up to the end of June, noting that some invoices were still outstanding. He reviewed the balance sheet and noted that the hurricane expenditures monies have been received from FEMA and FDEM thus refilling that segregated account, and that the District has received almost all its expected ad valorem tax revenue. He stated that the District has approximately \$25,000 in general revenue to carry us to the end of the fiscal year, and we remain solvent and within budget, although the Island Manager will be speaking to some upcoming extensive repair expenses. Mr. Brady then made a motion to hold the 2026-2027 DICD budget hearing after the Annual Board meeting at 12:30 on Saturday, September 5, 2026. Ms. Kellett seconded that motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Kellett then moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report, second Mr. Atwell, passed unanimously.

Island Manager Report:

The island manager, Mr. Buckley, began by noting that this would be his last meeting as such and that his presentation would be more detailed than usual. He went over the status of the District equipment in its current condition, beginning with the recently serviced tractor, which should have another 250 hours' usage prior to its next service. Turning to the hook truck, he said that it needs a brake job and a new rear rim, the transfer case mounts need replacing, there are air and hydraulic leaks, and the A/C needs repair, along with all the body corrosion from long exposure to salt air. The Treasurer asked for an estimated repair amount for budgeting, and \$10,000 minimum and \$18,000 likely was stated. The truck should be headed to a repair facility soon. Mr. Brady said he would investigate the feasibility of leasing a new truck or possibly purchasing an older one. Mr. Buckley spoke at length about the status of the LCM and stated that the port side motor's thermostat was non-functional and, along with the breakaway shaft coupling, he has been trying to get Dockside to fix this. Also, there are issues with the heat exchanger, the head may need reworking, and carbon buildup is an issue. Many of these engine issues are of the long-standing variety. Welding is needed on the lazerette, there are no alternators currently, the generator may need a new head gasket, and the hydraulic rams that operate the gate will need to be repacked. Bottom scraping has been conducted by a diver, thus extending the life of the bottom paint without the need to pull the vessel. The shop and shop area are in good shape. The dumpsters are OK, but the compactor still requires welding to patch numerous holes. As usual, our



sincere request is that people only place kitchen/bath trash in it to avoid problems here and at the Franklin County landfill. There was a discussion about District rules/policies, the use of the LCM and our Road Use fees, along with the need to seek out increased funding for the upkeep of District instrumentalities.

Volunteer Fire Department Committee Report:

The Fire Chief, Mr. Cannon, reminded those in attendance of the DIVFD fundraising Pancake Breakfast the following morning 8am-10am. He said that both fire trucks are operational at this time and that some work is being conducted on the Fire House, including putting a gutter on the rear of the building to direct water into the large holding tanks there. He spoke of the tragedy of the previous day, saying everything that could have been done was and thanked those folks who tried to save the gentleman's life. Three doctors were in attendance, but there was little they could do, unfortunately. Two weeks prior to this meeting a CPR class was given at the Fire House. The locations of the DIVFD defibrillators currently located on the island became a topic, along with how to ensure that everyone knows those locations. The Chair asked that this information and any other DIVFD info be given to the DICD Board so that it could be included in the newsletter and publicized. Mr. Cannon, as he does at every meeting, made a call for more involvement by islanders in the work of the Fire Department, whose Board is meeting directly after the close of this DICD meeting at the Fire House. Mr. Perlis asked if we could approach the Franklin County Sheriff about potentially having an island resident be an "official" with his department to help with enforcement of county ordinances like no camping or driving on the beach.



Airport Committee Report:

The topic of using the DIYC dredged sand to fill the low spots on the airstrip was discussed. The Yacht Club has asked for some consideration from the District in exchange, such as a tipping credit. Mr. Atwell was asked to work with Mr. Gronholm to come up with a fair deal for both parties, and the Board would consider their solution at the September meeting.

Old Business:

A. Ferry Dock Update: The Chairman discussed the status of the effort to rebuild the ferry dock and bulkhead. The District has a permit from Florida DEP and has raised \$125,000 via donations. Mr. Will has been asked to initiate the RFP for the work (required under our procurement policy) and then acquire a building permit and oversee the construction when that begins. He confirmed that these efforts are set to begin soon. The Chairman thanked Mr. Will and those who have donated so generously over the last year and commented that several families had done so multiple times. He also thanked those who had written personal notes with their contributions offering encouragement and support. We are still asking for contributions, as we remain short of the projected needed amount (approximately \$150,000). To contribute, send a check to DICD, PO Box 14288, Tallahassee FL 32317 and write "ferry dock rebuild" on the memo line.

B. Island Manager Update: Mr. Teaf, who, along with Mr. Jones, had headed up the endeavor to find a qualified replacement for Mr. Buckley, spoke of the process and results. The contractual position was advertised in the Tallahassee Democrat, the Apalachicola Times, and WOYS-FM, and flyers were distributed to more than 40 businesses in Wakulla and Franklin counties. Fifty-five requests for the RFP package were fulfilled; however, only one response had been received by the due date in late June. Mr. Teaf described that submission as responsive and adequate to the RFP. It is from Hartsfield Services LLC (Shannon Hartsfield) out of Eastpoint. Mr. Hartsfield holds a 100-ton captain's license and has contracted with an individual with a CDL until he can acquire one for himself. Hartsfield Services has the necessary business insurance and years of experience in the marine environment while working for UF and FSU. The bid contract dollar amounts are comparable to Mr. Buckley's initial contract. Mr. Jones knows Mr. Hartsfield and has worked with him on Apalachicola River projects in the recent past. Mr. Teaf said they had hoped for multiple submissions and were disappointed in the lack of interest. Mr. Teaf said the committee found the submittal both reasonable and responsive and recommended retaining the contractual services of Hartsfield Services LLC for the island manager position. Mr. Atwell made the motion to do as recommended, Mr. Brady seconded, passed unanimously.

C. Floating dock Tyson Harbor: Ideas for relieving blockages at the DICD Tyson Harbor floating dock had been discussed at the previous meeting, with several possible scenarios. One idea was to slightly reconfigure the facility so that more than one vessel could utilize it simultaneously. The simplest option for that would be the removal of one unnecessary piling at the harbor end of the floating dock, which would allow the ferry or some other vessel to be moved forward and moored with only its rear half occupying the floating dock. The Chair said that when Docks for Less replaces the missing Tyson Harbor channel marker, he would ask them to remove that piling as well. (Mr. Teaf volunteered to place another temporary floating buoy at the site of the missing channel marker until they arrive to replace it.) After a question from Mr. Perlis it was made clear that nothing has altered the fact that other vessels being utilized by and for island property owners have access to the floating ferry dock.



D. Road Use Fee – Septic Pump Out. The Chair briefly explained the background and history of the issue. A homeowner recently wanted to bring out a septic pump-out truck and said they believed that there would be no road use fee charged, as that was a long-standing Board policy. Looking into this by reviewing past minutes, it was discovered that this was an accepted practice. However, no vote had established this policy, and the Road Use Fee resolution had not been modified to reflect it. (It had been utilized one time which was documented.) The Chair was seeking a clear policy regarding what fee, if any, should be charged going forward. The Chair then suggested a reduced fee, perhaps \$150, to encourage the maintenance of these systems for everyone's benefit. There were some objections and many opinions offered in response, one being the idea that not all islanders could benefit from it, or that some individuals would take advantage of this reduced cost to avoid replacing their drain field. Ms. Kellett, for the sake of having a clear stated policy, moved that there be no discount for septic pump out

trucks included in the road use ordinance, which was seconded by Mr. Brady and passed by majority vote (Mr. Will had left the meeting, and the Chair opted to vote in the negative).

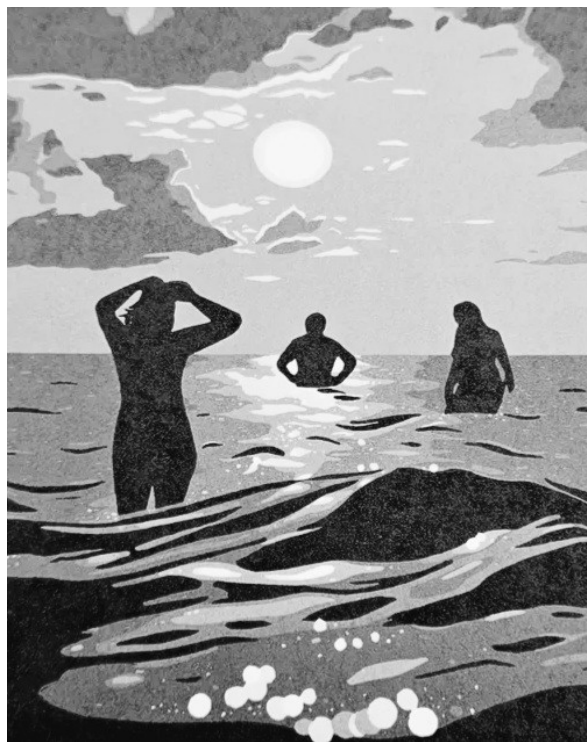
E. Ferry Contract. The Chair stated that the contract with the ferry operator Dog Island Ferry (Mr. Urquhart) is scheduled to end on the last day of July 2026. He then read a letter that he had received from Mr. Urquhart regarding his desire to have the contract extended while he brought his new boat up to the COI standard. Mr. Urquhart asked that because of his long service to island residents, his keeping fees low even though his costs have increased, and his desire to keep the ferry service uninterrupted, his contract be extended. In answer to this request Mr. Brady made a motion to extend the contract six months beginning August 1st, 2026, Mr. Atwell seconded, and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. For the Good of the Order: Mr. Brady made a motion to increase, beginning Oct 1st 2026, the contract amount paid to Small Business Concerns by \$25.00 a month. A second by Ms. Kellett, which passed unanimously. Mr. Brady expressed his desire to discuss the amount paid to the Franklin County Sheriffs for their holiday patrols at the Budget meeting in September to make sure that the funds are accounted for in the DICD budget process. This year, for the first time in five years, donations have not yet covered the entire cost of this shared activity.

Ms. Kellett brought up the annual International Coastal Cleanup which takes place the 3rd Saturday in September. Islanders were asked to mark their calendars. There will be a slight change, as Mr. and Mrs. Teaf will not be available to host the post-work luncheon, but an alternate location will be found.

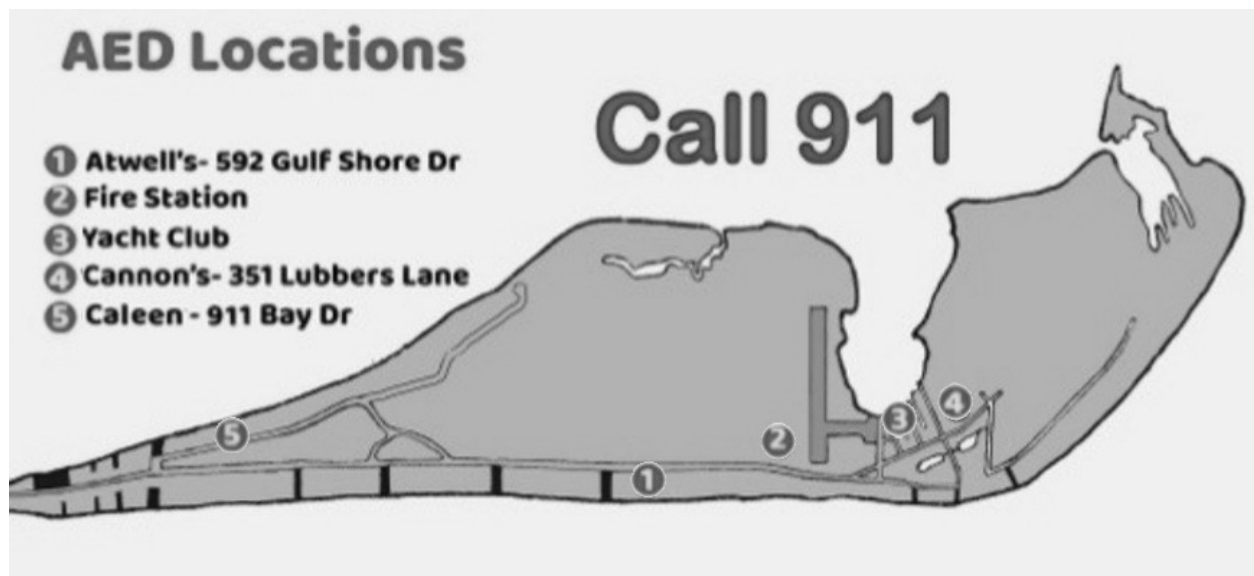
Meeting adjourned.



Next Up: Q1 2027 DICD Board Meeting: September 5, 2026 10:30am at DI Yacht Club Porch

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) Ferry dock update
 - B) District contracts
 - C) Equipment and instrumentalities
10. New Business
 - A) Seating of Members and Election of Officers
 - B) Ongoing or Board topics – Goals and Accomplishments
 - C) 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.

