

News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q1 Board Meeting Held 08/31/2024

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



DOG ISLAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Important Alerts and Notices

New parking permits for Carrabelle lot! See page 3.

Q2, 2025 Board meeting to be held January 4 at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club, weather permitting.



A Message from the Chair

“Good luck is when opportunity meets preparation, while bad luck is when lack of preparation meets reality.” T. A. Edison

“I have always believed, and I still believe, that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way we can give it meaning and transform it into something of value.” Herman Hesse

The powerful hurricanes Helene and Milton came ashore just east of us this summer; both had been forecast to make direct strikes on Dog Island. While we did not get away completely unscathed, the damage was thankfully not overwhelming. Call it very good luck for us and Franklin County, and extremely bad misfortune for Horseshoe Beach, Steinhatchee, Cedar Key, rural north Florida and the Appalachians. We had a blessed escape. But that escape should also be a wake-up call for improving preparedness and forward-looking action. Now is the time to do what you can to make Dog Island, our beaches, and your home more storm ready. How, may you ask?

The DICD over the course of the last four years has taken several steps towards a fulsome hurricane response. We have developed relationships with the county and state departments of Emergency Management, adopted a written emergency action plan, and established pre-event contracts with an experienced consultant and a highly qualified debris removal firm, as well as established and solicited funds for a segregated FEMA match/hurricane response account. This important fund has never been fully subscribed and is not adequate in the event of a strong storm striking Dog Island. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to this vital response fund. As an example of its importance, the District is currently utilizing a portion of this fund to reconstruct the LCM finger dock and a small portion of the ferry dock in Tyson Harbor damaged by Helene. When the work is complete, we will submit a request for partial reimbursement for this expenditure to FEMA. Planning and forethought had these funds ready now and available when needed.

What other actions can we all undertake to prepare? Let's get out in front of potential post-storm cleanup tasks. Let's remove all non-operable vehicles, help remove the boats, trailers and other items stored inappropriately on the airstrip tie-down area and remove all other abandoned items and equipment near the shop and fire department. Let's pay for the removal of piles of construction debris under our homes, take off hazardous waste such as paint and batteries which could be scattered in a storm, and place waterproof owner ID in every vehicle to facilitate removal in the event of flooding. Let's clean up debris from our lovely beaches, plant more sea oats, and restore sand fencing where appropriate. After hurricane Michael the University of Florida through IFAS published Dune Restoration and Enhancement for the Florida Panhandle, publication # SGEB-75/SG156. There are lists of native plants along with timelines and tools to help homeowners preserve and protect their property. Let us all prepare now to lessen future burdens and heartache.

Speaking of burdens and heartache, our friends and neighbors who were impacted by hurricanes Helene and Milton could still use our help. Some vetted reliable charities that you might consider for a donation are the United Way of North Carolina, Feeding America, BeLoved Asheville, the American Red Cross, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Big Bend, and World Central Kitchen, among others. Your generosity would be appreciated.

New Parking Permits for Carrabelle Lot

The DICD has mailed new parking permits for use in the Carrabelle parking lot. **This new system will go into effect on January 1, 2025.** After this date any vehicle parked in the lot without displaying one of the new permits will be subject to being towed. The reason for this change is that there are at least 1200 windshield stick-on permits that have been distributed for that lot of 20 parking spots, which, coupled with a historic lack of towing enforcement, has led to considerable complaints and inconvenience for homeowners.

To improve access and fairness, two mirror-hanging permits have been assigned to each household, each with the same number. The DICD will maintain a database of these permits to assist in informing vehicle owners of possible issues if they arise. The total number of permits has been reduced to 230 (115 inhabitable homes in the DICD), which should help accommodate homeowners and their families a greater portion of the time relative to the current system. It will help people when they change vehicles or drive a rental car, and it will allow homeowners to give temporary parking access to visitors and tradespeople. It will also deter homeowners from encouraging multiple guests to park in the lot simultaneously. Finally, this new towing-enforced system should strongly discourage non-owners from parking there while boating or fishing.



Please inform your family members and guests that this system will be in place! Notes on the dashboard will be ignored. This parking lot is for legitimate District homeowners and their invitees ONLY. There is no perfect solution for this issue, but the prior permitting arrangement is not working. Please help as we move forward with this new system.

THANK YOU!

Special Reports

Shorebird Migration Season

Collette Lauzau, Audubon Florida

As summer ends each year, the bird signs come down, and you'll no longer see flightless chicks darting around the beach. But that doesn't mean the beach goes quiet, in fact, here in Florida, we often see more bird activity in the fall and winter. Many shorebird species, including the Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, and Red Knot, breed in the high Arctic tundra and migrate south every year. Some, like the Red Knot, might spend the winter on Dog Island, while others only stop briefly before continuing their journey.

The Red Knot's migration is astonishing: some travel over 9,000 miles to reach the southern tip of South America! These birds can live for decades, and a 20-year-old Red Knot might travel enough miles to reach the moon and back. To understand this incredible journey, researchers have spent years banding and GPS-tagging adult birds. Unlike adults, first-year Red Knots don't migrate all the way north to breed, so biologists recently started attaching satellite tags to these younger birds to learn more about where they spend their first summer. Some tagged juveniles have stayed along the Gulf Coast of Florida all summer and have even been spotted on St. Vincent Island and are very likely using Dog Island as well.

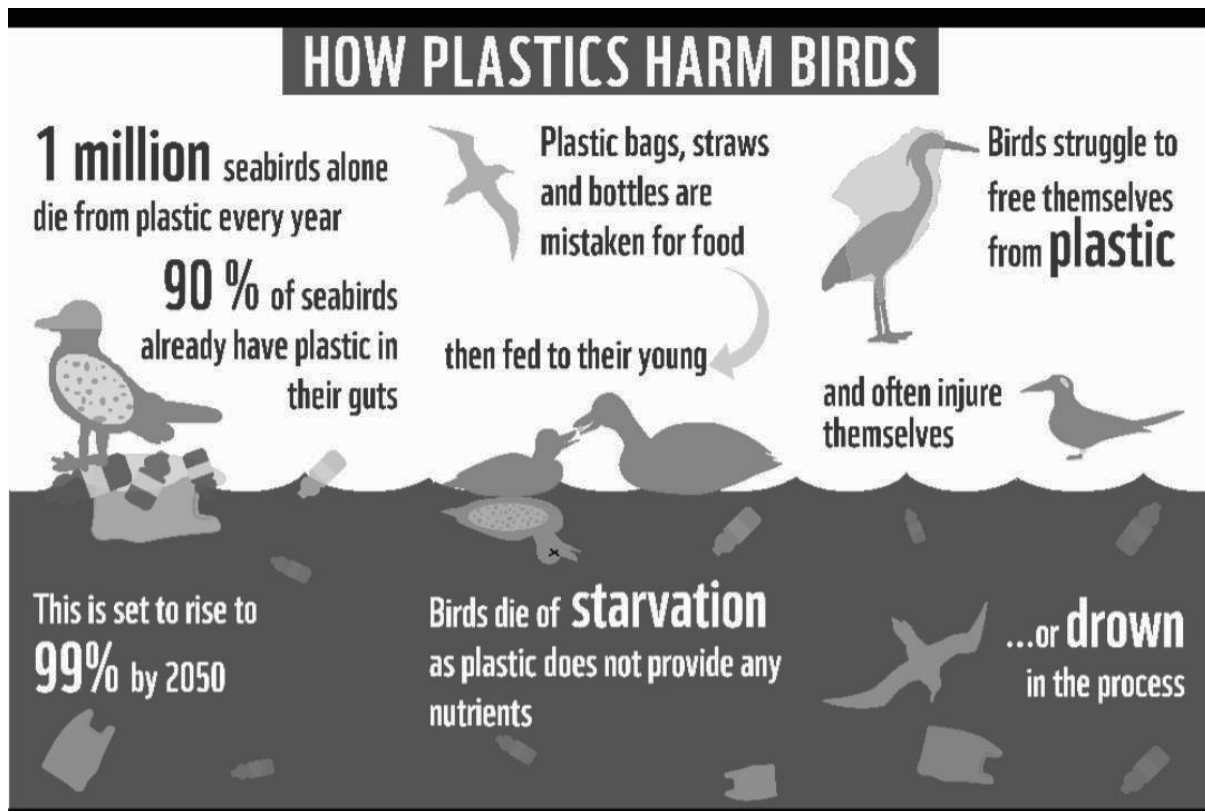


If you ever see a banded Red Knot, consider reporting it at reportband.gov. You'll receive an email with a certificate showing where your bird was banded, a fun and meaningful way to participate in citizen science!

Since many of these shorebirds use Florida's beaches as a rest stop on their long migrations, their main goal is to eat and build up enough energy to cross the Gulf of Mexico. It's also important to remember that these birds need nutrient-rich food, high in the fats and proteins that fuel their journeys. Feeding birds on the beach can fill them up without giving them the nutrients they need, which can harm rather than help them. Dog Island and the nearby flats have plenty of natural food the birds just need the space and time to find it.

When birds are repeatedly disturbed by people or pets, they waste those essential calories flying instead of foraging. Giving birds space to rest and feed can make a big difference, helping them conserve the energy they need to reach their destination safely.

If you would like to get involved in shorebird stewarding or to find out more information please visit Audubon Florida's website: <https://fl.audubon.org/get-involved/coastal-bird-stewardship> or email Natasza Fontaine at natasza.fontaine@audubon.org or Alie MacVicar Alexandra.Macvicar@audubon.org.



Minutes of the Q1 Board Meeting, August 31, 2024

Call to Order:

10:30 a.m. Board members present: Mr. Hudson, Mr. Brady, Ms. Kellett, Mr. Will (via telephone)

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of previous minutes:

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

Chair Report:

The Vice-Chair reminded everyone that important information, including the date and time of Board meetings, is published in the DICD newsletter, and all property owners should be on the mailing list. Contact a DICD Board member to be added. The Chair, Bill Stone, has recently experienced serious medical issues and is not present at this meeting. However, he looks forward to recovering and continuing his work with the Board. Motion by Mr. Brady to approve the Chair's report, second by Ms. Kellett, approved unanimously.



Treasurer Report:

Income and expenses for the fiscal year have been higher than budgeted. Budget adjustments are necessary for some categories due to state regulations prohibiting deficits. Mr. Brady distributed a document with current and proposed budget line items. On the plus side, tax and interest income both increased. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Gronholm, airport fee collections are way up. Road use and trash removal fee revenue is also up, along with donations. On the minus side, airstrip expenses increased, mostly due to insurance premium increases. Tractor and truck expenses increased considerably due to repairs and maintenance. Auto insurance for the garbage truck increased 20% in the last year. Franklin County is going to increase their grant amount to the Board and the garbage tipping grant, which will help to offset some of the increase in insurance costs. The hurricane emergency match fund is up to \$96,000 but is still short of the \$125,000 goal. The Treasurer will need to transfer money from the SBA rainy-day fund to the operating account before the next fiscal year begins October 1 to cover ongoing expenses. The rainy-day fund will be replenished once tax revenue begins to arrive. Mr. Brady then asked for a motion to approve the budget adjustments for the current year. Motion by Ms. Kellett, second by Mr. Will, approved unanimously. Motion by Ms. Kellett to approve the Treasurer's report, second by Mr. Will, approved unanimously.

Island Manager Report:

Mr. Buckley is looking for someone to work on the front gate of the LCM. He has ordered some replacement pedestals for the garbage truck to fit the slides for the dumpsters. This will require taking the truck off the island for the work to be done. The dumpster that was repaired will not last much

longer and needs to be replaced. Mr. Brady requested that Mr. Buckley ask for the purchase of a new container (~\$8500) at the beginning of the next fiscal year. The other container is not holding up as well as hoped. Discussion ensued on how to maximize the lifespan of the containers. Mr. Buckley also mentioned how muddy the airstrip has been and concerns about using the tractor to mow it. Motion by Mr. Will to accept the Island Manager's report, second by Mr. Brady, approved unanimously.

Volunteer Fire Department Committee Report:

Mr. Cannon reported that the DIVFD had one first responder call since the last meeting. He said that e-dispatch system for emergency notifications had been inoperable for a time but was currently functional. Volunteers have been working on the FD vehicles, and the big fire truck is almost ready to be returned to service. No word from Duke Energy about their new building. Mr. Atwell and Mr. Lancaster are working on a list of basic emergency care items that everyone on the island should have. Mr. Cannon would like to have more mechanical workdays. Motion by Mr. Brady to approve the Volunteer Fire Department report, second by Mr. Will, approved unanimously.

Airport Committee Report:

The Airport Committee is still in flux, so no report was given.

Old Business

A. Parking: Ms. Kellett gave an update on the new parking permits for the Carrabelle dock. These were approved at the Q4 meeting as a replacement for the stick-on decals, in tandem with resuming towing enforcement, beginning January 1, 2025. Mr. Stone has received the decals and composed a draft cover letter, and Ms. Kellett has extracted names and mailing addresses from the Franklin County Property Appraiser's database for mailing them out. Two tags will be sent to each address. Mr. Stone hopes to send them out by the end of September. Signs with the appropriate legal language regarding towing need to be installed before enforcement can begin.



B. Ferry Docks: Mr. Brady reported that major repairs have been completed on the Carrabelle dock, including improved handrails. Mr. Will met with David Keith of Docks For Less to talk about concerns he had about both docks. He noted that there were some broken pilings in the LCM dock area in Carrabelle. They then examined the Tyson Harbor dock and viewed the deteriorating bulkhead where the dock connects to the island, along with the missing spacers around the metal beams and the rotting wood on top of them. Mr. Keith advised removing the metal beams and rebuilding on top of what was left. He did not give an official estimate of the cost, but he thought repairing the bulkhead and rebuilding would cost around \$200,000. Mr. Brady volunteered to investigate the cost of materials.

C. Compactor Receivers: These were discussed during the Island Manager's report.

New Business

A. Seating of Board members and election of officers: Mr. Brady and Ms. Kellett were seated for new two-year terms. Motion by Mr. Will to seat, second by Ms. Kellett, approved unanimously. Ms. Kellett moved the following slate of officers for the next fiscal year: Bill Stone, Chair, Ed Hudson, Vice Chair, and Dave Brady, Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Brady, approved unanimously.

B. On-going or Board subjects/Good of the order: Ms. Kellett reminded everyone of the International Coastal Cleanup on September 21. Meet at 8:30 at the Tyson Harbor dock, fan out to pick up trash, and then reassemble at the Teafs' house for lunch. Mr. Brady thanked Mr. Sparrow and others who helped with the pancake breakfast fundraiser at the firehouse. Mr. Hudson, on behalf of the Chair, thanked Mr. Brady and Ms. Kellett for their ongoing participation on the Board.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Kellett to adjourn, motion 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. *Update: The District is now accepting credit cards!*

Remember—Household garbage (Kitchen/Bath) **ONLY** in our compactor **PLEASE!**



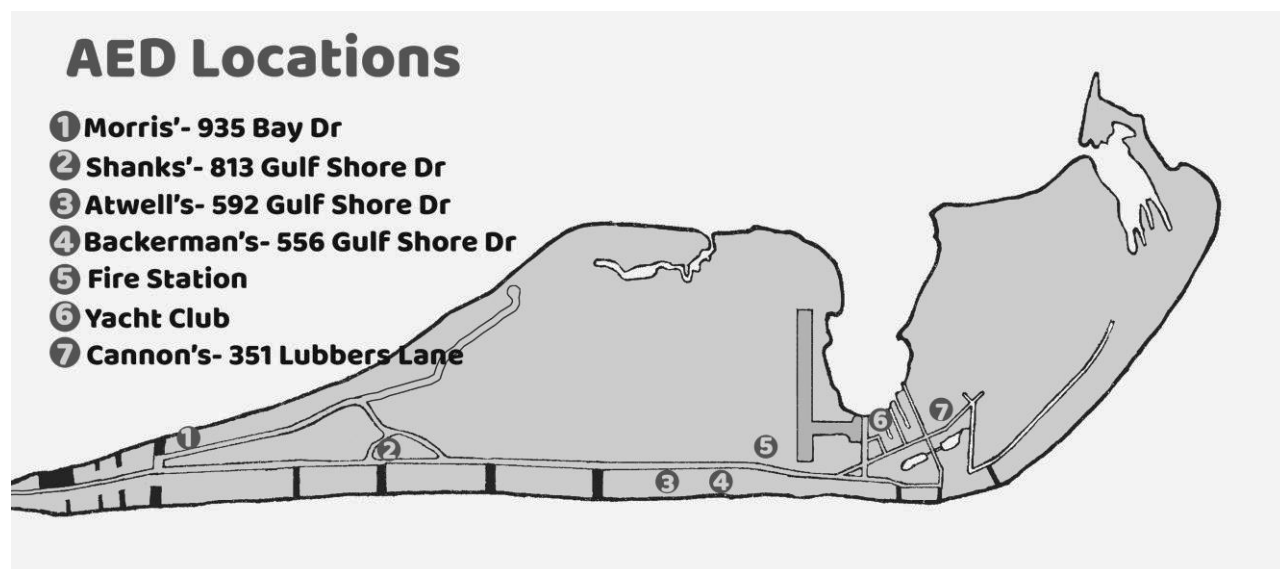
THANK YOU for your assistance! Greg Buckley (850) 943-0604

Next Up: Q2 2025 DICD Board Meeting:

January 4, 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) Parking
 - B) Ferry Docks
 - C) LCM/Compactor Receivers
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.

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.

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Tallahassee, Florida 32317-4288

REMEMBER!

