

## Notes, UHCC users meeting, March 23, 2018, 3 pm

With additional notes from UHCC Advisory Committee meeting March 2018.

### Director's Report

The Texas Legislature designated the UHCC as the Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education during the 2017 legislative session. This designation should help us raise funds.

A number of buildings at the UHCC are getting post-hurricane repairs. We will get more useable floor space in the main lab building because we'll get rid of the cold room and the shop area, which were under-used. Restroom upgrades continue to drag on endlessly, with the proposed budget skyrocketing to astronomical levels. There is hope that we will eventually get the long-promised new doors to the radio shack building, allowing us to set it up as a climate-controlled storage room.

We are at the end of our current 3-year funding plan. We will need to request commitments from departments and administration for a new 3-year plan, and this plan should include a permanent funding plan that allows the UHCC to be partially self-funded. As a small step, in the coming year we will start issuing modest invoices for class use and storage of vehicles and gear at the UHCC, with substantial discounts to UHCC members. We will waive fees for users who have no funding.

The new VPR visited the UHCC recently.

We have started a "Friends" group to assist with external fundraising, and will coordinate their activities with NSM development. We will develop a brochure that we can give to potential donors.

We have had two events of theft on the property. We are instituting a variety of new security measures.

### Discussion

- 1) We discussed a draft management plan. Long-term goals include restoration of exotic forest to prairie, improved education facilities, and improved research facilities.
- 2) We discussed a draft business plan. The best long-term options for funding are either to raise an endowment or to lease part of the property for commercial use.
- 3) There is a mechanism by which undergraduates at any UH system campus can take classes offered at other UH system campuses. We've posted the information on the UHCC web site. We should use this to encourage UHD and UHCL undergrads to take the summer courses offered at the UHCC.
- 4) Pennings will arrange a meeting with faculty and administrators in Engineering to promote use of the UHCC by their college.