



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Atchafalaya Basin Program – Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Friday, January 6th, 2023

Louisiana State Capitol

900 North 3rd Street Baton Rouge, LA 70803

House Committee Room #1

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The following constitute minutes of the Atchafalaya Basin Program’s TAG Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. Audio and video recording of the meeting is available for viewing at www.legis.la.gov.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS – ROLL CALL

TAG Members and Associations:

Jonathan McFarland (substitute rep.; LDEQ), Daniel Kroes (USGS), Kayla Kimmel (FWS), Joey Breaux (LDAF); Cheston Hill (OSL); Charles Reulet (LDNR); Justin Lemoine (Atch. NHA); Wes LeBlanc (substitute rep.; CPRA); William Kelso (LSU); Raynie Harlan (LDWF);

CPRA Members:

Alicia McAlhaney, Michelle Felterman

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Atchafalaya Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is to review and recommend solicited projects that would benefit water quality, water management, and other similar concepts, to ensure projects proposed are implementable and sustainable for benefiting resources and resource-users of the Atchafalaya Basin. Projects selected based on their merit will be included into the ABP Annual Plan and into CPRA’s Annual Plan.

UPDATES & CONTEXT

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from December 13, 2022 meeting were approved.
Motion of approval: (1st) Dan Kroes, (2nd) Lemoine; All approved)

Presentation 1: Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Water Quality Projects-TAG Review:

- Dredging in the Big Bayou Pigeon [Time] 2:45]
 - Recap of project background provided
 - Motion of project approval: (1st) Reulet, (2nd) Kelso; All approved
- Grimmett Canal Improvements Project [Time] 4:06]
 - Recap of project background provided
 - New information from proposers presented:
 - Dredging West Extension would not impact bayous within item vicinity



- Data from Courtableau landside at the weris and Lake Pelba show prolonged high water at landside and slow water passage through basin, cause of concern for community flood risk.
 - Motion to recommend proposed items rather than project in its entirety: (1st) Kroes, (2nd) Raynie. All approved.
- Clearing and Snagging of Grimmnett Canal:
 - Motion to approve: 1st: Raynie, 2nd: Lemoine. All approved.
- Dredge East Extension ROW:
 - Motion to reject: (1st) Kroes, (2nd) Raynie. All approved.
 - Motion for culvert replacement alternative: (1st) Raynie, (2nd) Kroes. All approved.
- Dredge West Extension Grimmnett to Dixie Pipeline canal:
 - Motion to reject: (1st) Kreos, (2nd) Kelso. All approved.
- Hydrologic Restoration & Vegetative Plantings: Butte La Rose – Lost Lake WMU [Time] 9:33]
 - Recap of project background provided
 - Motion to recommend proposed items rather than project in its entirety: (1st) Kroes, (2nd) Raynie. All approved.
 - Artesian/Solar powered wells
 - Motion to approve: (1st) Kroes, (2nd) Lemoine. All approved.
 - Four gaps along northeastern spoil bank
 - Motion to reject: (1st) Kelso, (2nd) Kroes. All approved.
 - Clearing and snagging along Southeast corner
 - Motion to approve: (1st) Kelso, (2nd) Kroes. All approved.
 - Vegetative plantings
 - Disqualified item due to proposed gaps being rejected. Spoil would have been planted.
- Point Coupee Gravity Flow Drainage District #1 - Culverts [Time] 18:48]
 - Recap of project background provided
 - New information from proposers presented:
 - Prioritized list of project locations and associated cost provided along with directional flow map.
 - Motion to approve: (1st) Reulet, (2nd) Kelso. All approved.
 - *Proposer comment: Priorities were based on project location – southernmost locations have highest priority, also locations with collapsed or no culverts takes priority over existing culverts. A high priority area is also near Iron Gate road, 6 mile stretch that has 1 culvert location.*
- Designating Project Priority [Time] 26:23]
 - Clearing lower part of grimmnett canal should have priority for flood relief



- Discussed reviewing and prioritizing projects from the past 10 years to make coordinated advancement/benefit to the basin.

Next Steps

- Draft FY 2024 Annual Plan; host public meetings to receive and incorporate public input into the plan.
- Determine previous projects (DNR and CPRA) that were approved by TAG but never implemented, provide list to TAG for future discussion and recommendation.
- Engage the TAG and ARBRE TF in FY24 for recommendations and expert insight during the Update to the Atchafalaya Basin State Master Plan.

Public Comment

- Paraphrased: In agreement with TAG of the need to address previous projects that haven't been implemented. Comment provided that in previous years, proposers were not informed directly of TAG meeting date/location/time to be present during the meeting to answer questions.
- Paraphrased: Pointe Coupee district is 77,000 acres inside the morganza spillway with major obstruction to flow. Was in agreement that projects get approved but not implemented. To help alleviate drainage issues in Pointe Coupee Parish, CPRA has provided the parish with \$384,000. A bid is expected to begin those efforts in Spring 2023. The parish will be instating a landowner tax to generate \$38,000 in revenue to help the project forward.

Adjournment