

**ATCHAFALAYA BASIN  
 RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD  
 LOUISIANA ROOM, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES  
 2000 QUAIL DRIVE  
 BATON ROUGE, LA**

**December 9, 2010  
 Minutes of Meeting**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Department of Natural Resources	Louis Buatt (Chair)
Atchafalaya Levee Board	Gerald Alexander
Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Brad Spicer
Department of Culture, Rec. & Tourism	Stuart Johnson
Department of Environmental Quality	Alex Appeaning
Department of Health & Hospitals	David Guilbeau
Department of Transportation	Shawn Wilson
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	Mike Wood
Office of the Governor (Coastal Activities)	Chip Kline
State Land Office	Charles St. Romain

**NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:**

Assumption Parish representative	Marty Triche (Absent)
Iberville Parish representative	John Clark for Mitch Ourso
St. Martin Parish representative	Guy Cormier (Absent)
St. Mary Parish representative	Paul Naquin (Absent)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Department of Natural Resources Staff	Toni DeBosier
	Charles Reulet
	Annette Wiegler
Representative District 60	Karen St. Germain
Friends of the Atchafalaya	Charles Caillouet
Basinkeepers and Sierra Club	Dean Wilson
US Army Corps of Engineers	Yvonne Allen
Gulf Coast Environmental Solutions	Paul Chadwick
SJB Group	Aaron Bass

1. Call to Order, Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lou Buatt and a roll call determined there was a quorum present.
2. Agenda approval or amendment to the agenda by 2/3 votes: The Chairman called for any amendment or discussion of the agenda. There being none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.  
Motion was made by Dr. Appeaning and seconded by Mr. Spicer to approve the agenda. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2010 Meeting: The Chairman reminded the Board that they had previously received the minutes of the last meeting electronically and called for any corrections or changes to the prior meeting minutes. There being none, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2010.  
Motion was made by Dr. Appeaning and seconded by Mr. Spicer to approve the minutes. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.
4. Overview of Public Meetings: The Chairman reviewed the public comments made in the public meetings held in Morgan City on November 8, 2010, in Henderson on November 9, 2010, and in Plaquemine on November 10, 2010. (copy of typed comments attached).
5. Proposed Changes to FY2010 Draft Annual Plan: The Chairman informed the Board that the Acting Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program, Mr. Stephen Chustz, was not present today. His mother passed away Tuesday and he was at the funeral today. Ms. Toni DeBosier with the Basin Program will review the proposed changes to the Annual Plan. (copy of proposed changes attached).

After review of the proposed changes, the Chairman indicated that they seem to be minor in nature and he called for a motion to approve the proposed changes.

Motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Appeaning to approve the proposed changes.

6. Public Comment: Mr. Dean Wilson asked the question of how many copies of this Draft Annual Plan had been printed.  
Ms. DeBosier directed Mr. Wilson to the Back of the cover page where it indicates that the document has not been published out to the general public and that is why there is no dollar amount listed.  
The Chairman informed Mr. Wilson that there had only been sufficient copies made for the various meetings where this draft Annual Plan had been discussed.
7. Consideration of Modifications to Draft Annual Plan: The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the proposed changes passed unanimously. (copy of proposed changes attached).
8. Demonstration of Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment System: The Chairman called on Glenn Constant to demonstrate the Assessment System. Mr. Constant explained how it would work on the web for public use. He answered questions from the Board members on what items would be accessible.

Charles Caillouet questioned who was going to be responsible for updating this system. Mr. Constant responded that the Project Managers would get updated information to USGS and USGS would make any changes to update the data.

The Chairman questioned whether this would incorporate the Corps projects also and Mr. Constant responded that it would.

Mr. Spicer questioned if this would be set up to indicate the date that it was last updated. Mr. Constant responded that if that was something that needed to be indicated, newer versions could show that information.

Mr. Wilson had a question on the LIDAR data time frame.

Mr. Constant discussed that USGS had finished flying yesterday and it was hoped that information would soon be available for use.

The Chairman pointed out that this is evolving and we can incorporate data and information as it becomes available.

Mr. Caillouet questioned whether a state funding component was required for this or was it all USGS. Mr. Constant replied that this is funded by the Atchafalaya Basin program.

The Chairman reported that there was 1.5 million dollars funded with regard to this particular project and there is still funding available that continues to fund this project.

Mr. Constant pointed out that this is just a shell and that it will be more detailed and more user friendly. Mr. Constant discussed that the Basin is divided up into management units.

Mr. Kline questioned as to whether this information is currently available to the public. Mr. Constant responded that it is not live yet. The intent is that it will be accessible to the public shortly.

Dr. Appeaning complimented Mr. Constant and the program for this assessment system.

The Chairman responded that the visuals are strong and that is important in getting the public buy-in.

The Chairman thanked Representative Karen St. Germain for her assistance in helping the Basin obtain a more stable funding source with the passage of the amendment. Ms. St. Germain responded that she is very appreciative of the Assessment system and was very happy that the voters passed the amendment.

9. Old Business: The Chairman reported that the Program continues to work with the Corps of Engineers on Dog Leg Canal. The Corps is insisting that we do mitigation, and the Program considers the work as restoration so the discussions are still ongoing.

Mr. Wilson agrees that the dredging needs to be done and if there is anything the Basinkeepers can do, they will be glad to help.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Wilson for his support and he will have the Program staff get information to Mr. Wilson so he can provide his comments. Mr. Caillouet requested that he also receive the information so he can provide comments.

Mr. Kline asked if the Chairman could go back to the public meeting comments from Henderson. The Chairman called on Mr. Constant to comment on the Henderson meeting comments.

Mr. Constant said that it appeared that the stakeholders thought the plan was more concentrated on the north end of the unit. There was a lot of discussion on Coon Trap and TAG recommended to not close Coon Trap at this time. The TAG thinks the flow should be redirected; to leave Coon Trap open and modify Bayou Sorrel at the input sites.

The chairman replied that it appears everyone is on the same page regarding the outcome, but there are some discrepancies on how you achieve that outcome.

Representative St. Germain commented that we need to direct the sediment to where it is more manageable.

Mr. Wilson voiced his concerns about the accretion and feels that if you leave it alone, the swamp will eventually balance itself. He commented that everybody wants better water quality and that the Coon Trap can demonstrate how big the problem is with the sediment. He feels it is crucial that DNR decides at the start what to do with the sediment. It needs to be managed and he will work with the program to get water quality.

The Chairman responded that yes, he is sure we'll need additional discussion on how to get to the outcome.

10. New Business: The Chairman reported that Annette Wiegleb with the Atchafalaya Basin Program will be retiring very shortly and that he wanted the Board to wish her well.
11. Upcoming Schedule: The Chairman reported that the date listed on the printed timeline for Plan presentation to CPRA will be changed. Mr. Kline reported that it will either be January 12<sup>th</sup> or January 26<sup>th</sup> and he would let Mr. Buatt know which date is correct. The Chairman then covered the balance of the events printed on the timeline. (copy attached)

Ms. DeBosier said that this information may be classified under New Business but that the budget amendment has been signed and delivered to Facility, Planning and Control.

Mr. Wilson stated that if there were any considerations given to closing Bayou Bootee, they would be in support of that idea. The Chairman suggested that he present that information to the TAG Committee and make arrangements to possibly attend a TAG meeting to make a presentation.

Mr. Caillouet commented that since the Legislative Session started at the end of April, could we schedule a trip out into the Basin prior to the start of the Session.

Representative St. Germain said that sometimes it worked out better to wait till the session started because members who lived out of town would be staying in Baton Rouge more and a weekend trip might work the best. Representative St. Germain volunteered to work with Charles Caillouet and Su King to coordinate a trip into the Basin.

12. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Dr. Appeaning and seconded by Mr. Spicer and the meeting was adjourned.