ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

LASALLE BUILDING

GRIFFON ROOM – 617 NORTH 3RD STREET

BATON ROUGE, LA

August 30, 2011

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Bobby Reed

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Glenn Constant

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lamar Hale (Absent)

LSU Renewable Natural Resources Bill Kelso

Department of Natural Resources Keith Lovell

Department of Environmental Quality Chris Piehler

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Mike Walker

ALTERNATES:

LSU Renewable Natural Resources Richard Keim (Absent)

LSU Renewable Natural Resources Dan Kroes (Absent)

U.S. Geological Survey George Arcement for Dan Kroes

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service David Walther

Others Present:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Stephen Chustz

Department of Natural Resources Staff David Fruge

Department of Natural Resources Staff Charles Reulet

Department of Natural Resources Staff Dana Naquin

Department of Natural Resources Staff Thomas Van Biersel

Gulf Coast Environmental Solutions Paul Chadwick

US Army Corps of Engineers Yvonne Allen

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

1. Agenda approval

Approval of the agenda by 2/3 votes

Motion by Mr. Lovell

Second by Mr. Kelso

Agenda approved

1. Approval of Minutes for 08/05/10, 09/09/10 and 09/27/10

Motion by Mr. Lovell

Seconded by Mr. Kelso

Minutes approved

1. FY 2012 Annual Basin Plan Overview

Steve Chustz reviewed the plan and informed members that the legislature awarded ABP $2k from Capital Outlay funds – pending approval from bond commission. FY 2012 Water Management Projects Proposed for funding: Upper Grand River Flats, East Grand Lake, Brown Bayou, Big Bayou Pigeon, Little Bayou Pigeon, 16”&21” Canals – issues with landowner on 16” Canal and will not participate. Exploring options and costing out 21” Canal. Butte LaRose was top priority project selected. Ongoing projects: Dog Leg Canal, East Grand Lake and ABNRIAS. Ongoing Atchafalaya Basin Water Management Projects: Buffalo Cove, Henderson Water Management Unit, Sherburne Freshwater Diversion, Beau Bayou and Henderson Lake Channels. Funded Access Projects: Myette Point – complete, Belle River – complete, Bayou Benoit – complete, Bayou Amy – Corps Permit, KS Boat Launch – structural issues, Big Alabama Boat Launch – Phase II rebid, Bayou Sorrel Landing – Plans & Specs being developed by Parish

1. Flood Monitoring Overview

**David Fruge** - gave presentation on High water Event 2011. Monitoring Plan before Morganza Spillway opened: what was mentioned, who collected data, mapped out over 200 sampling sites, what’s being don with the monitoring information. Observations: camps & residences, impacts on wildlife, impacts on fisheries and fish habitat, oil & gas, agriculture and timber, boat launches, invasive plants, quantification of basin flood impacts.

**Mike Walker** – presented LDWF water monitoring findings from high water event 2011. Low and high DO sites; good DO sites, Henderson Fish Kill and boat ramps.

**Yvonne Allen** reviewed remote sensing images captured during high water event and compared levels to 1973 and 1983 high water events. Chairman Reed inquired about the difference in water levels from 1973 & 1983 in respect to Red River & Old River control structures and suggested pictures from that time period to illustrate capacity.

1. Natural Resource Inventory & Assessment Demonstration

Glenn Constant reviewed program and stated that more tools will be added in the future with instantaneous feedback.

1. Water Management Project Nomination & Review Process

Charles Reulet reviewed the project nomination forms from the NRIAS system:

201101 – Submitted by Nolan Allemand Bee Bayou

201102 – Submitted by Bernard Labbe – I-10 access

201103 – Submitted by Carlos Robicheaux – King’s Ditch

201104 – Submitted by Wayne Romig – Bayou Bend

201105 – Submitted by Wayne Romig – Briston Bayou

201106 – Submitted by Adam Berthelot – Southeast Bayou Mallet

201107 – Submitted by Raywood Lagneaux – Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel

201108 – Submitted by St. Mary Parish Govt. – American Pass

201109 – Submitted by St. Mary Parish Govt. – Taylor Point Cut

1. Proposed Water Management Projects Overview

Mike Walker suggested appointing a sub committee to meet and review projects and report back to TAG members. Sub committee: Mike Walker, Chairman and Glenn Constant. Motion by Keith Lovell and seconded by Bill Kelso, motion passed.

Glenn recommended changing TAG dates and nomination form submittal deadlines. Motion by Glenn Constant have Research & Promotion board evaluate and modifying current schedule to begin nomination form submittals in November at the public meetings with a deadline date of July. Keith Lovell seconded the motion. Motion passed to submit request to Research & Promotion Board members at next meeting. Steve will continue to circulate timeline to TAG & R&P members until confirmed before sending out to public.

Steve will have Dana send out an email to TAG members to poll meeting date availability.

1. FY 2013 Annual Basin Timeline

Steve reviewed timeline and mentioned possible date change of next meetings to October 17-19.

1. New Business

Mike Walker stressed concern about communication gap between Corps and Atchafalaya Basin Program of notification of permits issued in Basin. Steve suggested meeting with in house Corps representative on this matter and update members. Motion by Chairman Reed to contact Corps to develop permit communication process between Corps and Atchafalaya Basin Program, seconded by Chris Piehler. Motion passed.

Charles Reulet mentioned Roslin Technique – National Management Measures to Control non point source pollution from hydromodification, which was also mentioned by John Clark at the Plaquemine public meeting. Chris Piehler commented on the nutrient flows in state as opposed to other states. Glenn can eventually link this information into NRIAS and Charles can assist.

Yvonne Allen informed members of the reflight that will soon take place over Basin due to funding from several different agencies.

1. Old Business

No old business discussed

1. Public Comment

No comments from the public

1. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mike Walker

Seconded by Chris Piehler

Meeting adjourned

Yvonne Allen gave update on LIDAR flight in Basin and requested pictures. TAG also made a motion to send a letter to LDWF concerning feasibility of lowering Lake Henderson in conjunction with LIDAR flights and Lamar mentioned including CEA. Motion seconded by Glenn Constant.

1. Path Forward

Steve reviewed TAG timeline

1. Public Comment

Charles Caillouet – encouraged by Sediment Plan and wants to get information across to public in public meetings with stronger force and include pictures to illustrate. Henderson Lake Project questions that Lamar explained.

1. Adjourn

Motion by Mike Walker

Second by Glenn Constant