



**Atchafalaya Trace Commission/
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area**

Minutes: June 10, 2020 Meeting

A meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission), managing entity of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA), was held Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 10 a.m. As a result of the Governor's proclamation requiring a stay-at-home order, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Commissioners present:

Wilbert Carmouche, Chair, Avoyelles
Mart Black, Vice-Chair, Terrebonne
Angélique Bergeron, Secretary, West Baton Rouge
Chris Burton, Iberia
Charles Caillouet, Ascension
Linda Gardner, Concordia
Clifford LeGrange, Iberville
Darrel Rivere., Assumption
Carrie Stansbury, St. Mary

Commissioners absent:

Wes Davis, Lafayette
Herman Fuselier, St. Landry
J. A. Rummler, Pointe Coupée
Carol Patin, St. Martin

Others present:

Carrie Broussard, Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Kristin Sanders, Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Justin Lemoine, Executive Director, Atchafalaya NHA
Valerie Feathers, Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Elisa Kunz, National Park Service

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Carmouche called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Carrie Broussard identified Commission members who appeared on the Zoom Call. With nine of the thirteen Commissioners present, Carmouche declared a quorum.

II. Agenda Approval

Chairman Carmouche called for a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting. **Black made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Bergeron. Motion carried unanimously (9-0) with Davis, Rummler, Patin, & Fuselier absent.**

III. Minutes Approval



Chairman Carmouche asked the commission to review the minutes from the January meeting and called for a vote to approve the minutes. **Black made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Caillouet. Motion carried unanimously (9-0) with Davis, Rummler, Patin, & Fuselier present.**

IV. Introduction of New Commissioner

Carrie Broussard introduced Darrel Rivere as the new commissioner from Assumption Parish. Darrel introduced himself and noted that he took Diagle's place. He gave an introduction of his background and said that he is looking forward to meeting the rest of the commission in person.

V. Introduction of the New Executive Director

Chairman Carmouche introduced Justin Lemoine as the new Executive Director of Atchafalaya. Justin gave a brief introduction and background information, and noted that he would reach out to each commission member individually over the next few weeks to set up introductory meetings with each Commission member.

VI. Election of Officers

Chairman Carmouche introduced officer elections. The first officer up for election is President. **Black nominated Carmouche to continue to serve as president. Burton seconded. Carmouche accepted nomination, motion carried unanimously (9-0) with Davis, Rummler, Patin, & Fuselier absent.**

Vice President was the next officer introduced. **Bergeron nominated Black to continue to serve as Vice President. Gardner seconded the nomination. Black accepted nomination, motion carried unanimously (9-0) with Davis, Rummler, Patin, & Fuselier absent.**

Secretary was the next officer introduced. **Black nominated Bergeron to continue to serve as Secretary. Caillouet seconded the nomination. Bergeron accepted the nomination, motion carried unanimously (9-0) with Davis, Rummler, Patin, & Fuselier absent.**

Treasurer was the next officer introduced. **Gardner nominated Stansbury to serve as Treasurer, Black seconded the nomination. Stansbury accepted the nomination, motion carried unanimously (9-0) with Davis, Rummler, Patin, & Fuselier absent.**

VII. Assistant Director Search

The Assistant Director position will open on the State Civil Service website in the next few weeks, and shall remain open for a month. The staff is hoping to have a new Assistant Director in place by August.

VIII. 2020 Commissioner Appointments

Chairman Carmouche asked Carrie Broussard to give an update on Commissioner Appointments. Carrie noted that Commissioners Black, Davis, and Stansbury have all been submitted for re-nomination to their parishes, and that ANHA is awaiting returned paperwork. Black requested Ms. Broussard re-send paperwork and copy him. Ms. Broussard agreed.



Commissioner Proctor from East Baton Rouge Parish chose not to be re-appointed. ANHA staff will work to create a list to send to EBR Mayor's Office.

IX. 2019 & 2020 National Park Service Reporting

OCD staff submitted the final report in December 2019 for the last FY. The FY20 request was submitted with no questions from NPS. Ms. Broussard opened it up for comments from the commission, there were none.

Elisa from NPS introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her role with NPS.

X. Grants Overview/Update

OCD staff reviewed the grant spreadsheet presented to the Commission. Ms. Broussard reviewed a few grants in the process, and discussed the cancellation of the Northwestern grant, as the funds for the grant will not be enough to cover the full cost of the program. She noted that the ANHA/OCD staff would discuss this process further and reach out to the grantee to begin the process of cancellation of the grant.

The grant application for Grand Reveil was extended to 2021 due to the festival being on hold in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

XI. Other Business/Comments from Public Attendees

Carrie Broussard asked the commission to consider the schedule for the remainder of the year. Quarterly meetings are required by the bylaws, though the commission has chosen to meet every other month (6 times a year) instead. She asked the commission which they prefer, and it was decided that meetings would be held every other month.

Commissioner Caillouet noted that there is a standing invitation for meetings at TNC's Atchafalaya facility at Bayou Sorrel. Commissioner Bergeron stated that WBR Museum would also be happy to continue to host.

Commissioner Carmouche stated that occasionally, he would like to see some meetings move around to other places within the Heritage Area.

September 9th was selected as the date for the next ANHA Commission Meeting, with an Executive Committee Meeting in late July. Mr. Lemoine said that he would reach out to TNC about availability for the meeting.

Kristin Sanders introduced Dr. Valerie Feathers, outreach coordinator for the LA Division of Archaeology.

XII. Commissioner Announcements

Various commissioners discussed event cancellations due to COVID-19, while museum and recreation facilities have begun to reopen around the region.



Kristin Sanders reminded the commission to complete sexual harassment and ethics trainings within the calendar year.

XIII. Adjourn

With no further business, **Black moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Caillouet. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).**