ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Department of Natural Resources

LaSalle Building, Griffon Room, 1st Floor

BATON ROUGE, LA

September 5, 2012

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Bobby Reed

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Glenn Constant

LSU Renewable Natural Resources Bill Kelso

Department of Natural Resources Keith Lovell

Department of Environmental Quality Chris Piehler (absent)

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Mike Walker

ALTERNATES:

LSU Renewable Natural Resources Richard Keim (Absent)

USGS Dan Kroes (Absent)

USGS Dennis Demcheck

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service David Walther

Others Present:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Don Haydel

Department of Natural Resources Staff David Fruge

Department of Natural Resources Staff Charles Reulet

Department of Natural Resources Staff Thomas Van Biersel

Department of Natural Resources Staff Dana Naquin

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Brac Salyers

USACE Steve Roberts

USACE Yvonne Allen

National Audubon Society Cynthia Duet

National Audubon Society Paul Kemp

Gulf Coast Environmental Solutions Paul Chadwick

The Nature Conservancy Bryan Piazza

**1.** **Call to Order, Introductions, Roll Call**

**2**. **Agenda approval** **or amendment to the agenda by 2/3 vote**

Motion by David Walthers

Second by Keith Lovell

Agenda approved

**3.** **Approval of minutes from 08/08/12 meeting**

Motion by Glenn Constant

Seconded by Keith Lovell

Minutes Approved

**4.** Review and discussion of Proposed FY2014 Water Management Projects and other Water Management Projects to be Considered by the TAG – Glenn Constant led the discussion

* 1. **# 201201 – Connect Atchafalaya River to Mile Point Bayou and clear small trees in Mile Point Bayou** - add additional water into system, Corps already has a project in the area. Glenn Constant will meet with Harold Schoeffler to discuss nomination in detail.

**Recommendation by TAG**: Defer - project not to move forward into FY 2014 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan

* 1. **#s 201202, 201204, 201205, 201206, 200941, the engineer’s alternative proposal to 200941, and the separate inquiry regarding a rock dike installation in the Santa Fe Pipeline Canal at its connection to the barge channel. All these are in the Pigeon Bay Water Management Unit and were proposed at the last TAG meeting to be considered together** – want an area wide evaluation of these projects and then will revisit these projects, would like these projects to be considered as a whole water management unit.

**Recommendation by TAG**: Defer – Project not to move forward into FY 2014 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan

Motion by Glenn Constant to re-evaluate after area wide evaluation of projects 2012-02, 04, 05, 06 and 2009041

Seconded by Mike Walker

Motion approved

A second motion by Glenn Constant to request reallocation by approving authorities to set aside project 2009-41 to fund Pigeon Bay project design similar to East Grand Lake.

Seconded by Mike Walker

Motion approved

* 1. **# 201203 – Creation of a hydrodynamic model for the Cocodrie Swamp Project (Project #s 200915 and 200916) –**

Motion by Glenn Constant not to include in the FY 2014 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan

Seconded by David Walther

Motion approved

Public Comment: Cynthia Duet with National Audubon Society urged Paul Kemp to nominate this project in order to start discussion and put on radar because it is unusual because it is not actually a project but a study for project development. Glenn Constant and Mike Walker agreed it is a valuable study and needs to be presented to the Research & Promotion Board. Bryan Piazza with The Nature Conservancy noted that their organization is developing a model for Flat Lake at their cost and wants to mesh their efforts with the State.

* 1. **# 201207 – Installation of a rock jetty immediately north of Bayou Sorrell’s connection with the Atchafalaya River to divert sediment; also close Coon Trap** – Coon Trap not up for discussion, have same opinion from past nomination, not in scope of what the Atchafalaya Basin Program does, will not evaluate further.
  2. **# 201208 – Dredge point bar from the end of Murphy Lake –** Potentially not addressing the real problem and project does not have longevity but benefits the area.

Motion by Glenn Constant to include this project in the FY 2014 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan.

Seconded by David Walther

Motion approved

Glenn Constant wants to request a meeting with the Corps of Engineers to discuss the following:

1. TAG Committee views on how Atchafalaya Basin Program is involved in opportunities within water management units.
2. Water Management Unit funding for nominated projects
3. Reaching out to CPRA and legislature to allow access to funds for evaluations of water management project areas.
4. Request permission for reallocation of funds
5. Re-evaluate assessments of projects
6. **Old Business –** No old business discussed
7. **New Business -** Mike Walker will be retiring on September 30 and this is his last TAG meeting. Brac Salyers has been nominated to replace Mike. Don Haydel with the Atchafalaya Basin Program mentioned the permit submitted to Corps to block a canal in Kerr McGee area, comments are open until Friday and recommended TAG make comments on this permit in reference to the effects of hydrology on the Basin. DNR will respond with the TAG comments in disagreement of this blockage.
8. **Path Forward –** Don Haydel reminded members that a formal letter from the Chairman to the Research Promotion Board on TAG recommended projects is needed by September 12, 2012 and this letter can also include the request for reallocation of funds for Pigeon Bay.
9. **Public Comment –** No public comment
10. **Adjourn**

Motion by Mike Walker

Seconded by Glenn Constant

Meeting adjourned

Dana Naquin

Atchafalaya Basin Program