



Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration & Enhancement (ARBRE) Task Force

Thursday, August 26, 2021

9:00AM

Public meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84225950416?pwd=RHVDUiRWYlhEdiszS0wzMnZDMWd0Zz09>

Passcode: 979610

Or Telephone:

Dial:USA 602 333 0032 US Toll

Conference code: 726442

The following constitute minutes of the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration & Enhancement Task Force Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. Audio and video recordings of the meetings are available for viewing and kept at the Office of the Governor-Coastal Activities Office in Baton Rouge, LA.

I. Call to Order: Bren Haase, Acting Chairman

II. Roll Call

- Acting Chairman Haase-Present, Adam Eitmann-Absent, Mr. Myers-Present, Mr. Haydel-Present, Mr. Hill-Present, Mr. Milling-Present, Mr. L. Blanchard-Present, Mr. Tauzin-Present, Ms. Gautreaux-Present, Mr. Ashley-Present, Mr. Spinks-Present, Mr. Murphy-Present, Mr. Wade-Present, Mr. Jewell-Absent, Mr. Meche-Present, Mr. Bonvillain-Present, Mr. Inman-Present, Ms. Taylor-Present, Mr. Paul-Absent, Mr. Constant-Present, Mr. Rebich-Present

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr.

Second by Ms. Gautreaux

Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by

Second by Mr. Haydel

Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business/Announcements: Bren Haase, CPRA- Acting Chairman

VI. ARBRE Task Force Recommendations to the CPRA Board – Brian Lezina, CPRA (Video:)

- Mr. Lezina presented the Task Force with the final edits that incorporated their feedback/changes in the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force Plan.
 - Introduction and Purpose section
 - Minor additions to the history and geography.
 - Recognition that the Basin has a mixture of ownership.
 - Better classify the challenges faced by the Basin.



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin, locally, regionally, and nationally
 - Minor changes to better recognize the range of important habitat types and the importance of navigation.
 - Mr. Leroy Blanchard expressed concerns with the wording of “degradation” on page 11 of the draft plan.
 - Mr. Lezina acknowledged Mr. Blanchard’s concern and stated that a period would be placed after economy and discontinuing the sentence with “degradation continues”.
- Urge and request Congress fully fund construction of finalized USACE studies relevant to the management of the Atchafalaya Basin as well as fund authorized studies
 - Minor changes to better recognize protection and restoration of multiple habitat types.
 - Projects should be deemed beneficial not just simply because of incorporation in previous plans.
- Urge the USACE to approach management of the Atchafalaya Basin holistically, designating ecological restoration as a primary component along with flood control and navigation.
 - Minor edits to mention carbon sequestration.
- Request the CPRA Board evaluate inclusion of the remainder of the Atchafalaya Basin within the Louisiana Coastal Zone.
 - Revised to request that an evaluation should be performed to better understand the impacts.
 - The Task Force should be consulted by CPRAB to better understand benefits inclusion.
 - Specific language concerning potential outcomes was removed.
- Management actions should where possible restore north/south sheet flow within the Basin
 - Added language to reflect the “spoil bank inventory” and any resulting implementation should be done in consultation with public and private landowners.



- Management actions should where possible, restore and conserve deep water habitats within the Basin
 - Minor edits to emphasize protection of “critical” habitats
 - Mr. Sparks expressed concerns regarding the language of “deep water habitat”. Is it possible to more specifically define what is meant by deep water habitat?
 - Mention that spoil should be deposited in upland or adjacent elevated areas.
- Examine ways to better manage sediment within the ARB
 - Edits to clarify that the USACE should fast track a study to examine dredging at the river outlets.
- Examine the current hydrology of the ARB, including management of the ORCC and the ARB channel outlets
 - No significant edits
- Update the State’s Atchafalaya Basin Mater Plan to include current conditions and challenges as informed by the ARBRE Task Force.
 - No significant edits
- CPRA Board and CPRA to enhance public engagement concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin
 - Edit to suggest that any outreach concerning waterways should reference publically available waterways.
- Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Atchafalaya Basin
 - No significant edits
- Explore opportunities for significant recurring funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Program
 - No changes
- Work Plan and Meeting Schedule
 - March 16, 2021; Cecilia Civic Center, Breaux Bridge, LA-**Initial Meeting**
 - April 15, 2021: Assumption Parish Community Center, Napoleonville, LA-**Problems and Potential Solutions Identified**
 - May 4, 2021; Port of Morgan City Governmental Operations & Emergency Center-Morgan City, LA- **Potential Solutions Identified**
 - June 10, 2021; Iberville Parish Courthouse, Plaquemine, LA- Report Drafting
 - August 12, 2021; Virtual- **Report Consideration**



- The Task Force members had an open discussion regarding the plan and the final edits. In which a vote of approval occurred.
 - Karen Gautreaux made a motion for approval of the final plan inclusive of all edits.
 - Motion 2nd by: C. Tausin
 - The Task Force approved the plan with a 14-2 vote.

▪ No: Rudy Sparks:	No: Victor Blanchard
▪ Yes: Bren Haase, Acting Chairman	Yes: Randall Myers
▪ Yes: Don Haydel	Yes: Cheston Hill
▪ Yes: King Milling	Yes: Leroy Blanchard
▪ Yes: Karen Gautreaux	Yes: Thomas Ashley
▪ Yes: Mike Spinks	Yes: Spencer Murphy
▪ Yes: Mac Wade	Yes: Jody Meche
▪ Yes: Chris Bonvillain	Yes: Chris Tausin

Public Comment – public comments may be made in person or submitted online at ARBRE@la.gov

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Wade
 Second by Mr. Sparks
 Unanimously Approved