B.  As a part of the procedures to be followed by the board in the development of an annual Basin plan, the secretary is hereby authorized to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Atchafalaya Basin Program Oversight Committee, a technical advisory group that shall review, evaluate, and approve all water management and water quality projects proposed for inclusion in an annual plan.  The group shall determine if the project meets the criteria for inclusion as adopted by the board and make recommendations to the board.  The technical advisory group shall consist of the following appointments:

(1)  Two members from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, one of whom shall serve as the chair of the group.

(2)  One member from the Department of Environmental Quality.

(3)  One member from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

(4)  One member from the Department of Natural Resources.

(5)  One member from the U.S. Geological Survey.

(6)  One member from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(7)  One member from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

(8)  One member from the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources.

C.  Meetings of the technical advisory group shall be held in accordance with R.S. 42:11 et seq., the open meetings law, and the group shall allow for public input and comment into its deliberations.  The date, time, and location of any meeting held to discuss projects for inclusion in the annual Basin plan shall be advertised in the official journal of the state at least seven days prior to the meeting.  Any project recommended by the technical advisory group for inclusion in an annual plan shall first be certified by that group as a project that would result in significant water management or water quality improvements that will enhance the wildlife, fisheries, or forest resources of the Atchafalaya Basin.

D.  After receipt of the recommendations on all water management and water quality projects approved by the technical advisory group and receipt of recommendations from the staff of the program, the board shall develop an annual Basin plan.  The board shall hold public hearings on the proposed plan prior to the adoption of the annual plan.  Information received during the public hearings may be used to amend the annual plan prior to presentation to the secretary.  The board shall submit the final plan to the secretary.