ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

DNR – LaBelle Room

617 North 3rd Street

BATON ROUGE, LA

March 3, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

Department of Natural Resources Louis Buatt (Chair)

Atchafalaya Levee Board Gerald Alexander

Department of Agriculture & Forestry Brad Spicer

Department of Culture, Rec. & Tourism Stuart Johnson

Department of Environmental Quality Alex Appeaning

Department of Health & Hospitals David Guilbeau

Office of the Governor (Coastal Activities) Chip Kline

State Land Office Charles St. Romain

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

Assumption Parish representative Marty Triche (Absent)

Iberville Parish representative John Clark for Mitch Ourso (Absent

St. Martin Parish representative Guy Cormier (Absent)

St. Mary Parish representative Paul Naquin (Absent)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Steve Chustz

Charles Reulet

 Dana Naquin

Representative District 60 Karen St. Germain

Friends of the Atchafalaya Charles Caillouet

US Army Corps of Engineers Yvonne Allen

OCPR Syed Kahlil

National Audubon Society Dr. Paul Kemp

1. Call to Order, Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lou Buatt and a roll call determined there was a quorum present.
2. Agenda approval or amendment to the agenda by 2/3 votes: The Chairman called for any amendment or discussion of the agenda. There being none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Spicer and seconded by Dr. Appeaning to approve the agenda. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2010 Meeting: The Chairman reminded the Board that they had previously received the minutes of the last meeting electronically and called for any corrections or changes to the prior meeting minutes. There being none, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2010.

Motion was made by Dr. Appeaning and seconded by Mr. Spicer to approve the minutes. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

1. Review of Proposed Changes to FY2012 Draft Annual Basin Plan Acting Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program, Mr. Stephen Chustz, informed the board that a few modifications needed such as Representative and Senator changes and staff member changes. After review of the proposed changes, the Chairman indicated that they seem to be minor in nature and he called for a motion to approve the proposed changes.

Chairman called for a motion to approve plan with changes. Motion was made by Mr. Guilbeau and seconded by Mr. Spicer. (Copy of proposed changes attached)..

1. Old Business: Dog Leg Canal project: Sediment track has been hay filled, Corps has not maintained so we removed sediment. Engineers, permit applications and at one point the Corps indicated mitigation due to vegetation. Our view is that was not appropropriate because it is a restoration issue. Corps is not required to do mitigation. We requested we be treated as Corps, they did not agree. In late February Corps said we have to mitigate but they could do the work if it is authorized. Our mitigation team is now working on this because it affects future projects in the Basin.

1. Consideration of Modifications to Draft Annual Plan: The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the proposed changes passed unanimously. (copy of proposed changes attached).
2. Status of Atchafalaya Basin Modeling Effort: The Chairman called on Dr. Paul Kemp to give his presentation. Dr. Kemp explained that the National Audubon Society is working with a number of organizations in which their plans are parallel. Dr. Kemp noted that they have accomplished a lot and gave an explanation in his presentation. The response from the Corps from a technical perspective has been excellent.

Chairman asked Dr. Kemp who is on the team of scientist and engineers with the Atchafalaya Basin Modeling Effort and Dr. Kemp told the board that 15 members from around the country are involved and he will get this list to the chairman.

Chairman also asked Dr. Kemp if our Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is plugged into this team and Dr. Kemp said that TAG acts as a great liaison with the team.

Chairman requested that Steve Chustz and Dr. Kemp communicate about the assessment tool team and share information and resources.

Chairman asked for questions on presentation. Stuart Johnson asked if Dr. Kemp was interfacing with the National Park Service and Dr. Kemp told them that his colleague Karen works closely with them as well as with Charles Caillouet of Friends of the Atchafalaya Basin.

Charles Caillouet encouraged Dr. Kemp to get input from partners and get the wording right in the management plan to help make everything happen.

Chairman mentioned easements are the first step to working through issues/challenges with landowner access. Easement could incorporate us to have right to do projects in the Basin.

Dr. Kemp agreed that once easements are negotiated, a lot more becomes possible.

Mrs. Duhe requested presentation time at the next Research & Promotion Board Meeting, regarding access improvements.

1. Overview of Atchafalaya Basin Sediment Management Plan Development: Syed Khalil with OCPR gave presentation to the board.

Chairman called for questions and comments.

Chairman wants TAG plugged into the efforts by OCPR. He also wants to make sure that the other partners such as crawfishermen, fishermen, landowners, recreational users, etc. are informed about the Sediment Plan. Chairman wants to be transparent with stakeholders.

Dr. Khalil confirmed that their plan is to be transparent and informative to all stakeholders.

Charles Calliouet expressed 2 concerns: 1. Please do not forget about the landowners and 2. Be very careful on the terminology used such as “proposal” instead of “plan”.

Dr. Kahlil confirmed that OCPR plan is to inform all parties involved – in basic terminology so everyone has the best understanding of the objectives.

Chairman reminded Dr. Khalil to come up with a plan of action and keep everyone involved and informed. Messaging and how it is presented is very important.

1. New Business: Steve Chustz briefed group on Dog Leg Canal, reported that an RSIQ is out to develop an IDIQ, 26 firms responded and 4 firms have been selected. Reason is to have engineers on stand by to task out as projects come up. This is a way to expedite projects.

1. Upcoming Schedule: Steve Chustz let board know that proposed changes will be sent to firm working on the ABP 2012 plan. Once changes have been made, final draft is sent to Steve and Dana. Once final draft is received copies are mailed to the Legislature and Senators to be considered in the session that begins on April 25, 2012.
2. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mr. Spicer and seconded by Mr. Kline and the meeting was adjourned.

 Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program