ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

DNR – Griffon Room

617 North 3rd Street

BATON ROUGE, LA

Thursday, July 21, 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) Avalyn Taylor for Chip Kline

State Land Office John Lavin

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Mike Wood

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

 David Fruge

Thomas Van Biersel

Dana Naquin

Representative District 60 Karen St. Germain

Friends of the Atchafalaya Charles Caillouet

US Army Corps of Engineers Yvonne Allen

OCPR Syed Kahlil

LA Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries Mike Walker

US Fish & Wildlife Glenn Constant

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 Mr. Alexander to approve the agenda. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2011 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 March 3, 2011.

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

1. Review of Flood Monitoring and Observations: David Fruge with the Atchafalaya Basin Program gave presentation and noted that ABP continues to work with other agencies and citizens on the potential concerns listed in presentation. Mike Walker with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries presented data concerning samples being collected since May 19 and stated that there were no significant fish kills documented since sampling started on May 19. Mr. Alexander inquired about contact for water complaints and Mike Walker shared his office number. Dan Kroes with the United States Geological Survey gave a presentation on the effects of extreme high water and the opening of the Morganza Spillway on the Atchafalaya River Basin. Yvonne Allen of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented preliminary evaluation of remote sensing imagery before and after flood event. Chairman thanked presenters for the information and said the information will be helpful in committee meetings. Representative Karen St. Germain agreed.
2. FY2012 Annual Basin Plan Overview and Proposed budget Consideration: Steve Chustz, Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program presented overview of $1.95K approved by legislature for Atchafalaya Basin Program Water Management & Access Projects and the individual dollar amounts recommended for allocation to each project:
3. Upper Grand River Flats - $125,000
4. East Grand Lake - $325,000
5. Butte La Rose boat launch- $700,000
6. Lake End Park - $150,000
7. Veterans Park - $100,000

Mr. Chustz stated that the Bond Commission would likely meet in October/November for approval of funding provided from Capital Outlay. Chairman called for motion to approve budget and projects. Motion was made by Dr. Appeaning and seconded by Mr. Spicer. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Proposed Timeline for FY 2013 Annual Basin Plan Development: Steve Chustz distributed timeline and reviewed dates. August 9, 10 and 17 are the planned dates for public meetings to be scheduled and Dana Naquin will have notices published in local newspapers. No questions or comments.
2. Natural Resource Inventory & Assessment System Demonstration: Glenn Constant gave overview of system that is now live on web. Chairman pointed out that the practical use of the system and reinforced that it is still a work in progress and this is a tool that will be useful and available to the public.
3. Old Business: Chairman called for questions and comments. No questions or comments from board or public.
4. New Business: Chairman called for questions and comments. No questions or comments from board or public.
5. Public Comment – Chairman called for comment from the public. No public comment made at this time.
6. 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. Guilbeau and the meeting was adjourned.

 Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program