ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Wildlife & Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

BATON ROUGE, LA

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Minutes of Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

Atchafalaya Levee Board Gerald Alexander (chairman)

Department of Agriculture & Forestry Brad Spicer

Department of Culture, Rec. & Tourism Stuart Johnson (absent)

Department of Environmental Quality Alex Appeaning

Department of Health & Hospitals David Guilbeau (absent)

Office of the Governor (Coastal Activities) Charles Sutcliffe for Chip Kline

State Land Office John Lavin

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Mike Wood

Department of Natural Resources Robert Benoit

Dept of Transportation &Development Shawn Wilson (absent)

St. Mary Parish representative Paul Naquin

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)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Don Haydel

Charles Reulet

Thomas Van Biersel

David Fruge

Dana Naquin

LDWF Scott Longman

Members stood for Pledge of Allegiance

1. Call to Order, Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gerald Alexander 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 Brad Spicer and seconded by John Lavin to approve the agenda. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2012 Meeting: The Chairman 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 August 15, 2012.

Motion was made by Charles Sutcliff and seconded by Brad Spicer to approve the minutes. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

1. Overview of FY2014 Draft Annual Basin Plan: Don Haydel presented overview of FY 2014 Plan: There are 2 projects recommended by the TAG to move forward for approval. These 2 projects are Murphy Lake and Pigeon Bay WMU and are described in the plan on pages 22 and 26. The nomination numbers of 201202, 201204 and 201206 were all projects in the Pigeon Bay WMU so the TAG requested a study be conducted to research the optimal way to view this area and find out what the best module for the Pigeon Bay area. Don Haydel mentioned that in addition to the nominated projects, there are several projects listed in the plan that are moving forward. Some projects are encountering landowner issues but the ABP is trying to work through these obstacles, however, projects can’t proceed with design until landowners agree to cooperate. Don reviewed slides of projects that are in progress and projects that have been completed: Step Outside Day May 2012, Basin Cleanup with Boy Scouts October 2012, Big Alabama Boat Launch- Completed, Catahoula Pavilion- Completed, Dog Leg Canal – In Progress, Henderson Channels – In Progress, Stephensville Park – In Progress, Veterans Park – Completed and Lake End Cabins – In Progress. There are a couple of projects in the engineering phase.
2. Public Comment on Draft FY 2014 Annual Basin Plan: No public comment
3. Research & Promotion Board Consideration of Draft FY 2014 Annual Basin Plan :

Motion by Mike Wood and seconded by Alex Appeaning to accept the Draft FY 2014 Annual Basin Plan.

1. Proposed Timeline for FY 2014 Annual Plan: Don Haydel reviewed the timeline:

November 13-15, 2012 – Public Meetings to Present FY2013 Annual Basin Plan

November 29, 2012 – R & P Meeting to Discuss Comments and Approve Plan to send to CPRA

December 2012 – Present draft Annual Plan to CPRA

January 2013 – CPRA Approval

February 2013 – R & P Meeting

03/08/2013 – Submit FY 2013 Annual Plan to Legislature (30 days prior to session)

04/08/2013 – Legislative Session Begins

1. Other Business: Mr. Paul Naquin inquired about the voting member of Policy Jury. Robert Benoit told him the Police Jury selected Mr. Naquin as the voting member for this year and Don Haydel said this will be reflected on the list of Research & Promotion Board Members in the FY 2041 Annual Plan.
2. Public Comment on Other Business: Mr. Paul Naquin briefed the members on his recent trips to China. China is looking at creating a deep water port along with infrastructure to support this endeavor. St. Mary Parish has an opportunity to be a part of this 6-10 billion dollar project. The Chinese will sent engineers to US to complete a study if all the preliminary details lend a strong prospect for the project to move forward. St. Mary Parish has consulted with the USCOE, Coast Guard, Governor Jindal and Economic Development in reference to this project. Project will be good for St. Mary Parish, State of Louisiana and the United States.
3. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mr. Paul to adjourn the meeting.

Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program