ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources – Griffon Room

617 North 3rd Street

Baton Rouge, LA

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Minutes of Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

Atchafalaya Levee Board Gerald Alexander (chairman)

Department of Agriculture & Forestry Brad Spicer

Department of Environmental Quality Alex Appeaning

Department of Health & Hospitals David Guilbeau

Office of the Governor (Coastal Activities) Charles Sutcliffe (Absent)

State Land Office John Lavin

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Mike Wood (absent)

Department of Natural Resources Robert Benoit

Department of Transportation & Development Shawn Wilson

Culture, Recreation & Tourism Stuart Johnson

St. Mary Parish representative Paul Naquin

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

Assumption Parish representative Marty Triche (Absent)

Iberville Parish representative Absent

St. Martin Parish representative Guy Cormier (Absent)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Don Haydel

Charles Reulet

David Fruge

Thomas Van Biersel

Dana Naquin

Friends of Atchafalaya Charles Caillouet

DHH Lance Broussard

State Representative District 60 Karen St. Germain

T. Baker Smith Lu Cutrera

Basin Keepers Dean Wilson

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 Paul Naquin and seconded by Brad Spicer to approve the agenda. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of November 29, 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 November 29, 2012.

Motion was made by Alex Appeaning and seconded by Shawn Wilson to approve the minutes. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

1. No proposed Changes to FY 2014 Draft Annual Basin Plan by CPRA: Don Haydel attended the CPRA meeting in January and presented the ABP FY 2014 plan and no suggestions or changes were made.
2. Consideration of FY 2014 Draft Annual Basin Plan:

A motion by Alex Appeaning to approve ABP FY 2014 Annual Plan seconded by Paul Naquin. Motion passed to adopt draft plan.

1. Old Business: No old business
2. New Business: Paul Naquin let board know that Representative Sam Jones has recommended a new 12 man board to address Lake Fausse Pointe issues. The board has hired T. Baker Smith to conduct soil sampling in order to research the amount of sediment coming from pump stations at Teche Vermillion. Representative Jones allocated $50,000 for this soil research. Paul Naquin stated the ultimate goal is to include Lake Fausse and three other lake areas (Lake Palourde, False River, and Lake Verret) as areas eligible for projects for the ABP FY2015 plan. In order for this to happen, a resolution needs to be sent to the ABP Oversight Committee and ultimately sent to the legislature during the 2013 session. The resolution will read: “Ask the Atchafalaya Basin Oversight Committee to review current boundaries of the Atchafalaya Basin Program with possibility of expansion”. A motion was made by Paul Naquin and seconded by Brad Spicer to accept the wording of the resolution.
3. Public Comment: Lu Cutrera with T. Baker Smith gave a presentation on Lake Fausse and a 3 parish area: Assumption, St. Martin and St. Mary. Lu reviewed projects that the Atchafalaya Basin Program partially funded and have evolved into major projects completed with funding from other public agencies, private land owners and grants. These completed projects have led to generation over 1 billion dollars in economic development. Representative St. Germain noted that she continues to work on enhancing the Basin in which our own people and communities benefit greatly.

Dean Wilson with the Basin Keepers let the board know that he would like to attend meetings and make presentations throughout the year. These presentations would inform the board of what is happening with in the Basin and what can be done to preserve the area for future generations. Gerald Alexander let Mr. Wilson know he can contact Don Haydel to make agenda requests.

1. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Brad Spicer to adjourn the meeting.

Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program