ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources – Griffon Room

617 North 3rd Street

Baton Rouge, LA

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

9:00am-11:30am

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 Lance Broussard (absent)

Office of the Governor (Coastal Activities) Charles Sutcliffe

State Land Office John Lavin

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Mike Wood

Department of Natural Resources Robert Benoit

Department of Transportation & Development Shawn Wilson (absent)

Culture, Recreation & Tourism Stuart Johnson (absent)

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

Keith Lovell

Charles Reulet

Dana Naquin

Friends of Atchafalaya Charles Caillouet

Friends of Atchafalaya Willie Fontenot

Basin Keepers Dean Wilson

Yvonne Allen USFWS

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 Mike Wood 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 February 6, 2013 Meeting: The Chairman called for any corrections or changes to the prior meeting minutes. Chairman noted that Lance Broussard has replaced David Guilbeau due to retirement and Mr. Paul Naquin is now a voting member. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2013 meeting with the member changes.

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

1. Water Management Project Nomination and Review Process Overview

Any project nominated in past years would not go through another review.

2015-01 St. Mary Parish Flat Lake Ecosystem

2015-02 St. Mary Parish Joe Russo Landing

2015-03 St. Mary Parish Wilson’s Landing

2015-04 St. Mary Parish Canoe & Hiking Trail & Primitive Camping

2015-05 St. Mary Parish Taylor Point Cut North of Charenton

2015-06 St. Mary Parish Interpretive Center

2015-07 Dean Wilson Channelization of Bayou Sorrel

2015-08 Dean Wilson Channelization of Upper Grand River

2015-09 Warren Blanchard Water flow @ South end of Blue Point

2015-10 Warren Blanchard Poor water quality in crawfish pond – American Pass

2015-11 Dan Kroes 21’ Canal at River contributing to excessive sediment

2015-12 Dan Kroes Sediment almost cut off Murphy Lake from access in low water

2015-13 Dan Kroes Orange Barrel Canal is contributing excessive large grained sediment

2015-14 Bernard Labbe Work Canal access

Discussion about Hilcor expanding weir and who they need to go through for permitting. Mike Wood inquired about projects that have been approved but no funding so project sits and may not be a viable project any longer. Don Haydel told members that nominations from previous years that have been voted down will not be reviewed again if conditions have not changed. A list has been compiled that consist of projects that have been approved but not funded – list will be sent out to all R&P members. Charles Caillouet inquired about boat launches. Don confirmed that boat launches are water access projects and do not go through evaluation by Technical Advisory Group.

1. Public Comment

No public comment.

1. Legislative Summary

Don reviewed the list of water projects still viable and moving forward with funds available. During the session, Stephen Chustz and Keith Lovell were appointed permanent positions and are no longer under interim status and $200,000 for the Basin Program will go before the bond commission in late Fall.

1. FY2015 Annual Basin Plan Overview

Don Haydel told members the TAG met last month to review nominations and the TAG will meet today (07/10/13) to evaluate the nominations. Once the TAG makes final evaluation of nominated projects these projects will be presented during public meetings scheduled in November in the following cities: Morgan City, St. Martinville and Plaquemine.

1. Proposed timeline for FY 2015 Annual Basin Plan Development:

Don Haydel reviewed the timeline and Chairman Alexander reminded board to put these meeting dates on their calendars to ensure adequate representation.

1. Presentation by Dean Wilson of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper:

River of Trees.

1. Old Business

No old business discussed

1. New Business

No new business discussed

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