

Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board
October 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by the Chair, Paul Naquin.

Ray Berthelot led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A roll call was conducted and showed the following members in attendance and that a quorum was present: Paul Naquin, Ray Berthelot, Myles Brumfield, Melisa Kaintz, Jonathan Robillard, Bijan Sharafkhani, and Charles Sutcliffe.

Sign-in sheet is attached to document all attendees.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Melissa Kaintz, seconded by Ray Berthelot, and passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

A motion to approve the minutes from June 2017 was made by Charles Sutcliffe, seconded by Myles Brumfield, and passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Program Budget. Don Haydel—The program received \$3 million in new funding during the last session. In addition to that, we have a prior unobligated funding amount of \$1.7 million for a total of \$4.7 million. These are the ABP recommendations of projects to fund [handout attached]:

- The first item is Buffalo Cove Log Jam. If the corps can fund the log jam feature, the state is obligated to provide a 25% match, so we are recommending that \$500 thousand be set aside for that.
- For East Grand Lake, the amount previously allocated by the Research and Promotion Board is approximately \$2 million, and we're recommending an additional \$1.7 million for that project. East Grand Lake project is the only water quality project that the Basin Program is able to move forward at this time. We have a cooperative land owner whose lands abut state land. They have applied for an additional \$1 million for the project from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. This is our top priority, because it's the only water quality project that we can do.
- Flat Lake Sediment Study is a project to characterize the sediments in Flat lake, which is just above Morgan City. We want to do a sediment study that would allow us to partner with CPRA in the future.
- Sandy Cove Boat Launch in Iberia parish
- Grand Avoille Cove boat launch in St. Mary Parish would include minor upgrades
- Basin Outreach is for miscellaneous things like matching funds,)

- The Visitor Center in St. Mary Parish, where we'd like to build a walking trail behind it.
- In Iberville Parish, they have a new park planned with a walking trail connecting to the waterfront park, and we could help with that.

These are simply our recommendations.

Sharafkhani—With the exception of Buffalo Cove, where we are waiting for the Corps, are all the projects pretty much ready to go?

Haydel—The next step, once the budget is approved, is to go to Facility Planning to have them obligate the money, then we would do a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for each of these. Typically the local entity provides for the engineering and land, and we provide the construction funding.

Sharafkhani—Is there a time constraint on the funding?

Haydel—No, but the sooner we obligate it, more likely it is to stay in place.

Naquin—I'd like to open for a motion to approve the budget.

Jonathan Robillard made a motion to approve the budget as recommended, Charles Sutcliffe seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Draft FY2019 Annual Plan. Haydel—The nomination period ended at the end of May, and there were no new projects, so this annual plan is a summary of the projects that are moving forward at this time. On page four, there is a list of water quality/water management projects.

The first project is to restore the depth in Grand Lake. That's where a Corps feature blew out and caused sediment to build up in Grand Lake. We now have the permits and a CEA with the pipeline company where they are going to pay for half of the project cost up to \$750,000. The plan is to fill up the entire pipeline canal, which is about a mile, to make sure this doesn't blow out again. For East Grand Lake, Facility Planning has recently selected an engineer, so we are about to start working on the permit. Once the permits are in hand, Facility Planning will bid out the project, and then we will start construction.

Flat Lake Study is a project to characterize the sediments in Flat Lake to see if it could potentially be used in projects in the Western portion of Terrebonne Parish. We plan to partner with CPRA to use that sediment.

Buffalo Cove Log Jam is an additional feature of Buffalo Cove, and the state would provide cost-share funds.

Butte La Rose boat launch started Monday, and they are upgrading the existing boat launch to add an additional 9 feet to extend it into the river and help with low water launching. And they are improving the parking lot as well and possibly adding modular bathrooms.

All of these projects are previously approved by this board, the TAG, public meetings, CPRA, and the legislature, so once the board approves the plan, we will go to public meetings next week, then we will come back to the board for approval before going to CPRA.

Sutcliffe—So there are no new projects proposed? The stakeholder groups, with everything that happened last session, they didn't have any projects they were proposing?

Haydel—There was senate resolution to do a spoilbank study, and Keith Lovell will represent the Research and Promotion Board there. The first meeting is scheduled for November 2nd in this room. We're hoping an outcome will be identifying areas where we can do something with spoilbanks, but no, there weren't any nominations.

Naquin—Can you send us a note, Don, when you start a project? Some of us may want to know.

Haydel—Yes, and Butte LaRose boat launch started this week. The Basin Program has about \$700,000 for that project, and the bid came it at \$600,000, so the parish contemplating adding modular restroom.

Naquin—So St. Martin would match those funds?

Haydel—Typically the match is the engineering and land, unless the bids come in higher. I believe they did with Wilson's Landing, where the ABP had \$400,000, and St. Mary paid for additional work.

Naquin—At Butte La Rose, are they going to lift the parking lot?

Haydel—No, it's in better shape than Wilson's Landing was, almost as high as the levee already, so I think they're good there.

Berthelot—Murphy lake is on the projects list but doesn't have any funding. How much are we talking about?

Haydel—On top of the dredging cost, there would be some mitigation cost, and the cost would be more if we haul out the spoil. For Bayou Fourche, it cost \$70 a cubic yard. That project was successful but very expensive. So Murphy Lake is on the back burner while we are looking at alternatives.

Naquin—Are any other projects going to call for mitigation?

Haydel—There may be some for East Grand Lake, but we have been talking to the Corps. It will have minor impacts, so we are going to improve about 2,000 acres and only impact maybe an acre.

Naquin—Mitigation is killing us for levees. In St. Mary Parish, we are doing 3:1 ratios. Some cost \$100,000 just for one acre. One we are doing now is about two miles of levee, and 1.5 acres was \$ 500,000. They should be bringing a bill to fight mitigation costs for levee projects. If we are protecting people, we shouldn't have to mitigate. The Corps is going to say 1:1, that's your best case scenario.

Sutcliffe- For the Grand Lake dredging project, is it going to be a noticeable improvement even though we're not able to get it all?

Reulet—We expect the pipeline to hold a lot more than predicted, potentially all of it, and either way it will be a substantial improvement.

Buras—Does Grand Lake need additional dredging?

Reulet—For this project for those who may not know, there was a peninsula, a delta splay in the lake, that nearly cut it off, and we are going to dredge that back to the previous depth. Grand Lake used to be enormous, and it has filled in over the years, so yes, there probably are other areas that need dredging, but this project is to just remove that splay.

Naquin—Do we need a motion to approve the annual plan?

Haydel—Yes.

Ray Berthelot motioned to approve the annual plan, Melissa Kaintz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Sharafkhani—So next week is public meetings and then this goes back to board?

Haydel—Yes, by statute, the board has to meet 4 times a year.

Annual Plan Timeline. April Newman—The nomination period ended on June 1, and as Don said, there were no new nominations, so this plan includes only previously approved projects. We did have a TAG meeting to re-prioritize the projects, and that is in the draft plan. After the public meetings next week, this board will meet again on November 9 to approve any additional changes prior to ABP presenting the plan to CPRA on November 15. We will then go back to CPRA at their December 13th meeting, and then the board will meet one last time before we present the plan to the legislature.

Sutcliffe – Although the CPRA board does not always meet in December, we do plan to hold a meeting this December if you all want to try to get on the agenda for December.

There were no public comments, old business, or new business.

Charles Sutcliffe made a motion to adjourn, Ray Berthelot seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Proposed Projects to be Funded

The Atchafalaya Basin Program received \$3 million in new funding this past session, and we had a balance of unobligated funding of \$1.7 million. These are our recommendations for projects to be funded with the available \$4.7 million:

Buffalo Cove Log Jam	\$0.5 Million
East Grand Lake (additional)	\$1.7 Million
Flat Lake Sediment Study	\$0.3 Million
Sandy Cove Boat Launch	\$0.7 Million
Grand Avoille Cove Boat Launch	\$0.4 Million
Basin Outreach	\$0.1 Million
St. Mary Cajun Coast Project	\$0.5 Million
Iberville Parish Project	\$0.5 Million

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Atchafalaya
BASIN

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EVENT/LOCATION

Research and Promotion Board

DATE:

10/12/2017

NAME	ASSOCIATION	MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
April Newman	ARP	on file		on file		
Paul Maquin	St. Mary Parish ABR	on file		on file		
Don Hardec	ABR	"		"		
Charles Reult	LDNR	on file		on file		
Faran Dietz	LDAF	"		"		
Jonathan Robillard	SLB	"		"		
Ryanuro Bernholt	OSR/DCAT	"		"		
Charles Satlik	GOV	"		342-4625		charles.satlik@delaware.gov
Melissa Kaintz	LDWF	"		on file		mkaintz@wlf.la.gov
Myles Bramfield	NOTS	"		"		
Brian Starnes	LDCE	"		"		
Sara Krue	LDWR	on file		3428917		saratkrue@ldwr.la.gov

