

**Minutes – Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP)
Research and Promotion Board Meeting
February 2, 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by the temporary Chair - Keith Lovell.

A roll call was conducted and showed the following members present and that a quorum was present:

Bijan Sharafkhani, Ray Berthelot (for Robert Barham), Keith Lovell, Randy Myers, Charles Sutcliffe, Myles Brumfield (for Shawn Wilson) and Gordon LeBlanc (for Lance Broussard).

Sign-in sheet is attached to document other attendees.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Paul Naquin, seconded by Charles Sutcliffe, and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 2015 meeting was made by Paul Naquin, seconded by Randy Myers, and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Don Haydel introduced the new Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Tom Harris.

Don Haydel described the request made by the Atchafalaya Basin Program for Capital Outlay funds. Whereas in previous years, the program has (unsuccessfully) made a \$10 million blanket request for approved projects, this year, the program is requesting separate dollar amounts for specific projects. The Research and Promotion Board has the final authority to allocate funding to projects. The specific projects included in the Capital Outlay request are as follows:

- \$1,000,000 for a 25% cost match for the Corps of Engineers construction of Feature 10 (also known as the “Log Jam”) in the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit Project. This project is the initial Water Management Unit restoration in the ABP / Corps of Engineers Master Plan for the

Atchafalaya Basin and this feature is critical to the success of this major project.

- **\$1,000,000 in funding for depth restoration of Grand Lake and Little Bayou Pigeon. This project restores critical and rare deep water habitat in the Atchafalaya Basin and is recognized by the Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board and the Technical Advisory Group as the highest priority depth restoration project for the ABP.**
- **\$2,000,000 in funding for the amount of construction forecast to be done in FY17 on the East Grand Lake Project. In July, 2015, The Nature Conservancy acquired 5,300 acres in the Atchafalaya Basin that will allow this project to move forward and will offer opportunities to partner with other organizations that offer potential grant matching contributions. This funding is needed for anticipated construction during FY17. The East Grand Lake construction project has been on hold due to the lack of cooperation from private landowners.**
- **\$1,500,000 in funding for improvements to the Sandy Cove and Ramah boat launches. Improvements for both launches are contained in the Louisiana Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin to provide better access to the area for residents and for tourists.**

Mr. Haydel asked the board to approve the Annual Basin Plan for consideration by the Louisiana Legislature.

Mr. Sharafkhani asked, what is the cost share with the Corps? Mr. Haydel replied that the state would pay 25%, and the federal government would pay 75% for the additional feature (the “log jam”). The estimated amount that the state would have to pay is \$ 1,000,000.00.

Mr. Naquin noted that there are 4 boat launches in the annual plan. Why are only two requested for funding? Mr. Haydel replied that the launches are built

in the order that they appear in the plan, but given sufficient funding, all of those listed in the plan would be constructed.

A motion to approve the FY 2017 Annual Plan was made by Paul Naquin, seconded by Charles Sutcliffe, and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Public comments: Charles Caillouet, representing Friends of the Atchafalaya, welcomed the new Secretary of DNR, Tom Harris, and said that he hopes that they can have as good a working relationship with him as they did the previous secretary.

Old Business: None.

New business: Don Haydel described the next steps in the annual plan process. The plan will first be presented to the House and Senate Natural Resources committees before being considered by each legislative body.

The next annual plan process will begin on May 30, 2016, and the Research and Promotion Board will meet again in June.

Mr. Haydel added that there are several new cabinet secretaries and that each one has the authority to appoint a new delegate to the Research and Promotion Board. ABP will send a letter to the new secretaries asking for appointments to the board.

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Lovell and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.



Atchafalaya
BASIN

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EVENT/LOCATION Research and Prevention Board

DATE: 02-02-2016

NAME	ASSOCIATION	MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
April Neaman	ABP	on file		342- 6437		on file
Sara Krue	ABP	on file		342-8417		on file
PAUL McQuinn	St Mary Parish Council	on file		337-230-0376		on file
RAYMOND BERTHELOT	OSP	on file		342-8128		on file
Charles Reulet	LDNR	on file		342-0861		on file
Myles Brunfield	DOTD			225-573-2329		myles.brunfield@louisiana.gov
Honora Bunas	CPRA	on file		225 342 4604		honora.bunas@la.gov
Gordon LeBlanc	PHH			225-342-7537		gordon.leblanc@louisiana.gov
Charles Colloret	FOA	on file		225-591-2812		foa@bea.burles.org
Charles Sattler	Gov's office	on file		342-4625		charles.sattler@louisiana.gov
Keith Lovell	DNR			342-7591		Keith.Lovell@louisiana.gov
Tom Harris	DNR			342-2510		thomas.harris@louisiana.gov