ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources – LaBelle Room

617 North 3rd Street

Baton Rouge, LA

Monday, January 23, 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

Department of Environmental Quality Alex Appeaning

Department of Health & Hospitals David Guilbeau

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

Dept of Transportation &Development Shawn Wilson

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

Assumption Parish representative Marty Triche (Absent)

Iberville Parish representative John Clark for Mitch Ourso

St. Martin Parish representative Guy Cormier (Absent)

St. Mary Parish representative Paul Naquin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Steve Chustz

Don Haydel

Charles Reulet

David Fruge

Dana Naquin

Friends of Atchafalaya Charles Fryling

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 Alex Appeaning 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 December 1, 2011 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 December 1, 2011.

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

1. Proposed Changes to FY 2013 Draft Annual Basin Plan: Steve Chustz presented list of minor changes:

**Draft FY 2013 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan – Recommended changes**

Page 2:

Update Atchafalaya Basin Legislative Oversight Committee members:

1. Replace Senator Butch Gautreaux with Senator R.L. “Bret” Allain
2. Replace Senator Robert Marionneaux with Senator Rick Ward III
3. Replace Representative Elton Aubert with Representative Edward Price
4. Replace Representative Bobby Badon with Representative Stephen Ortego
5. Add Senator Troy Brown – new district

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Reword first sentence of Open Brown Bayou to the I-10 Canal (200931)

1. Delete “When the canal between the I-10 spans and the Work Canal in Iberville Parish was dug,” and replace with “Due to man-made hydrologic changes and resultant sedimentation” and then change “were” to “have been” later in that sentence.
2. Public Comment: Mr. Paul Naquin inquired about the revenue trigger. Steve Chustz informed board that will not likely trigger so will have to rely on Capital Outlay funding for projects in this year’s plan. The staff continues to explore other sources of funding but has not been successful to date. Robert Benoit reminded board that the first time constitutional amendment – there was no trigger in place, subsequent constitutional amendment passed with a trigger in place.
3. Consideration of FY 2013 Draft Annual Basin Plan:

A motion by Alex Appeaning to approve changes proposed for FY2013 Draft Annual Basin Plan and seconded by John Lavin. Motion passed to adopt plan with corrections

1. Old Business: Steve Chustz gave update on ongoing projects:

**Dog Leg Canal** – going to bid soon, construction to begin during next low water-Summer ‘12

Henderson Channels – in place, St. Martin parish is moving forward

**Cocodrie Swamp** – working with stakeholders and engineers to work through hurdles, discuss ideas to stay with in scope

**Local Canal N. of Bayou Sorrel & Bayou Fourche** – working on plans, have landowner cooperation, working on proposals with engineering. Have met with landowners and next step will be to present to TAG.

**Big Alabama** – bid awarded, waiting on water level to drop

**Krotz Springs Boat Launch** – Structural Integrity issues, legal issues to be resolved, lawyers working through process.

**Bayou Sorrel Boat Launch** – Waiting on detailed plans & specs and will then go out to bid

**Bayou Amy** – wetland delineation

**Lake End Park Cabins** – out to bid this week

**Veterans Park** – no bids received, rebid out in 2 weeks

**Catahoula Pavilion** – nearing completion – expected in Feb.

**Primitive Camp Sites** – continuing to move forward and work with parishes on locations

1. New Business: Steve Chustz introduced Don Haydel, new member of staff – resource manager. Dave Fruge continues to work with ABP but has moved into coastal management; Charles Reulet continues to work in ABP, also.
2. Public Comment: Gerald Alexander and Paul Naquin inquired about getting the parish presidents as a voting entity. Robert Benoit has spoken to Representative Karen St. Germain, who has committed to authoring bill. Robert will work with Representative St. Germain and Sue King to get this presented in upcoming session.

Steve Chustz told board the changes will be incorporated in plan, mailed to legislators home office prior to February 12 deadline.

1. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Stuart Johnson and seconded by David Guilbeau and the meeting was adjourned.

Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program