ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Wildlife & Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

BATON ROUGE, LA

Thursday, December 1, 2011

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 for Chip Kline

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 (Absent)

St. Martin Parish representative Guy Cormier (Absent)

St. Mary Parish representative Paul Naquin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Steve Chustz

Charles Reulet

David Fruge

Dana Naquin

USGS Dan Kroes

Friends of Atchafalaya Charles Caillouet

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 Shawn Wilson to approve the agenda. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of November 9, 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 November 9, 2011.

Motion was made by Robert Benoit and seconded by Mike Wood to approve the minutes. The Chairman called for the vote and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

1. Overview of Public Meetings: Steve Chustz presented overview of public meetings:

List of attendees for each meeting, agenda discussed, public comment section. Meetings went well, same format at each meeting. In Plaquemine, Charles Caillouet asked for explanation of changes made by the Technical Advisory Group to the nomination schedule and Steve answered. In St. Martinville Dean Wilson pointed out some things in plan he disagreed with in reference to culverts and Coon Trap, Mike Bienvenue and Jody Meche also commented on Corps easements and navigable waterways.

1. Proposed Changes to FY 2013 Draft Annual Basin Plan Steve Chustz reviewed changes:

Page 2:

1. Add Robert Benoit, Department of Natural Resources, to Research and Promotion Board members.
2. Change Gerald Alexander from Vice-Chair to Chairman
3. Add Vice-Chairman to Alex Appeaning
4. Replace Charles St. Romain with John Lavin, State Land Office

Page 4:

1. Add Eric Blanchard to photo credits.

Page 5:

1. (Mississippi River paragraph) Delete repetitive “along the”.

2. (Atchafalaya River) Delete: “During the Mississippi River’s delta

switching period, the Atchafalaya River served periodically a the main channel of the Mississippi;”

Page 6:

1. (America’s Largest River Swamp) For further clarity, add the following phrases indicated in red to sentences in the first two paragraphs:

The Atchafalaya Basin historically encompassed over 2 million acres, and was bounded by natural ridges to the east and west that formed as the Mississippi River changed its course as much as 4,500 years ago. Flood protection levees have substantially reduced the Atchafalaya River’s floodplain, however. Today, the floodway encompasses approximately 837,000 acres as it stretches approximately 100 miles from Simmesport southward to near Morgan City, La.

With nearly a million acres of bottomland hardwoods, cypress swamps,

bayous and backwater lakes, the Atchafalaya Basin floodway (shown in

green on the map below) is still America’s largest river swamp. The

historic basin still surrounds the floodway with cypress swamp, boasts

the largest contiguous tracts of fresh marsh in Louisiana, and is unique

among basins in the state because it has a growing delta system with

nearly stable wetlands. Major features in the lower basin outside of the

floodway include the Lower Atchafalaya River, Wax Lake Outlet,

Atchafalaya Bay, and the Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and

Black navigation channel.

2. (Inset Box) Add “Floodway.” The Atchafalaya Basin Floodway stretches…

**Recommended Corrections, November 9-28, 2011**

**Draft FY 2013 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan**

**Page 2**

Page 8:

1. Correct the spelling of “was” in the photo caption.

Page 14:

1. (4th paragraph) Revise sentence to read: Crawfish are typically associated with the cultural heritage of South Louisiana and the Atchafalaya Basin. While crawfish have been eaten…

Page 16:

1. Add the following sentence to the end of the third paragraph:

The Atchafalaya Basin Program does not issue or enforce permits, nor is it authorized to directly regulate activities within the Basin.

Page 19:

1. (Research and Promotion Board Meetings) Replace November 3, 2011 with November 9, 2011, and replace November 30, 2011 with December 1, 2011.
2. (Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Meetings) Delete December, 2011. Include January date - January 18, 2011.

Page 41:

1. In the Myette Point Boat Launch photo caption, add the alternate spelling of (Millet).

Page 53:

1. Replace current description of Project Number 201110 with the following: Re-establish previous overbank elevations in Buffalo Cove WMA.
2. Replace the existing SONRIS screen shot with a more recent version.
3. Public Comment on Proposed Changes to FY 2013 Draft Annual Basin Plan: A motion by David Guilbeau to approve changes and seconded by John Lavin. Brad Spicer suggested amending statement to read:

Page 16:

The Atchafalaya Basin Program has no authority to issue or enforce permits,

nor to directly regulate activities within the Basin.

Motion by Robert Benoit to adopt plan as amended and seconded by Stuart Johnson. Motion passed to adopt plan with corrections and amended statement above.

1. Consideration of Modifications to FY 2013 Draft Annual Basin Plan: Brad Spicer suggested amending statement to read:

Page 16:

The Atchafalaya Basin Program has no authority to issue or enforce permits,

nor to directly regulate activities within the Basin.

Motion by Robert Benoit to adopt plan as amended and seconded by Stuart Johnson. Motion passed to adopt plan with corrections and amended statement above.

1. Other Business: Steve Chustz let board know the CPRA will not meet in December. The FY 2013 Annual Basin Plan as amended today will be presented to CPRA on January 18, 2012.
2. Public Comment: Chairman suggested having public introduce themselves after roll call. This item will be added to future agendas.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Brad Spicer and seconded by Mike Wood and the meeting was adjourned.

Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program