

**Minutes – Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP)  
Research and Promotion Board Meeting  
June 25, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by the Chair - Gerald Alexander

Introductions were made by new members and attendees, including Randy Myers (LDWF), Charles Caillouet (Friends of the Atchafalaya), Austin Feldbaum (CPRA), and Honora Buras (CPRA).

A Roll Call was conducted and showed the following members present and that a quorum was present:

Gerald Alexander, Alex Appeaning, Keith Lovell, Paul Naquin, Brad Spicer, Charles Sutcliffe, and Randy Myers.

Sign-in sheet is attached to document other attendees.

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the Sept 2014 meeting was made Charles Sutcliffe, seconded by Brad Spicer and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Don Haydel gave an update of the recent legislative session: The FY2016 Annual Plan was approved unanimously by both legislative bodies. ABP is moving forward with engineering and design of the Channel Training Breach Restoration and Grand Lake Delta Dredging that was approved in the FY2016 Annual Plan. The ABP did not receive any funding through capital outlay again this year, and the outlook for next year is not good.

Gerald Alexander commented that last year the ABP hosted a tour of the spillway, and that he would like to do it again. He said that some of the board members may not be aware of conditions in the Atchafalaya Basin. He has been going out there since 1967, and the changes that have occurred are “unbelievable.”

Charles Reulet gave an update of the ABP's recent accomplishments (see attachment), which include about \$4 million in project construction. These included the Dog Leg Canal sediment trap dredging and the recently completed Bayou Fourche dredging, which consisted of increasing depth in the channel by about 2 feet for 1600 feet. Paul Naquin asked how the spoil was disposed of for the Bayou Fourche project. Mr. Reulet responded that the dredge spoil was barged 18 miles south of the site, deposited on a temporary disposal site adjacent to the levee, and is currently being moved across the basin levee to the final disposal site. Mr. Naquin asked if there were any mitigation costs associated with the project, and Mr. Reulet replied that there were not, because the work stayed between the existing banks. Mr. Naquin commented that the cost of mitigation is rising, and that in St. Mary parish, mitigation can sometimes cost more than the project itself.

Charles Reulet continued with the overview of recent accomplishments: Channel Training Blockage restoration, which has an estimated cost of \$500,000, may be completed by the Corps. The estimated combined cost of the Grand Lake Delta and Little Pigeon dredging is \$2.2 million if the dredged material is transported to the Atchafalaya River for disposal or \$1.9 million if the material is disposed on the Attakapas Wildlife Management Area. Alex Appeaning asked, what is the added value of spending the extra \$300,000? Mr. Reulet replied that transporting the material to the river would allow it to eventually make its way to the coast, which is preferable. Don Haydel added that the decision may be constrained by the budget; by the end of next year, the ABP will have no money. Paul Naquin asked Mr. Haydel to send him a list of unfunded, authorized projects, so that he can share with other parish presidents to try to get the program funded. Alex Appeaning asked if ABP staff were dependent on these funds. Mr. Haydel replied that the two ABP employees (himself and April Newman) were not dependent on capital outlay and were funded through the Office of the Secretary. He added that even if there is no money for projects, the annual plan must be completed every year by legislative statute. Paul Naquin commented that maybe we can get the trigger lowered; it is not just hurting the ABP but a lot of people.

Charles Reulet continued with overview of recent accomplishments. We recently received good news on East Grand Lake and hope to make progress on that project soon. Buffalo Cove is moving forward, and the state will be required to pay 25% of project maintenance if the project is deemed effective (which is questionable). Coordination with CPRA to move sediment from the Basin to the coast is making progress; the timing is right for this collaboration to succeed.

Don Haydel introduced the FY2017 nomination: Heavy sediment entering Dog Leg Canal. The TAG is considering three general options: re-dredge, block, or no action. The ABP will prepare a cost-benefit analysis, and the TAG will reconvene to make a decision.

Don Haydel presented the FY2017 Annual Plan timeline (attached) in which the Research and Promotion Board must meet 4 times in 2016 per legislative statute.

Gerald Alexander recognized the service of Representative Karen St. Germain, who has served the ABP for many years and has now completed her terms in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Because Rep. St. Germain was unable to attend the meeting, he stated that he will hand deliver a certificate of appreciation bestowed by DNR and the ABP Research and Promotion Board.

Public comments were made by Charles Caillouet, who commended the ABP on getting oil and gas companies to haul spoil out of the Atchafalaya Basin. He related lessons from the previous day's TAG meeting as follows: bigger sediment traps are more efficient. He was glad to see a direction of big picture planning including large sediment traps near the river.

Gerald Alexander suggested that at the next meeting, we should have a large map of the basin that we can point at during discussion.

No old business was discussed.

No new business was discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Lovell. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

# **RECENT ABP ACCOMPLISHMENTS (~\$4 million)**

**Dog Leg Canal Sediment Trap Dredged**

**Lake End Park Lake Houses Completed**

**Big Alabama Pier Completed**

**Catahoula Pavilion Completed**

**Henderson Channels Dredged / Lake Lowered for Hydrilla Control**

**Veteran's Park Phase IV Completed**

**Veteran's Park Phase V Completed**

**Belle River Building / Restrooms Completed**

**Stephensville Concession Building/Restrooms Completed**

**Cajun Coast Welcome Center Completed**

**Bayou Sorrel Boat Launch Completed**

**Bayou Amy Boat Launch Completed**

**Primitive Campsites Project Completed**

**Trail at Visitor Center designed and to be bid out late 2015**

**Geocache Project Development Begun**

**Bayou Fourche dredging completed June 2015**

**CEA Signed for Butte LaRose Boat Launch**

**CEA Signed for Wilson's Landing Boat Launch**

**Five oil and gas Basin projects modified to dredge and haul spoil out rather than prop wash**

# **Projects Moving Forward in Next 12 Months**

**Blockage Restoration / Grand Lake Dredging / Little Pigeon**

**Construction of Butte Larose Boat Launch**

**Construction of Wilson's Landing Boat Launch**

**Construction of Trail at Visitor's Center**

**East Grand Lake (Tentative)**

**Final Construction at Buffalo Cove by the Corps**

**25% Cost Share in Log Jam Element 10**

**25% cost share in operation and maintenance**

**Coordination with CPRA**

**Draft FY2017 Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP)**  
**Annual Basin Plan Timeline**

**June 1, 2015** – Project nomination deadline (one project nomination was received).

**June 24, 2015** – TAG meeting to discuss project nomination for the 2017 Annual Plan (determine the appropriate course of action for Dog Leg Canal) and to provide an update on prioritized projects from the 2016 Annual Plan.

**June 25, 2015** – R & P Board meeting to discuss 2017 Annual Plan (approve course of action recommended by TAG for Dog Leg Canal) and to provide an update on prioritized projects from the 2016 Annual Plan.

**July 2015 (tentative)** – Additional TAG and R & P Board meetings if needed to finalize course of action on Dog Leg Canal.

**September 2015** – R&P Board meeting to approve the draft 2017 Annual Plan for public meetings.

**October 2015** – Public meetings to present FY2017 Annual Basin Plan

**October or November 2015** – R & P Board meeting to discuss comments and approve Final Draft Plan to send to CPRA.

**November 18, 2015** – Present Final Draft Annual Plan to CPRA

**January 2016** – CPRA Approval

**February 2016** – R & P Board Meeting to approve any changes to the Plan made by CPRA.

**February 15, 2016** – Submit FY 2017 Annual Plan to legislature.

**March 14, 2016** – Legislative session begins.



*Atchafalaya*  
BASIN

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EVENT/LOCATION

Research and Permitting Board Meeting

DATE:

June 25, 2015

NAME	ASSOCIATION	MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Paul Daquin	ST. MARY	on file		on file		on file
Charles Calloway	FOA	"		225-571-2012		"
Don HARDEL	ABRD	"		225 342 8953		"
Kith Lovell	DNR			(225) 342-7591		Kith.Lovell@dnr.la.gov
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Brad Spicer	LDAF					

