

**Minutes – Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP)
Research and Promotion Board Meeting
November 5, 2015**

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

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

Gerald Alexander, Ray Berthelot (for Dwight Landreneau), Keith Lovell, Brad Spicer, Randy Myers, Charles Sutcliffe, and Bijan Sharafkhani.

Sign-in sheet is attached to document other attendees.

Mr. Alexander welcomed the new board appointee, Mr. Bijan Sharafkhani, and Mr. Sharafkhani introduced himself.

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

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

Don Haydel gave an update on the Grand Lake and Little Bayou Pigeon restoration projects. He said that the ABP is waiting for the Corps to construct the closure at the river. Additionally, the ABP recently sent a letter to the Corps asking them to fully close the Coon Trap Weir, and the Corps responded that they are only authorized to complete repairs to the structure as originally designed.

Mr. Haydel gave an update of the public meetings, which were held in October. He said that the meetings had low attendance and that no comments were made to change the annual plan as submitted. The current annual plan contains no new projects, only previously approved projects. The annual plan is essentially the same as last year, and the ABP will be moving forward with previously approved projects.

Mr. Haydel asked the board to approve the Annual Basin Plan for presentation to CPRA at their next meeting. A motion to approve was made by Brad Spicer, seconded by Ray Berthelot, and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Old Business: Mr. Alexander asked Charles Reulet about the coordination effort with CPRA; specifically, he wanted to know if the ABP had suggested Flat Lake.

Mr. Reulet replied that that Flat Lake area was the first potential project that the ABP had suggested to CPRA. He said that we will regroup with CPRA after the first of the year. He also stated that a grant opportunity had become available, but that the effort didn't succeed because of timing. ABP hopes to make progress on this effort next year. Mr. Reulet added that Flat Lake would meet the nature of the ABP project as proposed, to restore hydrology, but would also allow some geotech work to see what type of material is available and if it is feasible to transport it to coastal projects.

Charles Sutcliffe added that the issue of excess Atchafalaya sediment had come up at the past couple of CPRA board meetings, so they are very aware of it and are thinking about how to make use of it.

Mr. Reulet pointed out that in the areas proposed for sediment "mining," sediment is currently locked up and cannot make it to the coast, so utilizing this sediment would not get in the way of natural delta-building processes.

New business: Mr. Alexander stated that the board needs to choose a new Vice Chairman, because Alex Appeaning has left. He noted that, by statute, the board must have a Vice Chairman, and he asked board members to consider volunteering for the position.

Public comments: Charles Caillouet asked about the status of the effort to expand the ABP's boundary for working on water management projects.

Don Haydel replied that a resolution had been drafted and provided to the Atchafalaya Legislative Oversight Committee, but no further action had been taken.

Charles Sutcliffe asked for an update on the TNC land acquisition.

Don Haydel replied that the ABP is partnering with them to identify, with the TAG, the best way to get water moving as it should in the area by using their newly acquired property. He stated that the project is already funded and that the ABP has been waiting for landowner approval to construct features. Plans are forthcoming in calendar year 2016.

Charles Caillouet asked if funding was in place, and Don Haydel replied that there is about \$0.5 million in place. He said that TNC is applying for matching funding and that the ABP is also applying for additional funding through a Capital Outlay request.

A motion to adjourn was made by Charles Sutcliffe and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

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BASIN

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EVENT/LOCATION

Research and Promotion Board

DATE:

Nov. 5, 2015

NAME	ASSOCIATION	MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Harold Alexander	ABLD		on file			
BRAND SWANERK HALL	LDDEA					
Charles Seft/ME	Gov					
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Brad Spicer	LDH#		on file			
April Newman	ARBP		on file			