

Minutes – Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP)

Technical Advisory Group Meeting

June 24, 2015

**Meeting was called to order at 9:50 AM by the appointed temporary Chair –
Brac Salyers**

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

Glenn Constant, Bill Kelso, Tom Killeen, Dan Kroes, Charles Reulet, Brac Salyers

Sign-in sheet is attached to document other attendees.

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dan Kroes, seconded by Glenn
Constant, and unanimously passed by voice vote of the members.**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2014 meeting was made by
David Walther, seconded by Dan Kroes and was unanimously passed by voice
vote of the members.**

**A legislative update was given by Don Haydel: HCR 5 to approve the FY2016
Annual Plan was approved unanimously by the legislature. HB2, which would
have provided funding for the program, allocated \$0 for the Atchafalaya Basin
Program. Tom Killeen asked how that compares to previous years. Mr. Haydel
replied that the program has not received any funding since 2013 and that the
outlook for next year is not good.**

**Charles Reulet gave an update of ongoing projects: The current estimate for the
Grand Lake delta includes removal of approximately 16,000 cubic yards of
sediment. Two current spoil disposal options are 1) transporting the spoil to the
river (\$2.2 million) or 2) depositing the spoil on the Attakapas WMA (\$1.9
million). The cost estimate for dredging Murphy Lake (120,000 cubic yards) is
\$2.4 million. In response to a question by Dr. Kelso, Charles indicated a keyway**

near the lake where the spoil would most likely be deposited. Dr. Kelso replied that fish surveys have indicated that location to be highly productive, so it would be a shame to fill it in. Charles thanked Dr. Kelso for the information and said that it would be considered in the planning process. The cost estimate for dredging Big Bayou Pigeon (63,000 cubic yards) is \$3.8 million. The CEA for Wilson's Landing has been signed and is pending final review. A no-cost time extension was completed for Veteran's Park Phase V, but the project is near completion. Landowner agreements are still being negotiated for E. Grand Lake. Bayou Fourche was recently completed and included removal of approximately 6,000 cubic yards of material that was transported to a temporary disposal site and is currently being moved out of the basin. Butte LaRose boat launch is still pending land acquisition by St. Martin parish. ABP is contributing to the Sherburne multi-purpose building. ABP is still touching up the Report of the State of the Atchafalaya Basin Program. ABP has initiated a discussion with CPRA on how to coordinate moving sediment from the basin to the coast.

Michael Somme gave a presentation on the engineering of the Orange Barrel and 21" sediment traps. He indicated that flow in those channels was too high for a sediment trap to be effective. David Walther asked if the channels were used for access. Dan Kroes answered that Orange Barrel Canal in particular has a lot of traffic, even in low water. A discussion followed about overall design of sediment traps and a comparison to those in Buffalo Cove. Glenn Constant suggested that we should take a step back from the objectives of controlling sediment and maintaining access and focus on building a partnership with CPRA to utilize basin sediment sources for coastal restoration. Dr. Kelso stated that we should identify deep water habitat that we want to maintain and dredge it and that DNR should get into the business of dredging. More discussion followed about sediment trap design with Michael Somme stating that a variety of approaches would be needed for the Orange Barrel and 21" locations and that although we can't stop sedimentation, we can slow it so that areas don't have to be dredged as often. Glenn Constant suggested that we coordinate with CPRA to see what they can offer; for example, is it cost prohibitive to get sediment from Schwing Chute? Charles Reulet said that in general, CPRA needs

sediment and doesn't have it. Honora Buras with CPRA stated that big projects would be more cost effective than small projects and added that CPRA needs freshwater sediment for its freshwater ridge restoration projects. Gerald Alexander suggested that the TAG should probably meet more often to maintain these discussions. Glenn Constant said that with this new idea of big picture coordination with CPRA, more meetings would be useful. David Walther brought up the fact that mitigation can be a problem for dredging projects. Charles Caillouet said that maintenance dredging has been a problem since the Master Plan and that DNR needs to get into the dredging business and stay there. Michael Somme said that some methods are more successful with a small dredge such as those that utilize geotubes.

2017 Annual Plan Nomination: Heavy sediment entering Dog Leg canal. Brac Salyers explained the problem of heavy sediment entering the Dog Leg canal from the Atchafalaya River and making its way to Schwing Chute. Mike Kaller then gave a presentation on the monitoring that LSU has done there since the sediment trap was dredged by DNR in 2013. He showed that poor water quality in the area influenced by Dog Leg canal is affected by flow through Orange Barrel canal because of a hydraulic flow barrier. He also showed that overall, both the sediment trap and canal have been filling in. Steve Roberts asked if there were data from before the trap was dredged. Raynie Harlan replied that there were measurements nearby but not in that specific location. David Walther noted that the flow pattern is the same as it was in 1996. Brac Salyers then showed recent pictures and videos of water rushing through Dog Leg canal as well as the channel training breach that leads to Grand Lake. Glenn Constant summed up what we have learned from LSU's monitoring work: the rate of filling and expected lifespan. He added that it would be helpful to see the Corps monitoring report of their sediment traps for comparison. He suggested that building a larger sediment trap would essentially allow for building of a larger island on the coast and that we should be "connecting the dots" between the basin and the coast. Considering projects as beneficial use instead of O & M could make them more cost efficient. Don Haydel stated that the cost of the Dog Leg Project was \$30/cu. yd. and lasted 3 years. This equates to \$10/cu.

yd./year in maintenance. In our current financial situation, the cost is not viable. Don offered that the ABP would provide a cost/benefit analysis of maintaining Dog Leg. Dan Kroes suggested that increasing the amount of sediment dredged would decrease the cost per cubic yard because of mobilization costs. Kaller offered to include an estimate of trap efficiency in his final report which is due next January. Charles Reulet pointed out that it is important to find out what the managers of the wildlife management area want. Brac Salyers said he would find out and report back. Charles Caillouet suggested that sediment traps may also provide deep water habitat. Mike Kaller replied that they typically do not, because the water is too fast and bedload is moving. Steve Roberts said that it would be interesting to find out if the Corps Buffalo Cove sediment trap features 9-1 and 9-2 are acting as deep water habitat; the channels leading to them capture more sediment than the traps themselves. The TAG declined to make a recommendation on Dog Leg until more information (specifically the cost-benefit analysis) is received.

Public comments were made by Dan Kroes who stated that the Amerada Hess blockage should be examined for possible near-failure.

Old business: Jeff Varisco provided an update on the Buffalo Cove project: 95% of the land agreements are complete. One parcel has an unknown owner, and the Corps is moving toward condemnation for that parcel which affects element 14. Bids recently went out for the remaining features, but they came in too high, and the project is being re-bid on July 7. Award of the projects is expected by July 14. Element 10 (the log jam) is on a different time schedule and will be constructed after the current elements (3, 12, 14, and 16) are constructed. All elements should be completed by April 2016.

No new business was discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Kelso, seconded by Glenn Constant and unanimously passed by a voice vote of the members.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

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.



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EVENT/LOCATION

TAG Meeting

DATE:

24 June 2015

NAME	ASSOCIATION	MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Dan Kraeg	USGS	on file				
Charles Reult	LDNR	on file		225-342-0861		charles.reult@la.gov
Dou Hyatt	LDNR	11		on file	N/A	on file
April Neuman	LDNR	on file		342-6437		april.neuman@la.gov
Shane Miller	LDNR	on file		337-262-5584		shane.miller@la.gov
Jason Crain	Sigma Cons	10305 Airline Hwy, BR	70816	225-298-0800		Jcrain@sigmaco.com
Michelle Feltman	LDNR	2846 Hwy 182, Ratterson	70392	985-519-3572		Mfeltman@talare.edu
Brac Sayers	LDWF	on file		337-373-6032		bsayers@whf.la.gov
Tom Killen	LDNR	11		225-219-3811		Tom.Killen@la.gov
Michael Somme	Sigma Consulting Group	10305 Airline Highway, BR	70816	225-298-0800		MSomme@sigmaco.com
Honora Buras	CPRA	PO Box 44027, BR	70804	225-342-4604		honora.buras@la.gov
Charles Calloway	FOA	on file		225-571-2872		foa@basin-buddies.org

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NAME	ASSOCIATION	MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<i>Bernard Alexander</i>	<i>ABKD</i>	<i>On File</i>				
<i>Jeffrey Jarvis</i>	<i>USACE</i>	<i>On File</i>		<i>504-862-2853</i>		<i>Jeffrey.j.jarvis@usace.army.mil</i>
<i>Sara Krupke</i>	<i>DNR</i>	<i>"</i>				
<i>Steve Roberts</i>	<i>USACE</i>	<i>"</i>		<i>504-862-2517</i>		<i>Steve.W.roberts@usace.army.mil</i>
<i>Bill Kelso</i>	<i>LSU</i>	<i>"</i>		<i>on file</i>		<i>On file</i>
<i>Mike Kaiser</i>	<i>LSU</i>	<i>"</i>		<i>"</i>		<i>"</i>
<i>Ryanne Hartman</i>	<i>LSU</i>	<i>"</i>				
<i>David Holtz</i>	<i>USFWS</i>	<i>on file</i>		<i>"</i>		<i>"</i>
<i>Colleen Conshel</i>	<i>USFWS</i>	<i>on file</i>		<i>on file</i>		<i>"</i>