



**Atchafalaya Trace Commission/
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area**

Minutes: September 9, 2020 Meeting

A meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission), managing entity of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA), was held Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 10 a.m. As a result of the Governor's proclamation, the meeting was held as a hybrid, virtually via Zoom and in-person at the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen, LA.

Commissioners present in-person:

Wilbert Carmouche, Chair, Avoyelles
Mart Black, Vice-Chair, Terrebonne
Angélique Bergeron, Secretary, West Baton Rouge
Herman Fuselier, St. Landry
Darrel Rivere, Assumption

Commissioners present virtually:

Chris Burton, Iberia
Christine DeMyers, East Baton Rouge
Charles Caillouet, Ascension
Linda Gardner, Concordia
Carrie Stansbury, St. Mary
J. A. Rummler, Pointe Coupée
Steve Pellissier, Lafayette Parish

Commissioners absent:

Cliff LeGrange, Iberville Parish
Carol Patin, St. Martin

Others present:

Carrie Broussard, Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Kristin Sanders, Louisiana Office of Cultural Development (virtual)
Justin Lemoine, Executive Director, Atchafalaya NHA
Caroline Byrne, Assistant Director, Atchafalaya NHA
Joe Baustian, The Nature Conservancy
Jim Bergen, The Nature Conservancy
Jim Delahoussey, public
Rhonda Price, Jean Lafitte National Park (virtual)

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Carmouche called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Carrie Broussard identified Commission members who appeared on the Zoom Call. With thirteen of the fourteen Commissioners present, Carmouche declared a quorum.



II. Agenda Approval

Chairman Carmouche called for a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting. **Black made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Rivere. Motion carried unanimously (13-0) with Patin & LeGrange absent.**

III. Minutes Approval

Chairman Carmouche asked the commission to review the minutes from the June 10th meeting and called for a vote to approve the minutes. **Bergeron made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Black. Motion carried unanimously (13-0) with Patin & LeGrange absent.**

IV. Introduction of New Commissioner

Justin Lemoine introduced Christine DeMyers as the new commissioner from East Baton Rouge Parish. Christine gave a brief introduction of herself and her background. Lemoine introduced Steve Pellessier, the new commissioner for Lafayette Parish who replaced Wes Davis. Steve gave a brief introduction about himself and his background. Lemoine announced that Jean Lafitte National Park has an ex-officio member on the Commission, and that Charles 'Chuck' Hunt, the Superintendent of the park, will fill that role. Chuck was unable to attend, but Rebecca Lassell

V. Introduction of the New Assistant Director

Justin Lemoine introduced Caroline Byrne as the new Assistant Director of Atchafalaya. Caroline said a brief hello and gave her background to the commission.

VI. 2020 Commissioner Appointments

Lemoine noted that Chris Burton is up for Re-appointment and has notified Iberia Parish of his intent to remain on the council. His position is up for a vote in September. Commissioner LeGrange's term expires in December 2020. Justin noted that in early October he would send a request to the parish for re-appointment.

VII. TNC Presentation

Lemoine introduced Joe Baustian with The Nature Conservancy. Joe presented the work that TNC is doing in the Atchafalaya Basin, including their land holdings, research, and the new research facility in Bayou Sorrel. ATC members and staff may take a fieldtrip to the Atchafalaya Conservation Center in December.

VIII. Grants Overview/Update

Justin Lemoine gave brief overview of the new website produced by Paul Miller. Miller will work with ANHA Staff to determine the official roll-out date. ANHA Staff will roll out publicly with the Lieutenant Governor's office.

ANHA Staff will present spending plan for 2020-2021 at the next meeting. Water Heritage



Trail phase 2 signage will be a part of this. ANHA staff are working to update the current grant process to better align with Federal reporting requirements.

IX. NPS Budget, Spending Plan Revisions

ANHA & OCD Staff are working on finalizing the 2019 & 2020 Budget justifications, spending plans, and match documentation as requested from NPS, will submit to NPS on October 15th.

X. Federal Reauthorization Process

ANHA/OCD Staff outlined a process for reauthorization of the program that must be completed by October 2021. Congressman Garrett Graves has been identified as a potential sponsor for the bill. Lemoine has noted that once ANHA staff have a background document for reauthorization, they will work with commissioners to reach out to their representatives to build support for the effort.

ANHA will issue an RFP for Strategic Planning Services in the next couple of weeks, anticipate beginning Strategic plan this fall, with completion in the spring.

ANHA looking at next Commission meeting for November 11th. It was discussed that this was Veterans Day, so the next commission meeting will instead be held on November 4th. The next executive committee meetings will be October 7th, and an early December date that is TBD.

XI. Other Business/Comments from Public Attendees

None.

XII. Commissioner Announcements

Various commissioners discussed event cancellations due to COVID-19.

Fuselier announced Zydeco Festival's 38th will be held on youtube. October 7-11. There will be an antique fair Oct 9-11th. St. Landry cemetery tours with actors.

Bergeron announced a Sept 15th evening lecture with FBI Special Agent on Clementine Hunter forgeries. Oct 3-4th, the 25th annual SugarFest will be online (Facebook & YouTube) – will be crediting ANHA as a sponsor.

Black announced that Rougarou fest will still move forward in some format, though he's not sure yet.

Burton said that SugarCane Fest is cancelled this year.

Rummler noted that there will be a Cars Show in Pointe Coupee September 19th.



Rebecca noted that Jean Lafitte will have online offerings.

Carmouche said there will be a Rotary Golf Scramble in Marksville September 18th.

XIII. Volunteer Hour Sheets

Lemoine requested commissioners submit volunteer hour sheets at the end of the meeting or after.

XIV. Adjourn

With no further business, **Rivere moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Black. Motion carried unanimously (13-0). Carmouche thanked everyone for attending.**