



Atchafalaya Trace Commission/  
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

*Minutes: November 4, 2020 Meeting*

A meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission), managing entity of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA), was held Wednesday, November 4, 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:**

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

**Commissioners present virtually:**

Carrie Stansbury, Treasurer, St. Mary  
C.E. "Charles" Hunt, Jean Lafitte National Park  
Charles Caillouet, Ascension  
Christine DeMyers, East Baton Rouge  
Chris Burton, Iberia  
J.A. Rummler, Pointe Coupée  
Linda Gardner, Concordia  
Steve Pellessier, Lafayette

**Commissioners absent:**

Cliff LeGrange, Iberville

**Others present:**

Justin Lemoine, Executive Director, Atchafalaya NHA  
Caroline Byrne, Assistant Director, Atchafalaya NHA  
David Dahlquist, The TECHE Project  
Rebecca LaSell, Jean Lafitte National Park (virtual)

**I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Carmouche called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Justin Lemoine called roll and identified Commission members who appeared on the Zoom call.

**II. Agenda Approval**

Chairman Carmouche called for a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting. **Bergeron made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Black. With no oppositions and no rejections, motion carried unanimously (13-0) with LeGrange absent.**



### **III. Minutes Approval**

Chairman Carmouche asked the Commission to review the minutes from the Sept. 9 meeting and called for a motion to approve the minutes or approve the minutes with correction. **Black made a motion to approve the minutes as is. Seconded by Rivere. Motion carried unanimously (13-0) with LeGrange absent.**

### **IV. 2020 Commissioner Appointments**

Lemoine noted Burton from Iberia was officially reappointed. The last commissioner up for re-appointment is LeGrange from Iberville, and he was reappointed by the parish. All commissioner appointments for 2020 are complete. Lemoine noted there were no change in the seats for Iberia and Iberville parishes. The next re-appointment will be Bergeron in early 2021.

### **V. TECHE Project Presentation**

Chairman Carmouche and Lemoine introduce David Dahlquist with The TECHE Project. Dahlquist reviewed projects that were funded by ANHA grant monies. Projects include Shake Your Trail Feather and water trail signage. ATC expressed interest in possibly funding future TECHE Project endeavors.

### **VI. Grants Process Update**

Caroline Byrne reviewed the updated grants process on the website ([atchafalaya.org/grant-program](http://atchafalaya.org/grant-program)) as well as the application and decision periods. Byrne asked Commissioners to send any questions they or their partners may have to include on an FAQ page. She announced that ANHA has already received two grant applications, and Lemoine reviewed types of grants ANHA is hoping to fund.

### **VII. NPS Budget, Spending Plan Revisions Update**

Lemoine noted that ANHA submitted an updated FY 19-20 budget to the National Park Service excluding the Quiet Calm projects. The 500 pages of documentation were reviewed with no questions from NPS.

Lemoine will prepare December finance reports and email to ATC for review. He will also email proposed spending for 2021-2022 to ATC for review.

### **VIII. Strategic Planning Process**

Lemoine noted ANHA received strategic planning proposals from Success Labs, SSA Consultants and LaFargue. Lemoine confirmed that ANHA, with approval from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, would be contracting with LaFargue for strategic planning.

The purpose of the strategic plan is to narrow focus for the ANHA. The goal is to determine what ANHA will focus on and how to fund efforts. The project will take approximately four months. The total cost is \$40,200.

### **IX. Other Business/Comments from Public Attendees**

There was no public present at this meeting, virtually or in-person.



## **X. Social Media Updates**

Byrne updated the Commission on website and social media analytics. The new website launched Oct. 1 and saw 500 unique views at its peak. Visitors were looking for information on the Basin. Byrne expressed interested in pushing the paddle and hiking pages on social media.

Social media platforms reached 20,000 people. Facebook and Twitter gained new followers. Byrne noted the month of November is dedicated to pushing grant information on social media and encouraged Commissioners to share information. Byrne also encouraged Commissioners to send her stories and events from their parishes to share on ANHA social media.

## **XI. Commissioner Announcements**

Many commissioners are still dealing with repercussions from COVID-19 and the hurricanes.

Rivere noted the Assumption Parish Policy Jury approved their water management initiative. He also noted they are in the process of completing paperwork for the property for a new Assumption Parish history museum.

Carmouche congratulated Marksville on their Cultural District designation. He announced the Passport to the Arts membership drive to take place Nov. 5, and passed out a list of other events in Avoyelles.

Fuselier expressed sorry in the passing of former Eunice mayor Curtis Joubert. He announced the wake will take place Nov. 6 and the funeral will take place Nov. 7. Fusilier also announced the launch of a committee charged with the renovation of the Liberty Theater and will keep the Commission updated on progress.

Bergeron announced the monthly Café Francais is back every first Friday of the month. WBR Museum will host a Jazz concert on the grounds, and Old Time Country Jam has started again every second Sunday of the month. WBR Museum will also host a Holiday Open House next month.

Black noted Terrebonne Parish is still recovering from hurricanes, and events for the remained of 2020 are still being determined.

Stansbury announced the Lighthouse Festival will take place the weekend of Nov. 13. The CVB is also working on community events like a community bike ride. Stansbury expressed interest in the Commission passing a resolution in memory of Governor Foster, who did lots of work for the Atchafalaya Basin during his tenure. She will send example to ANHA who will draft a resolution and send to the Commission for review.

Rummler announced the Upper Delta Water Conservation District is doing lots of work on the watershed plan.

Caillouet announced festivals in Ascension have been cancelled.



DeMyers announced BREC is hosting Bird and Beyond Birding Trail and that the Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Chapter is starting a public heritage garden. The group is currently raising funds for that project.

Gardner announced the Delta Music Museum has reopened.

**XII. Adjourn**

With no further business, Chairman Carmouche asked for motion to adjourn. **Rivere moved to adjourn the meeting. Black seconded motion. With no objections, motion carried unanimously (13-0). Carmouche thanked everyone for attending.**