



Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration & Enhancement Task Force

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Assumption Parish Community Center

4910 Hwy 308

Napoleonville, LA 70390

9:00 a.m.

Agenda



- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approve Minutes
- IV. Approve Agenda
- V. Welcome – Chip Kline, GOCA
- VI. Member Priority Issues and Prioritization of Potential Solutions – Morgan Crutcher, GOCA; Brian Lezina, CPRA
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Adjourn



Member Priority Issues and Prioritization of Potential Solutions

Morgan Crutcher, GOCA

Brian Lezina, CPRA

Priority Issues Survey



- Hydrology
- Sedimentation
- Invasives
- Water Quality
- Land and Resource Use
- Land Loss and Subsidence
- Federal Authorizations and Support



HYDROLOGY

ISSUES

- Complexity of basin-wide hydrology
- ORCS fixed flow regime
- Increased bed elevation at mouth of river reducing flow through
- Hydraulic Damming
- Stagnation within Impoundments creating low water quality
- Spoil banks restricting flow from North to South and East/West.
- Areas disconnected from the Atchafalaya subsiding
- Freshwater introduction for oxygenation introducing unwanted sediment



SEDIMENTATION

ISSUES

- Sediment transport out of basin is prohibitively expensive
- Shoaling endangers and prevents navigation
- Reduced draft incurs economic losses
- Sedimentation threatens water intake facilities
- Lack of maintenance to pipeline spoil bank gaps
- Fines filling in lakes, which are hard to dredge
- Habitat change from aquatic to terrestrial



INVASIVE EXOTICS

ISSUES

- Waiting to address invasives until after they have established and become a problem: containment versus prevention mode
- Reduced water circulation and poor water quality conditions allow invasive aquatics to exacerbate hypoxic conditions
- Impeded boater access and clog props
- Research, prevention and management is expensive and program not funded to adequately address all species
- Species identified include: apple snail, Asian carp, salvinia, water hyacinth, hydrilla, chinese tallow



LAND & RESOURCE USE

ISSUES

- Private water bottom and land ownership has limited area available for access by commercial fishers and recreational hunters and fishers
- Pipeline canal right-of-ways provide convenient shortcuts for boat travel however at low water, boat travel presents a higher risk to pipelines from boat props and anchors



SUBSIDENCE

ISSUES

- Not everyone agrees subsidence is a problem because it is not happening uniformly across the basin
- Areas adjacent to but outside the floodway long disconnected from the Atchafalaya no longer receive sediment and are subsiding
- Thousands of acres of dead and dying cypress tupelo swamps due to subsidence just south of old river



Informing Future Efforts or Authorizations

- CPRA Lowermost River Management Program
- Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study
- Mississippi River and Tributaries
- Atchafalaya Basin Program – Floodway Project
- Atchafalaya Basin Floodway - State Master Plan
- Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast



POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- Inputs to the System
 - Where, what, when, how much
- Channel Management
 - Distribution of water/sediment
- Floodplain Areas
 - Hydrology of the swamp
 - Habitats



Input to the System

- ORCS
 - Timing, duration, and magnitude
 - Entry point
- Bayou Courtableu
- Locks, other structures



Channel Management

- Dredging
- Channel training
 - Fixed crest, variable, full bank, etc.
 - armoring
- Increase Flow through Wax Lake Outlet
- Third Outlet
- Sediment Pipeline
- Other structures



Backswamp Considerations

- Spoil bank gapping
 - With/without river connection
- Canal/waterway modification
- Local dredging
- Sediment trapping
- Structural features
- Specific habitat considerations



Next Meetings

- Implementation of Solutions
 - Purpose and Need
 - Identification of scope/scale
 - Challenges to implementation and ways to address
- Will be used to identify group actions or recommendations
- Draft review and final reporting