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.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HYDROLOGY</th>
<th>ISSUES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Complexity of basin-wide hydrology</td>
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<td>• ORCS fixed flow regime</td>
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<td>• Increased bed elevation at mouth of river reducing flow through</td>
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<td>• Hydraulic Damming</td>
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<td>• Stagnation within Impoundments creating low water quality</td>
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<td>• Spoil banks restricting flow from North to South and East/West.</td>
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<td>• Areas disconnected from the Atchafalaya subsiding</td>
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<td>• Freshwater introduction for oxygenation introducing unwanted sediment</td>
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<td>SEDIMENTATION</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ISSUES</strong></td>
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<td>• Sediment transport out of basin is prohibitively expensive</td>
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<td>• Shoaling endangers and prevents navigation</td>
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<td>• Reduced draft incurs economic losses</td>
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<td>• Sedimentation threatens water intake facilities</td>
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<td>• Lack of maintenance to pipeline spoil bank gaps</td>
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<td>• Fines filling in lakes, which are hard to dredge</td>
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<td>• Habitat change from aquatic to terrestrial</td>
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### 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

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<td>• Private water bottom and land ownership has limited area available for access by commercial fishers and recreational hunters and fishers</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
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## 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