



Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration & Enhancement (ARBRE) Task Force
Thursday, July 15, 2021
Plaquemine Courthouse, 2nd Floor
5805 Meriam Street
Plaquemine, LA 70764
9:00AM

The following constitute minutes of the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration & Enhancement Task Force Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. Audio and video recordings of the meetings are available for viewing and kept at the Office of the Governor-Coastal Activities Office in Baton Rouge, LA.

I. Call to Order: Bren Haase, Acting Chairman

II. Roll Call

- Acting Chairman Haase, Mr. Myers, Mr. Haydel, Mr. Hill, Mr. L. Blanchard, Mr. Tauzin, Ms. Gautreaux,
- Mr. Ashley, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Wade, Mr. Jewell, Mr. Meche, Mr. Bonvillain, Mr. Inman, Mr. Paul, Mr. Glenn Constant, Mr. Kroes

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux
Second by Mr. L. Blanchard
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Haydel
Second by Mr. L. Blanchard
Unanimously Approved

V. Welcome/Introduction: Bren Haase, CPRA- Acting Chairman

VI. Overview of recent USACE activities for the Atchafalaya River Basin – Brad Inman, USACE

(Video #00051:02:45)

- Task Force was briefed on OMAR-Technical Assessment; ORLSS Technical Assessment; Atchafalaya Basin (Coon Trap and Sustainable River Program).
- Also discussed the Atchafalaya Basin Modeling Outlets & Lower Mississippi Comprehensive Study.

VII. WRDA 2022-Federal Authorization Discussion – Bren Haase, CPRA (Video #00052:26:10)

- The Task Force was briefed on:
- A number of authorizations that the Federal government has related to the Atchafalaya basin.
- There is a need to express a sense of urgency regarding the Atchafalaya Basin to Congress.



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- Task Force also expressed that there is a need for additional authorizations.
- There's a possible opportunity to add language to WRDA that will be passed (hopefully) next year to add the Atchafalaya Basin to that study along with the Lower MS River.
- Also discussed possibility to revisit the Atchafalaya Floodway Plan.

VIII. Draft Report Recommendations - (Video#00052: 30:53)

- Introduction of the Task Force
- Overview of Existing Condition
- Recommendations
- Discussion/Conclusion
 - Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin locally and nationally.
 - Urge and request Congress fully fund construction of finalized USACE studies relevant to the management of the Atchafalaya Basin as well as funding authorized studies.
 - Urge the USACE to include holistic management of the Atchafalaya Basin, with ecological restoration, as a core component in the authorized Lower MS river comprehensive management study.
 - USACE to complete the Atchafalaya Floodway system
 - Finalize and incorporate current studies within a larger examination of the current hydrology of the Basin including inputs for sediment and water at the ORCC and their eventual fate.
 - Examine ways to better contain and mobilize sediment within the main channel.
 - Examine current management of the ORCC and the impacts altered flows between the MS and Atchafalaya Rivers.
 - Update the State's Atchafalaya Basin Mater Plan to include current conditions and challenges and as informed by ARBRE Task Force.
 - CPRA Board and CPRA to better engage the public concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin.
 - Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Atchafalaya Basin.
- Appendices (if necessary)

Public Comment – *public comments may be made in person or submitted online at ARBRE@la.gov*

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux
Second by Mr. Meche
Unanimously Approved