

# Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force

Meeting #6  
August 12, 2021



# DRAFT Recommendations Report Outline

- Task Force Membership
- Introduction
  - Atchafalaya River Basin Background
  - Challenges
    - Hydrology, Sedimentation, and Water Quality
    - Invasive Species
    - Stakeholder conflict
- Description and Charge of the Task Force
- Recommendations
- Workplan and Meeting Schedule

## Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force

Initial Findings and Recommendations to the Louisiana Coastal  
Protection and Restoration Authority Board



GOVERNOR'S  
OFFICE OF  
COASTAL  
ACTIVITIES



# 1. Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin locally, regionally, and nationally

- Function as a critical floodway
- Ecological benefits
- Environmental benefits
- Request “State of Emergency” declaration





## 2. Urge and request Congress fully fund construction of finalized USACE studies relevant to the management of the Atchafalaya Basin as well as fund authorized studies

- Programs
  - Atchafalaya Floodway Projects – 5 WMUs
  - MR&T Program and associated
- Projects/Studies
  - South Central Coastal study
  - East Atchafalaya and Amite Basins
  - Nutrient assessments
- Urge USACE to streamline permitting
- Prioritize restoration of historic flows Butte Larose



### 3. Urge the USACE to approach management of the Atchafalaya Basin holistically, designating ecological restoration as a primary component along with flood control and navigation

- Recognize equal importance of ecological restoration
- All things benefit with appropriate management of sediment and water
- USACE to include this holistic management approach in upcoming Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study



## 4. Urge Louisiana Legislature to include the Atchafalaya Basin as part of the Louisiana Coastal Zone

- Currently within Louisiana Coastal Area
- Recommends inclusion of areas not covered
- Inclusion in Louisiana Coastal Resources Program
  - Regulatory requirements concerning environmental (CUP)
  - Additional funding opportunities
  - Parishes can develop CZMP



## 5. Management actions should where possible restore north/south sheet flow within the Basin

- Restoration of “natural” flows
- Development of spoil bank inventory
  - Identification and prioritization
- Programmatic permit for soil bank gapping
- Permit provisions and enforcement





## 6. Management actions should where possible restore and conserve deep water habitats within the Basin

- Restoration deepwater areas
- Limit ingress of sediment (modification, trapping, etc)
- Explore alternate uses of sediment
- Strategically place sediment on upland areas, north south, and as nourishment
- Permit provisions and enforcement





## 7. Examine ways to better manage sediment within the ARB

- USACE explore alternative dredging techniques, channel alignments, and channel maintenance
- Limit ingress, mobilizes sediment for coastal needs
- Assess the benefit of maintenance activities in River and outlets such as the Jaws and Wax Lake.
- Hydrologic studies



## 8. Examine the current hydrology of the ARB, including management of the ORCC and the ARB channel outlets

- Flow distribution changes at Old River
- Understanding current dynamics



## 9. Update the State's Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan to include current conditions and challenges informed by the ARBRE Task Force

- Update the 1998 Plan
- Include information relevant to areas within and immediately adjacent to ARB guide levees
- Establish a clearinghouse for studies and projects around the Basin
- Address recreational access and navigation



## 10. CPRA Board and CPRA to enhance public engagement concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin

- Increased meetings, collaboration, media updates for public access and collection of public comment
- Navigational aids
  - Maps
  - Signage
  - Water level gauges





## 11. Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Basin

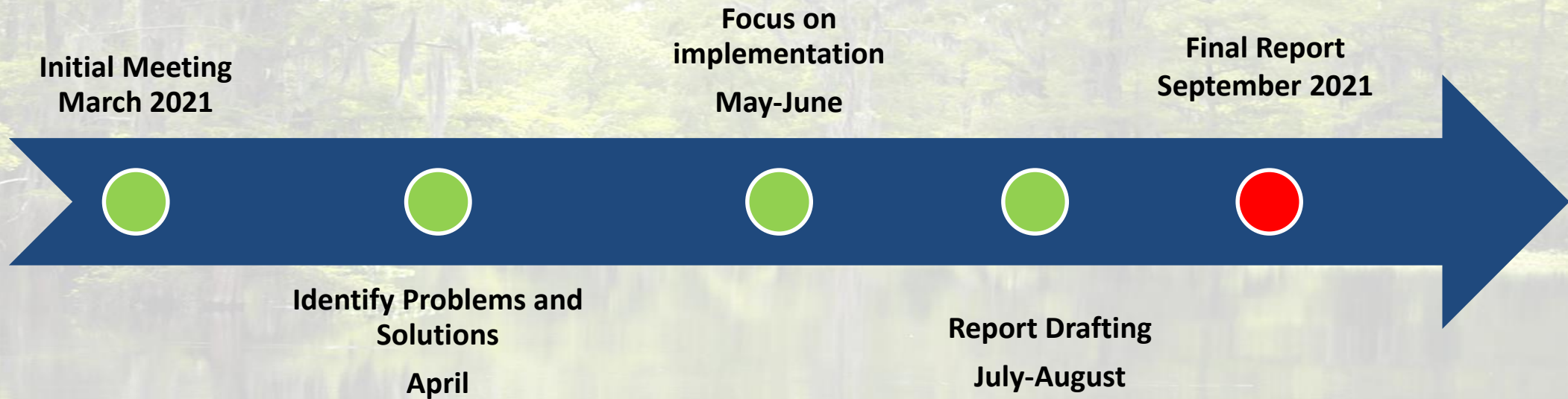
- Recognizes the Task Force a diverse collection of stakeholders that can address management issues



## 12. Explore opportunities for significant recurring funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Program

- Recognizes the limitations of current funding mechanism
- Suggests revision to the threshold of current system
- Exploration of federal options
  - Inland Waterway Use fee as suggested model

# Timeline



Presentation to the CPRAB  
Wednesday, September 15 at 9:30  
Location: Baton Rouge