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
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

Initial Meeting
March 2021

Focus on implementation
May-June

Final Report
September 2021

Identify Problems and Solutions
April

Report Drafting
July-August

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