Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration & Enhancement (ARBRE) Task Force  
Thursday, August 26, 2021  
9:00AM  
Public meeting via Zoom:  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84225950416?pwd=RHVDUIRWy1hEdiszS0wzMnZDMWd0Zz09  
Passcode: 979610  
Or Telephone:  
Dial:USA 602 333 0032 US Toll  
Conference code: 726442

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-Present, Adam Eitmann-Absent, Mr. Myers-Present, Mr. Haydel-Present, Mr. Hill-Present, Mr. Milling-Present, Mr. L. Blanchard-Present, Mr. Tauzin-Present, Ms. Gautreaux-Present, Mr. Ashley-Present, Mr. Spinks-Present, Mr. Murphy-Present, Mr. Wade-Present, Mr. Jewell-Absent, Mr. Meche-Present, Mr. Bonvillain-Present, Mr. Inman-Present, Ms.Taylor-Present, Mr. Paul-Absent, Mr. Constant-Present, Mr. Rebich-Present

III. Approval of Minutes  
Motion by Mr.  
Second by Ms. Gautreaux  
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Agenda  
Motion by  
Second by Mr. Haydel  
Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business/Announcements: Bren Haase, CPRA- Acting Chairman

VI. ARBRE Task Force Recommendations to the CPRA Board – Brian Lezina, CPRA (Video:)
   • Mr. Lezina presented the Task Force with the final edits that incorporated their feedback/changes in the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force Plan.  
     o Introduction and Purpose section  
       ▪ Minor additions to the history and geography.  
       ▪ Recognition that the Basin has a mixture of ownership.  
       ▪ Better classify the challenges faced by the Basin.
o Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin, locally, regionally, and nationally
  ▪ Minor changes to better recognize the range of important habitat types and the importance of navigation.
    • Mr. Leroy Blanchard expressed concerns with the wording of “degradation” on page 11 of the draft plan.
    • Mr. Lezina acknowledged Mr. Blanchard’s concern and stated that a period would be placed after economy and discontinuing the sentence with “degradation continues”.

o 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
  ▪ Minor changes to better recognize protection and restoration of multiple habitat types.
  ▪ Projects should be deemed beneficial not just simply because of incorporation in previous plans.

o Urge the USACE to approach management of the Atchafalaya Basin holistically, designating ecological restoration as a primary component along with flood control and navigation.
  ▪ Minor edits to mention carbon sequestration.

o Request the CPRA Board evaluate inclusion of the remainder of the Atchafalaya Basin within the Louisiana Coastal Zone.
  ▪ Revised to request that an evaluation should be performed to better understand the impacts.
  ▪ The Task Force should be consulted by CPRAB to better understand benefits inclusion.
  ▪ Specific language concerning potential outcomes was removed.

o Management actions should where possible restore north/south sheet flow within the Basin
  ▪ Added language to reflect the “spoil bank inventory” and any resulting implementation should be done in consultation with public and private landowners.
Management actions should where possible, restore and conserve deep water habitats within the Basin

- Minor edits to emphasize protection of “critical” habitats
  - Mr. Sparks expressed concerns regarding the language of “deep water habitat”. Is it possible to more specifically define what is meant by deep water habitat?
  - Mention that spoil should be deposited in upland or adjacent elevated areas.

- Examine ways to better manage sediment within the ARB
  - Edits to clarify that the USACE should fast track a study to examine dredging at the river outlets.

- Examine the current hydrology of the ARB, including management of the ORCC and the ARB channel outlets
  - No significant edits

- Update the State’s Atchafalaya Basin Mater Plan to include current conditions and challenges as informed by the ARBRE Task Force.
  - No significant edits

- CPRA Board and CPRA to enhance public engagement concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin
  - Edit to suggest that any outreach concerning waterways should reference publically available waterways.

- Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Atchafalaya Basin
  - No significant edits

- Explore opportunities for significant recurring funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Program
  - No changes

Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

- March 16, 2021; Cecilia Civic Center, Breaux Bridge, LA-Initial Meeting
- April 15, 2021: Assumption Parish Community Center, Napoleonville, LA-Problems and Potential Solutions Identified
- May 4, 2021; Port of Morgan City Governmental Operations & Emergency Center-Morgan City, LA-Potential Solutions Identified
- June 10, 2021; Iberville Parish Courthouse, Plaquemine, LA- Report Drafting
- August 12, 2021; Virtual- Report Consideration
The Task Force members had an open discussion regarding the plan and the final edits. In which a vote of approval occurred.

- Karen Gautreaux made a motion for approval of the final plan inclusive of all edits.
- Motion 2nd by: C. Tauzin
- The Task Force approved the plan with a 14-2 vote.
  - No: Rudy Sparks: No: Victor Blanchard
  - Yes: Bren Haase, Acting Chairman Yes: Randall Myers
  - Yes: Don Haydel Yes: Cheston Hill
  - Yes: King Milling Yes: Leroy Blanchard
  - Yes: Karen Gautreaux Yes: Thomas Ashley
  - Yes: Mike Spinks Yes: Spencer Murphy
  - Yes: Mac Wade Yes: Jody Meche
  - Yes: Chris Bonvillain Yes: Chris Tauzin

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

**IX. Adjourn**
Motion by Mr. Wade
Second by Mr. Sparks
Unanimously Approved