



**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=RHVDUiRWYlhEdiszS0wzMnZDMWd0Zz09>**

**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.
  - 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.



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- 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”.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**

