Atchafalaya River Basin
Restoration and Enhancement
Task Force

Report Implementation Recommendations
March 3, 2022
1. Elevating critical issues facing the Atchafalaya Basin and the importance of its holistic management for navigation, flood control, and restoration;

2. Identifying and building support for new and recurring sources of funding, including working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reinvigorate the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System – Louisiana Project

3. Identifying shared goals and values for restoration and enhancement of the Basin, as illustrated by project types that would benefit both the Basin and the larger coastal program as managed by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; and

4. Serving as a proactive means to build consensus and advise the Atchafalaya Basin Program on matters relating to implementation of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System – Louisiana Project.
Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin locally, regionally, and nationally

- Social media presence
- Additions to CPRA talking points on the Coastal Program and associated climate adaptation
- Targeted outreach to Delegation including updated summaries of importance
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.

- Suggest WRDA language to review AFS costs and update and authorize water quality / control projects.
- Streamline efforts for completion.
Urge the USACE to approach management of the Atchafalaya Basin holistically, designating ecological restoration as a primary component along with flood control and navigation

- Letter from Governor Edwards to USACE HQ
- Outreach to Louisiana delegation
- Provision of WRDA language
- Current and planned studies
Request the CPRA Board evaluate inclusion of the remainder of the Atchafalaya Basin within the Louisiana Coastal Zone

- Establish an evaluation workgroup (CPRA, DNR, LDWF, State Lands, public input) to evaluate potential inclusion benefits, impacts, challenges
Management actions should where possible restore north/south sheet flow within the Basin

• Developing a spoil bank and barrier to flow inventory – refine and enhance the current data system
• Compile and synthesize available data
• Prioritizing “sheetflow” projects within ABP
• Work with Basin operators and USACE on design and installation
Management actions should, where possible, restore and conserve deep water habitats within the Basin

• Utilize the ABP Master Plan revision to prioritize critical areas, especially refugia
• Explore within-project sediment management techniques
• Prioritize implementation within the ABP – WQ program
Examine ways to better manage sediment within the ARB

• Use current authorized and future state and federal studies to examine current condition and alternative management techniques
• Compile and synthesize previous and ongoing work to help inform AB actions
Examine the current hydrology of the ARB, including management of the ORCC and the ARB channel outlets

- Use ongoing and future state and federal studies to examine current conditions and management alternatives
- Re-evaluate the Floodway Study to better align current needs
- Compile and synthesize data; current conditions information in the ABP-MP revision
Update the State’s Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan to include current conditions and challenges as informed by the ARBRE Task Force

• Create a data clearinghouse/repository and public-facing portal
• Discuss recreational needs within the Plan (access and navigation)
• Robust scoping process to inform the plan and input throughout formulation
CPRA Board and CPRA to enhance public engagement concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin

- Continued ARBRE TF as an engagement platform
- Atchafalaya Basin focused conference / symposia to present ongoing topics
- Increased social media presence and attendance at local meetings
Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Atchafalaya Basin

- Include routine updates by state and federal managers to the Task Force
- Inclusion of Task Force input into the Master Plan
Explore opportunities for significant recurring funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Program

- Engage congressional delegation about the inclusion of the Basin as a federal program on a similar scale to others (i.e. Chesapeake, Everglades)
- Examine the current state funding threshold to determine a likely forecast
- Examine new pathways such as commercial user fees, mitigation programs, etc.
Next Steps

- Board action on implementation recommendations
- Inform revision to State Atchafalaya Master Plan
- Inform project selection / implementation