Atchafalaya Trace Commission/Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

Minutes: January 18, 2012 Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission) was held Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 10:00 AM at the Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

Commissioners present:
Assumption Parish: Phillip Daigle, Sr.
Concordia Parish: Tommy Polk
East Baton Rouge Parish: Gerren Sias
Iberia Parish: Chris Burton
Iberville Parish: Gene Seneca
Lafayette Parish: Jennifer Ritter, Secretary
Pointe Coupee Parish: J. A. Rummel, Vice-chair
Terrebonne Parish: Patrick Thomas Gordon, Treasurer
West Baton Rouge Parish: Julie Rose
Superintendent Carol Clark, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, Ex Officio
Assistant Superintendent Joe Llewellyn, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, Ex Officio

Commissioners absent:
Ascension Parish: Vacant seat
Avoyelles Parish: Wilbert Carmouche
St. Landry Parish: Pam Cannatella
St. Martin Parish: Vacant seat
St. Mary Parish: Carrie Stansbury, Chair

Others present:
Debra Credeur, Executive Director, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and Trace Commission
Dana Naquin, DNR/Atchafalaya Basin Program
Erin Sullivan, LA State Parks Naturalist
Lilli Thorpe, Interpreter, Lake Fausse Poinsie State Park
Gerard Overhultz, Laissez Faire, Inc.
Arlana Shields, City of Franklin

Vice-chair J. A. Rummel called the meeting to order.

Agenda Approval
Julie Rose moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Gerren Sias seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of December 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Gene Seneca moved to approve the December 7, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Tommy Polk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Director’s Project Report
Debra Credeur reported on the status of the following projects:
1. The Management Plan has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
2. For documentation for Match to Federal funds, please write-in today’s meeting and travel time, # round-trip miles, any other time for ANHA projects on the form in your packet. Initial in the far right column and return to me. Note: Only hours since October 1, 2011 should be on this sheet.
3. Signage
As of January 9, only 20 Types 2 & 3 signs remain to be installed (out of 259).

The bid for installation of the large 14 x 10’ signs was awarded to the same contractor and should begin soon. These signs will be located on I-10 in Ascension, Lafayette and W. Baton Rouge Parishes; and on I-49 & US 90 in Avoyelles and St. Mary Parishes.

All phases of sign fabrication and installation, when completed, will total $14,350 below the signage budget, which was taken out of 2 years.

There has been an increase in Atchafalaya NHA Facebook activity since signs installation began.

A list of your parish sign locations from Phase 1 is in your packet.

There was discussion about media coverage of the sign installation. **Patrick Gordon made a motion to issue a press release announcing the installation of signs. Jennifer Ritter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

4. Brochure/Map – 25,000 maps will be printed; the one-piece will replace the 4 tear-off maps. A rack card companion piece to the map, more of a general distribution piece, will be printed and used for initial information. Dana Naquin, attending the meeting for the Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP), informed the Commission that the ABP is working on a layered map which will include paddling launch sites and eventually primitive camp sites.

5. Web Site Upgrades – An outline is enclosed and work will commence soon.

6. Richard Hartley continues work on the Atchafalaya NHA curriculum as a component of the LA Bicentennial Curriculum. A timeline of the significant events occurring in the Atchafalaya, a part of the lesson, was presented. J. A. Rummler pointed out that the year “1973,” the year the Morganza Spillway was opened, should be added.

7. Commissioners may submit ideas for quarterly events for future **Experience Atchafalaya Days**. Julie Rose suggested a good partner might be Magnolia Mound Plantation for events such as their 19th century open hearth cooking. Debra mentioned we should avoid conflicting dates with events or series that are already established.

8. Upcoming promotions include:
   - Video to be played at a breakfast the Louisiana Tourism office hosts at the **Grammy Awards** February 12.
   - History Channel promotion of the Atchafalaya in New York: artisans to demonstrate.
   - LA Tourism Summit January 24-26, Shreveport, LA
   - **NARRP** National Association of Recreational Resource Planners Annual Conference, April with NHA field trips planned.

9. **1-800-40-GUMBO:** When used in ads, this number allows us to track calls initiated because of interest in ANHA. Capitol Park Welcome Center will receive some of these calls and assist with distributing information.

10. The 2012 meeting schedule is: 1/18, 3/21, 5/23, 7/25, 9/26, 11/28. **Patrick Gordon made a motion to consider meeting quarterly instead of bi-monthly.** There was no second to the motion and the Commission did not vote on the proposal.
Jennifer made a motion to continue the bi-monthly meeting schedule. Gene Seneca seconded the motion and it passed.

Gerren Sias made a motion to receive reports from the various committees at the bi-monthly meetings. Gene Seneca seconded the motion and it passed.

Other Announcements

- Ascension and St. Martin Parishes seats on the Commission are vacant.
- Joe Llewellyn presented N.O. Jazz Historical Park’s recent music CD *Freedom is Coming*, a collection commemorating freedom, resistance and the Underground Railroad.
- Gene Seneca reported hosting the UK television show, *Field Sports Channel*, which will post a white-tailed deer hunt segment on YouTube.
- J. A. Rummler distributed information on the Louisiana Woodcock Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. The organization supports conservation efforts not only benefitting the American Woodcock but a wide variety of other wildlife as well.

Julie Rose moved to adjourn the meeting. Wilbert Carmouche seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.