A regular meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission) was held Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM at the Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

Commissioners present:
Ascension Parish: Charles Caillouet
Assumption Parish: Phillip Daigle, Sr.
Concordia Parish: Glenn McGlothin
East Baton Rouge Parish: Gerren Sias
Iberia Parish: Chris Burton
Iberville Parish: Gene Seneca
Lafayette Parish: Jennifer Ritter Guidry, Vice-chair
St. Landry Parish: Pam Cannatella
St. Mary Parish: Carrie Stansbury, Treasurer
Terrebonne Parish: Patrick Thomas Gordon, Secretary
West Baton Rouge Parish: Julie Rose

Commissioners absent:
Avoyelles Parish: Wilbert Carmouche
Pointe Coupée Parish: J. A. Rummler, Chair
St. Martin Parish: There is no appointee from St. Martin Parish.

Others present:
Debra Credeur, Executive Director
Gerard Overhultz, Laissez Faire, Inc.
Pam Caillouet, Ascension Parish Resident
Willie Fontenot, Friends of Atchafalaya
Randy Jarreau, Civil War Committee
Randy Harrelson, Pointe Coupée Historical Society
Assistant Superintendent Joe Llewellyn, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice-Chair Guidry called the meeting to order.

Agenda Approval
Gene Seneca moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Patrick Gordon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of January 30, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Patrick Gordon moved to approve the January 30, 2013 regular meeting minutes. Glenn McGlothin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Civil War and Reconstruction Sesquicentennial Committee
Debra Credeur reported that 2 presentations in the Speaker Series have taken place. The April presentation will be at Capitol Park Museum.

Land & Water Heritage Committee
Trail Project
Debra reported on the Land & Water Trail project. Luke Venable has presented a script for the animation he will complete in the next couple months. Charles Caillouet submitted comments to Luke on the script which will serve as a basis for the kiosk content. The project, consisting of kiosks, a driving tour of marked sites, hiking and paddling mini-trails, and a guided boat tour is a phased project so that it can be managed according to grant funds availability and appropriations levels.

Litter Abatement
Debra reported on meeting with the Leave No Trace Louisiana Advocate, Barrett Kennedy. They discussed education models for groups in the Heritage Area, funding sources for education sessions, and working with Volunteer Louisiana in these efforts. There was discussion about the benefits of ANHA being a Keep America Beautiful community, as many of the parishes are. Also mentioned were some of the efforts of groups such as the Bayou Manchac Group’s investigation into fast-food restaurants’ removal of trash cans, and the Boy Scouts Historic Trail in Pointe Coupée Parish.

Other Agency Activities
Charles Caillouet reported on the organization and agency meetings he attended where land and water issues were discussed. These include 1) Atchafalaya Basin Program (expansion, Floodway monitoring and landowner issues); 2) US Army Corps of Engineers Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Master Plan; 3) LA Wildlife Federation Convention adoption of two Atchafalaya resolutions relating to Floodway management by the Corps of Engineers, and one on litter as a pollutant; 4) Bayou Manchac Group’s cleanup and paddling activities, and trash blockage issues;

Education Committee
Debra presented an outline of the Atchafalaya curriculum completed by Memory Seymour and Richard Hartley. There are lessons under 4 major categories: 1) Waterways and Structures; 2) History and Culture; 3) Natural Resources; and 4) Regions and Parishes. The curriculum follows the format which teachers are currently use, so adapting the lessons will be easy. Research into teacher workshops and other methods of presenting the curriculum to teachers are being investigated. The documents will be posted on Atchafalaya.org in the next week.

Director’s Report
Debra Credeur reported on additional Commission items after distributing contact lists.
1. Federal Legislative Issues: FY 13 federal funding is not confirmed until the federal budget is adopted for the rest of the fiscal year, although sequestration will reduce funds that will be available by 5%. An amendment to H.R. 445 which legislate the Heritage Area Program was filed this week. The amendment proposed a vast reduction in funding for the NHA’s based on erroneous information. Note: Jennifer Guidry reported she has contacted a government relations firm to monitor this and will give information as she receives it.

2. The Tax Credit Program has had such little activity there is research on the Commission assuming the initial review process instead of there being a separate board set up for this purpose.

3. The Commission meeting dates are 5/22, 7/24, 9/25 and 11/20 for the remainder of 2013. Volunteer hours include meetings, committee work, and any Commission projects.
4. Meetings attended about upcoming and ongoing projects:
   - “In the Mind of the Maker” Louisiana boatbuilding project and documentary film about preserving the art
   - Louisiana Master Naturalist Program: N.O. Chapter shared their experience and offered help to new chapters in other parts of the state.

5. Upcoming dates of interest:
   Mar 22 (Baldwin), 25 (New Iberia), and 26 (Arnaudville): Proposed Bayou Teche Historic & Scenic River Public Meetings
   April 8: Louisiana legislative session begins
   March 13-16: National Main Street Conference, New Orleans

6. Signs/Decals: Five signs left from the initial production will be utilized in filling the recommended areas overlooked during the signage planning; additional signs will be considered once federal funding is confirmed.

**Other Business**

Jennifer Guidry reported on the French Resource Guide of the Americas, a free mobile phone app that will benefit businesses that provide French speaking services. For more information see the attachment at the end of this page.

**Announcements** of upcoming parish events were made by the Commissioners. Jennifer Guidry updated the Commission on Bayou Teche Paddling Trail planning efforts now at the stage of seeking funding sources for recommended infrastructure. She also talked about her participation in the CRT/Office of Cultural Development Creative Community Initiative, a pilot program that involves community artists and volunteers. Joe Llewellyn informed the Commission of the BioBlitz, a two-day study of species at Barataria Preserve, produced by Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve and National Geographic. Exhibitors are welcome.

**Gene Seneca moved to adjourn the meeting.** Charles Caillouet seconded the motion and, passing unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.

**Attachment**

Bonjour, We would like to invite you to be included in Le Carnet de la francophonie des Amériques, an Internet-based guide and mobile phone app that highlights the businesses and organizations throughout North and South America that are able to provide services partially or entirely in French (Cajun, Creole or any other variety of French). This guide is the initiative of the Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques and is being coordinated locally by Le Centre International de Lafayette.

Each listing will provide a detailed description of businesses and organizations along with contact information. Guide listings are free to all organizations and companies that are able to provide services in French.

The International Center of Lafayette, in partnership with other local institutions, is using this opportunity to measure the economic impact that the French language has on the local economy. With this knowledge, Lafayette can better quantify its most unique cultural asset and
leverage it to strategically grow new enterprises and the appropriate workforce to sustain them. Merci.