A regular meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission was held Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at 1:00 PM in the Capital Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

Commissioners present:
Assumption Parish: Phillip Daigle, Sr.
Concordia Parish: Tommy Polk
East Baton Rouge Parish: Charles Fryling
Iberia Parish: Chris Burton
Iberville Parish: Gene Seneca, Vice-Chair
Lafayette Parish: Jennifer Ritter, Secretary
Pointe Coupee Parish: J. A. Rummler
St. Landry Parish: Kristen Kordecki, Chair
St. Martin Parish: Brenda Comeaux-Trahan
St. Mary Parish: Carrie Stansbury, Treasurer
Terrebonne Parish: Patrick Thomas Gordon
West Baton Rouge Parish: Julie Rose
Assistant Superintendent, Joe Llewellyn, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, Ex Officio

Commissioners absent:
Ascension Parish: Ramon Gomez
Avoyelles Parish: Wilbert Carmouche

Others present:
Debra Credeur, Executive Director, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and Trace Commission
Charles Caillouet, Friends of Atchafalaya
Willie Fontenot, Friends of Atchafalaya
Gerard Overhultz, Laissez Faire, Inc.
Richard Hartley, Office of Lt. Governor Dardenne
Memory Seymour, Office of Lt. Governor Dardenne
Jean A. Crites, Resident and Business Owner, Iberville Parish
Mike Prejean, Manager, Capitol Park Welcome Center

A quorum was present and Chair Kristen Kordecki called the meeting to order.

Mike Prejean announced the Louisiana Tourism Industry Summit will be held at the Baton Rouge Hilton January 25-27, 2011. The Commissioners and other attendees introduced themselves. The Chair welcomed the newest Commissioner, Chris Burton of Iberia Parish.

Agenda Approval
Items added to the agenda: By J. A. Rummler, a history presentation for an upcoming meeting; by Julie Rose, a field trip promotional opportunity. Both items were added under “Other Business” on the agenda.

Tommy Polk moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Charles Fryling seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of July 29, 2010 Meeting Minutes
J. A. Rummler moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2010 regular meeting. Jennifer Ritter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Education/Curriculum Project Discussion
Debra Credeur introduced Richard Hartley, Director of Special Projects, Office of Lieutenant Governor, and Memory Seymour, Education Specialist, Louisiana State Museum. Mr. Hartley has extensive experience working with principals and other educators on curricula for school systems, an effort he led while previously working out of the office of the Secretary of State. Continuing those efforts under Lt. Governor Dardenne’s administration, Mr. Hartley offered to assist the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA) in advancing its mission through curriculum development and educational outreach. These efforts could also be linked to the State’s Louisiana Bicentennial Celebration of 2012. Ms. Seymour has developed curricula on many levels and offered her assistance. She also was familiar with LA State Museum’s *Voices of Atchafalaya* exhibit many communities in the ANHA have hosted. Julie Rose advised sending the heritage area’s themes to Mr. Hartley and Ms. Seymour. Debra will compile an inventory of existing curricula in the parish school systems to prevent duplication of efforts.

National Park Service Annual Reports
Debra Credeur presented the Annual Performance and Expenses report for Federal fiscal year 2010. The report outlines accomplishments for the period October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010, and shows allocated federal appropriations as well as State, individual and organization match contributions.

Debra presented the Statement of Work and Budget for Federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2011 with estimated match based on projects this year. Due to the State’s financial situation, the State’s portion of the match will not include funding for signage and map/brochure reprinting. After allocating federal funds for completing the Implementation and Management Plans, there is $113,190 for projects. There was discussion about the grant program and the timeline for establishing guidelines for use of federal funds. It being unlikely ANHA would have the guidelines in place by the end of the fiscal year, the discussion turned toward signage, brochures and maps.

Federal Appropriations
Patrick Gordon moved that 75% of the $113,190 be allocated for building and installing signs selected from those that will be presented to the Commission at the March 1 meeting, with the remaining 25% to be used for outreach (brochures, maps, guides and communications). Kristen Kordecki recommended a PDA/cell phone for the Director be included in the 25% and the motion was amended to include this. J. A. Rummler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer Ritter pointed out that the Director will be visiting parishes more as we begin implementing the Management Plan so out-of-office communications will become more necessary.
Assistant Superintendent Joe Llewellyn suggested we inquire about technical assistance for brochure production from the NPS Denver Service Center.

**Implementation Plan and Committee**

Debra reported the Implementation Committee will have approximately 6 calls over 2-month period to finish the implementation chapter of the Management Plan. Involved will be prioritization, development of grant guidelines and tying specific actions to goals. All Commissioners are welcome to participate or just listen. The call schedule will be emailed.

(Note schedule: Wednesday, January 19, 4-5 CST, Monday, January 24, 4-5 CST, Wednesday, February 2, 4-5 CST, Wednesday, February 9, 4-5 CST, Wednesday, February 16, 4-5 CST, Wednesday, February 23, 4-5 CST)

**Signage Update**

The signage consultant will present the signage plan to the Commission at the March 1 meeting. With limited funding for sign installation, priority will be given to locations with heavier traffic. Options such as parishes helping with installation will be considered. At the September 2010 meeting, sign prices given ranged from $200 (2’x3’) to $7,500 (8’x12’). Charles Caillouet pointed out that Dept. of Natural Resources is currently investigating signs for the Atchafalaya Basin Program.

**Bayou Teche-Trail Planning**

Jennifer Ritter reported on the planning of the Bayou Teche Paddling Trail underway with Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance. November Public Meetings were held in November 2010 in Port Barre and Charenton, with approximately a total of 50 people in attendance including community leaders, stakeholders and local businesses. January Public Meetings are scheduled for Thursday January 20 at Bayou Teche Museum in New Iberia at 5:30 pm and Tuesday January 25 at the Agriculture Building in Breaux Bridge, 5:30 pm. The Steering Committee meeting will be Thursday, February 3 at Acadian Memorial at 4:00 pm. We will then take the public comments and begin to prepare the implementation plan and prioritize community concerns.

**Management Plan**

Debra reported that the NPS Planning team is adding the Commissioner’s and Southeast Region’s comments to the Management Plan. Consolidation of the themes was recommended as well as adding detail in the Implementation Chapter. The Lt. Governor and Governor will review the Plan next, then the SE Region and Washington NPS offices, and finally it will be sent to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. The latter is expected to occur by August or September 2011. A Resources Matrix example was distributed that will be included in the Management Plan. The matrix rates resources according to theme, integrity and visitor value.

**Executive Committee Report**

Kristen reported the Executive Committee met and advised getting clarification on the roles and responsibilities of the Commission. There was discussion regarding the merits and time involved of the Attorney General versus in-house legal counsel providing an interpretation. The Executive Committee would like to meet with the Lt. Governor to discuss this and inform him of the Commission’s work. The Commission expressed approval and Debra was asked to request an appointment for the Executive Committee from his scheduler.
Director’s Report
Additional activities, contacts and promotions were covered in the report (attached). Added to the attached was the Southeast Region’s recent initiative to strengthen the relationship between National Heritage Areas and National Parks through increased collaboration on implementation, interpretation, policies and other issues.

Other Business
J.A. Rummler proposed that Donald S. Frazier, renowned author and Civil War historian be invited to make a presentation to the Commission. Dr. Frazier will be releasing a new book and has been recognized by numerous organizations including the Louisiana Historical Society. Dr. Frazier also provided expert information for inclusion in our Management Plan. J.A. asked the Commission to consider funding his travel from Texas for the presentation. Carrie suggested if Dr. Frazier makes a presentation, the meeting time be extended so there is adequate time. There was discussion about possibly increasing the number of venues in which Dr. Frazier could present. Debra will contact Richard Hartley about this possibility as Richard may be of some help through his educational outreach efforts.

A Field Trip guide advertising opportunity was announced but did not seem to reach the size of audience the Commission would prefer.

Carrie Stansbury moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Comeaux-Trahan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.