Atchafalaya Trace Commission/
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

Minutes: November 20, 2013 Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission), managing entity of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA), was held Wednesday, November 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 McGlothlin
East Baton Rouge Parish: Gerren Sias
Iberia Parish: Chris Burton
Iberville Parish: Gene Seneca
Lafayette Parish: Jennifer Ritter Guidry
St. Landry Parish: Pam Cannatella
Terrebonne Parish: Patrick Thomas Gordon
West Baton Rouge Parish: Julie Rose

Commissioners absent:
Avoyelles Parish: Wilbert Carmouche
Pointe Coupée Parish: J. A. Rummler
St. Martin Parish: The St. Martin Parish position is vacant.
St. Mary Parish: Carrie Stansbury

Others present:
Debra Credeur, Executive Director
Gerard Overhultz, Laissez Faire, Inc.
Catherine Daigle, Assumption Parish Resident
Pamela Caillouet, Bayou Manchac Group
Jessica Dixon, LA Office of State Parks
Aldus Guidry, Lafayette Parish Resident

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commission Vice-chair Jennifer Guidry called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Agenda Approval
Gene Seneca moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Phillip Daigle seconded the motion and the agenda was accepted as presented.

Approval of July 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Gerren Sias moved to approve the July 10, 2013 regular meeting minutes. Glenn McGlothlin seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Educational Series
Debra reported attendance at the last several Civil War Sesquicentennial presentations: August at West Baton Rouge Museum, 32; September at Pointe Coupée Historical Society, 87; October at Capitol Park Museum, 130; and November at Pointe Coupée Historical Society, 40. No presentations are scheduled in December 2013. The final one in this year’s series is January 11 at Pointe Coupée Historical Society.

Next year’s series will include presentations with both historical and natural resource themes. Parishes expressing interest in hosting an event are: Avoyelles, Iberia, Pointe Coupée, East Baton Rouge (Capitol Park Museum offered to host several), West Baton Rouge, and St. Mary. Speakers, locations and dates have not yet been confirmed for the upcoming year, except for the February 21st event in St. Mary Parish in conjunction with the
Eagle Expo: *Birds of the South* by Kathy and Gary Clark, nationally acclaimed wildlife photographers. Plans are not finalized for 2014 but it is expected to accomplish the year’s events for under $15,000, similar to last year.

Glenn McGlothin moved to approve the Educational Series planning up to $15,000 for the entire year. Phillip Daigle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committees

In order to accurately reflect the heritage area’s projects and development, the established committees are renamed to:

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<th>Previous Committee Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Civil War Sesquicentennial and Diversity of Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>History and Culture</td>
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<td>Land and Water Heritage</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Friends Group/Foundation</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
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Committee Reports

**History & Culture Committee** (see report above on Civil War Sesquicentennial Educational Series).

**Natural Resources Committee**

Debra gave each Commissioner a copy of the draft of specifications for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Land and Water Trail project. After Commissioners' input, Debra will begin working with the State Legal advisor to formulate the RFP in which a schedule and other criteria will be outlined. The process includes an evaluation team receiving and analyzing the proposals submitted according to the State’s RFP process. The specifications’ scope of work outlines the development of a motorized driving trail of significant sites that will illustrate the ANHA story of the influence of the water on the land and the people. Trail site criteria used by Louisiana Office of Tourism in the development of previous trails can be used for determining visitor-readiness and other information. A very preliminary site inventory list was passed around for the Commissioners to review. Some of the sites themselves will serve as trailheads for non-motorized side-trails for paddling, biking and hiking. These side trails would be developed in partnership with the parishes, and would be eligible to apply for recreational trail funding.

Charles and Pam Caillouet toured several sites on the inventory list last week. Charles presented some of their findings with photographs and information in a Power Point. Among the issues to be considered in the development process are: Directions; restricted access situations; tie-in with existing trails; inadequate web and printed information; outdated web and printed information; accessibility issues including closures and road conditions; and sites outside the boundaries of the ANHA significant to the overall story.

Commissioners had a lengthy discussion covering topics such as the type of site or event that should be listed; how sites in different parishes relate to one another; accessibility by visitors and more.

**Education Committee**

Debra passed the 3-volume, printed curriculum as well as the teacher DVD request log around the meeting table for the Commissioners’ review. Richard Hartley from the Lt. Governor’s office is hand-delivering the curriculum to educators and superintendents as he meets with them. He is also utilizing educator conferences as a venue when possible for distribution.

**Sustainability Committee**


Debra reported that research on the formation of a foundation as specified in our Management Plan is ongoing. She has had a couple of discussions with Community Foundation of Acadiana who worked with groups for LA State Parks and the Bicentennial Commission. The state Commission, Volunteer Louisiana, was befriended by a foundation within the last few years, and Volunteer Louisiana’s Executive Director, Janet Pace, offered to attend the January meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission to report on that process.

Consideration is being given to types of items related to the ANHA foundation might make available for purchase. Charles Caillouet provided a sample of a front-mounted license plate produced locally as an example of an item that could be purchased in the future which met with the Commission’s approval.

**Patrick Gordon moved to order twenty plates for distribution to the Commissioners and staff at this time.** Gene Seneca seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Debra reported on a proposed project of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and circulated information about the BSA Swamp Base Adventure Camp. The BSA proposes partnering with University of LA at Lafayette and the ANHA to produce a Field Guide for use at their Adventure Camp and also be sold in retail outlets. Debra has asked for a written proposal of the project with more detail to determine if this would meet the standards for ANHA sustainability.

Patrick Gordon said after hearing about the BSA Adventure Camp a few months ago, he approached a couple of Boy Scout troops in Terrebonne Parish about it. The in-state troops were completely unaware of the camp, and Patrick said more effort should be directed toward promoting it to our own residents.

**Director’s Report**
Debra Credeur updated the Commission on issues and projects:

**Administrative**
- Next meeting: January 22, 2014; REVISED 2014 Meeting Dates: January 22, March 26, May 7, July 23, Sep. 24, Nov. 5
- Email the office to receive occasional notices of grant opportunities.
- FY 13 Federal Funding remaining after recent projects is $237,000. Once again, the federal government is operating under continuing resolution. FY 14 federal funding will not be confirmed until Congress passes the Federal budget.
- Senator Coburn, who criticized national heritage areas (NHA’s) last year, recently issued a report calling NHA’s and some other NPS programs “inessential.”
- An inquiry was made about criteria for parish inclusion in the ANHA, which is defined in both the state and federal enabling laws.

**Project Updates**
- **Decals** are available for groups and supporters and **water bottles** are available on a limited basis to support paddling and other outdoor events.
- **Birder’s Guide to Louisiana** is available online for free downloading or hardcopies can be ordered for a fee (pass sample & favorable reviews of book). There is an opportunity for coop advertising in *Birdwatching Magazine* we may want to consider.

**Marketing & Promotion Update and Leveraging Opportunities**
- We have some assistance in populating the calendar on Atchafalaya.org – staff is regularly searching for events to post.
• Debra circulated photos of the exhibit that was shipped to France for which Gene Seneca supplied several items. The majority of the exhibit was ANHA-related and has traveled to several locations in France.

• Through World Wide Connect, we learned of interest in the Japanese market of our adding Japanese subtitles to our 7-minute DVD. The cost would be approximately $2800. Charles Caillouet pointed out we should investigate having a choice of languages on one DVD.

Julie Rose moved to continue planning and estimate funding for a DVD with multiple language subtitles (Spanish, German and Japanese). Patrick Gordon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

• Enter small, unique tourist attractions on www.usgulfcoaststatesgeotourism.com, a National Geographic web site featuring what’s unique about Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi.

• SCORP: The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of State Parks, Division of Outdoor Recreation is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP fulfills the purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and includes an evaluation of demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state. The goal is to develop a plan that will analyze effectiveness of current outdoor recreation offerings within the state; identify potential future needs of Louisiana residents; determine funding strategies for future amenities and determine priorities for wetlands. There are a number of ways to participate: by contributing outdoor recreation related data (ex. GIS data for parks, trails, ball fields, etc.), participating in public meetings that will be held throughout the state, and/or through discussion at playoutdoorsla.mindmixer.com. For assistance, go to http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/geocoding.html or email outdoorrec@crt.la.gov.

Other Business
There were no items for Other Business.

Commissioner Announcements
Commissioners announced upcoming events in the parishes. Charles Caillouet informed the Commission that Mr. Harold Schoeffler has initiated a movement to have the Lake Fausse Pointe area designated a National Park. Charles also mentioned the last of the public meetings on the Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan will be held soon. Jennifer Guidry announced the Bayou Teche Paddling Trail will hold the last of the public meetings in December and January. Among items discussed will be locations of the 8 floating docks. Joe Llewellyn reported that the Jean Lafitte Acadian Cultural Center/Thibodaux has produced “One Generation to the Next,” a 20 minute video about Acadian culture and music, filmed in Eunice. Pending quantities in stock, anyone is free to use it.

Patrick Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting. Charles Caillouet seconded the motion and, passing unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.