Atchafalaya Trace Commission/
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

Minutes: May 07, 2014 Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission), managing entity of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA), was held Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 10:00 AM at Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

Commissioners present:
Ascension Parish: Charles Caillouet
Assumption Parish: Phillip Daigle, Sr.
St. Mary Parish: Carrie Stansbury
Terrebonne Parish: Patrick Thomas Gordon, Secretary

E. Baton Rouge Parish: Gerren Sias, Treasurer
Lafayette Parish: Jennifer Guidry, Vice-chair
St. Martin Parish: Aaron Flegeance

Iberville Parish: Gene Seneca
Iberia Parish: Chris Burton
St. Landry Parish: Pam Cannatella
West Baton Rouge Parish: Julie Rose

Commissioners absent:
Avoyelles Parish: Wilbert Carmouche
Concordia Parish: Glenn McGlothin
Pointe Coupée Parish: J. A. Rummler, Chair

Others present:
Debra Credeur, Executive Director; Aldus Guidry, Lafayette Parish citizen; Don Haydel, Dept. of Natural Resources; Jessica Dixon, Office of State Parks; Willie Fontenot and Charles Fryling, Friends of Atchafalaya; Charlene Bonnette, State Library; Nancy Broussard, LOT/State Welcome Centers; Wilma Subra, Subra Company, Belle River; and Julie Hines, Laura Pipsair and Sandra Crochet, Belle River citizens.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commission Vice-chair Guidry called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Guidry welcomed Mr. Aaron Flegeance, newly-appointed Commissioner of St. Martin Parish.

Agenda Approval
Charles Caillouet made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Gerren Sias seconded the motion and the agenda was accepted as presented.

Approval of March 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Julie Rose made a motion to approve the March 26, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Patrick Gordon seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Proposed Oilfield Waste Transfer Facility
Ms. Wilma Subra, representing the Concerned Citizens of Belle River in Assumption Parish informed the Commission about an injection well disposal facility and transfer station proposed by FAS Environmental Services. The proposed transfer station would be at 1908 Levee Highway, along Hwy. 997 and the East Atchafalaya River Basin Guide Levee. The pipeline for the station would be bored under the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. In local rezoning requests, St. Martin Parish Zoning Board denied the FAS request for a change to I-3 Heavy Industrial Restricted. Ms. Subra distributed maps showing the proposed sites and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Education Committee
The curriculum distribution is still underway. All schools in the state will receive a set through regular mail. Additionally, Terri Hammatt, the World Language Director at the LA Department of Education is distributing the French version of the DVD to French language and immersion classes.

An event planning form was included in the Commissioners’ meeting packet as a reminder that groups in their communities are welcome to partner with the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area in the Educational Series. So
far, there have been four events and two scheduled for May (Civil War related) and October (Solomon Northup story).

**Natural & Outdoor Resources Committee**

**Water & Land Heritage Trail**

Debra reported the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of the Water & Land Trail is still under review. As reported previously, responses to the RFP will be sent to the Evaluation Committee members for reviewing on their own schedule, and dates can be adjusted if needed. Selection of sites will be one of the initial steps. Debra distributed a list of sites for Commissioners’ review and welcomed any additions of places in the parishes that illustrate the story of the water’s affect on the land and the culture. Of particular interest are sites that do this as well as serve as a trailhead for a non-motorized trail (hiking, biking or paddling). Non-motorized trails can be linked eventually.

To illustrate some of the non-motorized sites that will be on the trail that will be connected and promoted as mini-trails, Charles Caillouet showed cuts of a video [http://youtu.be/3mBskmS3Pl0](http://youtu.be/3mBskmS3Pl0) that covered a one-day trash cleanup on Bayou Fountain in South Baton Rouge by 20 volunteers. The video includes footage of a five-month effort by a smaller group led by one individual, Nathaniel Klumb, who was recently named the Louisiana Wildlife Federation Volunteer Conservationist of the year. Throughout the fall and winter a small group cleared two dozen log and trash jams along the four-mile stretch of Bayou Fountain from Highland Road Park to Bayou Manchac. Following a course of action seen on Bayou Teche a couple years ago and made the Teche a paddling destination, this group removed many tons of garbage from Bayou Fountain and re-created a beautiful paddling waterway in the middle of urban sprawl, and connected it with Bayou Manchac. Additionally, both Bayous are steeped with history.

The Evaluation Committee for RFP submissions includes J. A. Rummler, Charles Caillouet, Carrie Stansbury and Jennifer Guidry. Any Commissioner is welcome to participate. Hopefully, this process will be completed by mid-July.

An update on Night Sky will be provided at a future meeting.

**History & Culture Committee**

**Atchafalaya DVD**

Debra distributed copies of the multi-lingual DVD (English voice, French voice, and Japanese, Spanish and German subtitles) which is now loaded on [www.atchafalaya.org](http://www.atchafalaya.org).

**Atchafalaya Welcome Center**

The Atchafalaya Welcome Center (AWC) is considered the heritage area façade to the public because of its name and commitment to interpretation. As discussed at a previous meeting, there are several non-functioning exhibits. The compressor that causes movement in the animatronics is often broken. The cost to replace the compressor is $1750.

Carrie Stansbury made a motion to replace the compressor at the AWC. Gene Seneca seconded the motion. After a discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

As part of the current parking lot upgrades the AWC will have a new sign installed and the sign will include the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area logo.

**Event Display Panels**

Debra distributed diagrams of a curved hopup/popup displays, 10’ curved, with led lights, roller bag, and printed graphics that could be used by staff and commissioners at events. A couple of estimates have been received; the cost appears to be $2,700.
Carrie Stansbury made a motion to acquire the display unit for use at events. Patrick Gordon seconded the motion. After a discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Officer Nominations and Elections
Per the bylaws, officers will be elected at the July 23 meeting (turn of the State’s fiscal year). Nominations can be submitted by email to Debra by July 1 but please first check with the nominee to make sure he or she is willing to serve as an officer.

Director’s Report
1. Administrative
   • Remaining 2014 Meeting Dates: July 23, Sep. 24, Nov. 5
   • On the Volunteer Hours Sheet, include meetings, committee work, planning, event hosting, any ANHA-related projects from 10/1/2013 through 9/30/2014.
   • All six Commissioner appointments expiring in March have been renewed.
   • St. Martin Parish has appointed Mr. Aaron Flegeance to the Commission. Welcome!
   • St. Landry Parish has an impending vacancy. Pam Cannatella would prefer to not renew her appointment but will help with finding a replacement.
2. Federal
   • No additional action has occurred on the FY 15 budget since it was introduced last month.
   • The Alliance meeting in Atlanta launched strategic planning that will look at structure, officers and more.
   • President’s National Park Week Proclamation featured NHA’s in the 2nd paragraph.
3. Announcements
   • Charles Caillouet attended Baton Rouge’s Earth Day event and distributed the handout he prepared for it, which is a resource of local agencies and groups.
   • Louisiana Life Magazine featured New Roads in a four-page article.
   • A promotional opportunity for some artisans is American Craft Week October 3-12.
   • Register attractions, etc. at www.usgulfcoaststatesgeotourism.com for National Geographic promotion.
   • The Atchafalaya Video (French) is featured on Louisiana’s French Representative’s website.
4. The Lt. Governor is on a Media Tour for Tourism Week this week, May 5-9.
   Monday: Monroe Tuesday: Ruston, Minden, Shreveport, Many/Toledo Bend, Leesville
   Wednesday: Marksville/Mansura, St. Francisville, Hammond, Avondale
   Friday: Breaux Bridge, Abbeville, Avery Island, Vacherie

Commissioner Announcements
Commissioner announcements included legislative updates pertaining to the Atchafalaya Basin and French language on signage; upcoming events in the parishes: East Baton Rouge: Southern University bluffs, MS River overlook & SU Museum worthy stops; Miss USA pageant event; West Baton Rouge: Summer camp is full and future exhibits; Ascension: Comprehensive Recreational Plan which includes trails; Channel 9 featuring Assumption Parish this week. Gene Seneca pointed out coloring on some of our highway signs is fading. Debra will research this with the Sign Shop for future sign fabrication.

There being no further announcements or business, Julie Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Aaron Flegeance seconded the motion and, passing unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.