

**20140826 - FOA Board meeting - 6:30 PM - Audubon****Attendees**

Board: Charles Caillouet, Willie Fontenot, Charlie Fryling, Jim Delahoussaye, Carolyn Delahoussaye, Ray Brassieur

Advisors: Don Haydel, Charles Williams, April Newman, Charles Reulet, Karen Westphal

Guests - Anna Thibodeaux, Atchafalaya BasinKeeper Outreach and Media Coordinator

**President Charlie Fryling opened the meeting at 06:30 PM and recognized visitors.****Special discussion - BasinKeeper report on Wood Pellet Production in LA**

Anna told us about the fast growth of the wood pellet production industry in LA and the Southeast. LA is a relative late comer to the industry but there is much interest in using the existing wood pulp pine plantations for production of the pellets for utility fuel in Europe. There is much discussion about the renewable resources but the BasinKeeper is concerned, as is the FOA and LWF, about the conversion of more bottomland hardwood forests to monoculture for feedstock and in the possibility of clandestine clear cutting of cypress forests for primary use rather than byproduct use for creation of pellets. We have seen this happen before in the cypress mulch industry, where remaining cypress forest stands were being leveled for covert mulch production, while the State was bemoaning the loss of cypress for hurricane protection.

It seems like we are all on the same page on this issue.

**Old Business**

## Reports

**Secretary's report - Charles**

Approved minutes from July meeting

Reviewed Board email activity including approval of submission to Mississippi River Commission

**Treasurer's report - Charles**

No change from last month

As of 08/26/2014 = Regions: \$ 1,889.51 + PayPal: \$ 183.12 = Total: \$ 2,072.63

**Web site update - Charles**

Only updates of content and addition of approved minutes from April meetings.

ABP Update - Don Haydel described actions of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Research and Promotion Board (R&PB) of the Atchafalaya Basin Program. One small project has been selected by the TAG for the 2016 Annual Plan. The TAG is also preparing a priority list of existing projects to be used by the Staff and the R&PB to reallocate funds when active projects become stalled by land, inadequate funding or permit problems. Funding for projects is still pending approval of the Bond Commission because the LA budget was severely over-committed by the Legislature for the past three years. The US Army Corps of Engineers continues to work land acquisition issues on the Buffalo Cove Pilot Water Management Unit Project and hopes to complete many of the features by the end of the year. Additional work that was not included in the original project documents has been proposed since the high water event in 2011 and that may involve more State funding than the original project.

**Heritage Area update - Charles**

Bryan Piazza presented to the Trace Commission Meeting in July on much the same material that he discussed with us the night before.

An RFP for the development of an Atchafalaya Heritage Driving Trail, including markers, a mobile application, maps and links to other trails has been released to the public. Information can be obtained on the Atchafalaya.org web site.

**LWF update**

At the LWF Convention in Monroe, three resolutions were approved, including the FOA submission concerning support for the Basin Program capability to reallocate funding from stalled projects to land acquisition for high priority projects in other areas. As requested by the DNR Secretary, a statement was presented in the discussion for the resolution from the Department, stating that "ABP will work with anyone on land acquisition, through donations, purchase, or easements." The LWF Habitat Management and Conservation Committee co-sponsored the resolution and other affiliates signed on at the meeting.

FOA co-sponsored Charles Williams' pellet monitoring resolution the Committee cleaned up wording to support sustainable harvests but the general thrust of the resolution remained intact.

The first LWF Photo Contest was a success and the winners area posted on the LAWildlifeFed.org web site.

### Recent events

Charles Caillouet attended the Mississippi River Commission hearing in Houma, at the end of the Corps Low Water Boat trip down the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. The written comments were distributed to the Board and approved via email and, with the oral presentation, are posted on the FOA web site (<http://www.atchafalaya.info>).

### Other Reports

Boy Scouts Atchafalayak fundraising pilot with LWF:

Rebecca Triche is working on crowd funding and a version should go out this week.

The FOA Webmaster will make sure PayPal interface works

The price for one boat is now \$1,200 each.

The FOA has approved \$500 contribution and will attempt to collect the remaining amount through the crowd-funding donation process.

The drive will be promoted through the social media of LWF and its affiliates, the FOA web site, and word of mouth.

National Park/Monument

Charlie Fryling presented his concept of the possible boundaries for the proposed National Park in Lake Fausse Pointe/Lake Dauterive and the Board discussed the pros and cons and the difficulty of determining ownership boundaries around lakes, Charlie will attempt to get Harold Shoefler to present in September on his success so far in drawing attention to the proposal.

Archaeology Proposal

Jim Delahoussaye reported on a meeting with the State Archaeologist and a local landowner concerning a prehistoric shell midden in the Floodway which could be investigated for information on the water quality conditions and human habitation and eating practices at the time of deposit. A proposal is being prepared for the landowner and Jim will keep us posted on the progress.

Boatbuilding

Jim reported that the Boat Building program ("In the Mind of the Maker") is still in work and that the old boat builder is still building the boat and still fishing in the Floodway.

### **New Business**

No New Business

### **Upcoming Events**

Trace Commission Mtg. - September 24

Online Kayak Fishing Tournament: March 1 to October 15

Atchafalaya Basin Program Technical Advisory Group Meeting, Wednesday, Sept 17 at 9:30 am, LDNR Griffon Rm. 617 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge

Atchafalaya Basin Program Research and Promotion Board Meeting, Thursday, Sept 24 at 9:30 am, LDNR Griffon Rm. 617 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge

### **Next meeting place and time**

9/23/2014

Place - probably Audubon (Karen will check) and Time 6:30 PM?

I will be on travel

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM**