

## **ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM (ABP)** **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STATUSES**

### **FY 2016 Annual Basin Plan**

A draft of the FY 2016 plan was distributed to Research and Promotion Board members on October 27, 2014. On October 29, 2014, the Board met to discuss and formally approve the draft plan, which was presented to the public at three public meetings: on November 5 in Plaquemine (3 attendees), on November 6 in Henderson (7 attendees), and on November 13 in Morgan City (4 attendees). Additionally, written comments were submitted by the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, who presented those comments at the Research and Promotion Board meeting on December 2, 2014. Public comments were incorporated into the Draft Annual Plan, which was presented to CPRA at its January 2015 meeting. The Research and Promotion Board met on January 13, 2015 to pre-approve the final version of the FY 2016 Annual Plan, and the CPRA Board passed a resolution to approve the plan on February 11, 2015.

Printed copies of the final FY 2016 Annual Plan were sent out on February 19 and 20 to members of the Atchafalaya Basin Oversight Committee, the Louisiana House of Representatives Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and the Louisiana Senate Natural Resources Committee. This year to reduce costs, remaining legislators (those that are not on an aforementioned committee) received a copy of the plan on CD. Additionally, the plan is available for free download on the Atchafalaya Basin Program's website at: [BASIN.LA.GOV](http://BASIN.LA.GOV).

HCR5 was filed on March 30, 2015 by Representative Karen St. Germain to approve the Annual Plan. On April 22, HCR5 was reported favorably by the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee with a vote of 13-0 and was passed by the House of Representatives on May 6 with a vote of 98-0. HCR5 then moved to the Senate where it was reported favorably by the Committee on Natural Resources on May 14.

Once approved by the Senate, the FY2016 plan will take effect.

### **Wilson's Landing Boat Launch**

Improvements to Wilson's Landing in St. Mary Parish were approved in the FY 2011 Annual Plan. Recently, funding has become available for this work. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. Mary Parish and LDNR was delivered to St. Mary Parish in April and is under review by the parish.

### **Bayou Fourche Water Quality/ Water Management Project**

The Bayou Fourche project was approved in the FY 2011 Annual Plan. The proposal is to promote flow and enhance water quality by dredging Bayou Fourche between the existing banks to a depth of 1' to 3' for +/-1,600' as well as clearing and snagging for debris removal from the bayou. Dredged material will be removed from the Atchafalaya Basin and deposited in a non-wet location. Approximately 7,500 cubic yards of material will be displaced.

On March 6, 2015 a notice to proceed was issued to the low bidder, Larry Doiron, LLC. A pre-construction meeting was held on March 18 at the office of Sigma Consulting Group, Inc. Construction began on April 22, 2015, and ABP staff visited the site on April 23. Work is expected to be completed within 90 days of the start date of March 30, 2015.

### **Comprehensive Dredging Project**

The ABP is pursuing a comprehensive design of projects that were prioritized by the TAG to receive reallocated funding per the FY 2016 Annual Plan. A comprehensive design plan will minimize mobilization costs and allow the most efficient use of funding. On December 17, 2014 the ABP hosted a field tour of project sites: Orange Barrel Canal, 21 Inch Canal, Big Bayou Pigeon, Little Bayou Pigeon, Channel Training Breach location, Grand Lake Delta, and Murphy Lake Delta. Attendees included ABP staff and a representative from Sigma Engineers and Constructors, Inc. The ABP has initiated a contract with Sigma to develop a project development plan for the comprehensive project and plans to proceed with engineering and design of the Grand Lake Delta Dredging and Channel Training Breach Restoration (Figure 1) as the first task in the comprehensive design project. On April 29, ABP received the executed contract for the project and issued Sigma a notice to proceed. The ABP optimistically intends to begin work on this project by the end of 2015.

### **Water Management Projects That Have Been Proposed for Inclusion in the 2016 Annual Plan**

Channel Training Breach Restoration & Grand Lake Delta Dredging

### **2015 Annual Basin Plan Water Management Projects That Have Been Approved**

Dredge Sediment Trap at 21 Inch Canal  
Dredge Sediment Trap at Orange Barrel Canal  
Additional Dredging at Entrance to Murphy Lake  
Flat Lake Assessment  
Dredge Work Canal

### **2014 Annual Basin Plan Water Management Projects That Have Been Approved**

Dredge Point Bar in Murphy Lake  
Determination of Optimum Project Features for Pigeon Bay Water Management Unit

### **2013 Annual Basin Plan Water Management Projects That Have Been Approved**

Bathymetry Data Collection in American Pass  
Bayou Bristow

### **2012 ANNUAL BASIN PLAN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND FUNDED**

#### **Pigeon Bay WMU**

Project nomination 201202 stated that sediment accumulation has occurred at the north and south ends of Little Bayou Tensas, where Little Bayou Tensas meets Upper Grand River and the Atchafalaya River. In addition, project nomination 201204 stated that there is poor water quality in the swamps adjacent to Bayou Simpson and Graveyard as well as Spike Bay. Finally project nomination 201206 stated that the channelization of Upper Grand River from the Atchafalaya River has caused excessive sediment. This excessive sediment through Upper Grand River is affecting commerce and filling in Pigeon Bay WMU wetlands. This sediment accumulation at water input points is negatively affecting water quality in Pigeon Bay WMU. As a result of the multiple project nominations submitted in the Pigeon Bay WMU, the TAG requested that a Pigeon Bay study be done to identify the optimum available locations for project features that would benefit this area and to incorporate the recent project nominations (201202, 201204, 201206), if appropriate.

**Status Report:** This water management project was approved for implementation as part of the FY 2014 Annual Basin Plan. These projects received funding from the “Open Location Canal North of Bayou Sorrel” (200941) project. A major landowner recently indicated support for crucial features, and this project will proceed using funds that have already been allocated. Additional funding (approximately \$2.5 million) will be required. Additional landowners have been identified and will be contacted as a next step.

## **OTHER ONGOING WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

### **Atchafalaya Basin Natural Resource Inventory & Assessment System (NRIAS)**

The Atchafalaya Basin must be managed on a system-wide basis to ensure this valuable national resource is conserved and restored. The NRIAS that was approved and funded in the FY 2010 Annual Plan is serving as a primary technical tool for decision-making in the Basin. The system provides a means for scientists to access relevant project data for the Basin and to request and fund data acquisition, monitoring, and analysis for use in project planning. This will be critical in providing information necessary for the development and approval of projects to be included for construction in future Annual Plans. This tool will also assist in evaluating how the Basin may interconnect with CPRA projects by providing sediment and fresh water to nurture coastal marsh without adversely impacting Basin resources.

**Status Report:** A web based version of the NRIAS is now available online at <http://abp.cr.usgs.gov/Home.aspx>. Enhancements to the system are continuing, working with state and federal partners. The latest feature is the Physical Attribute Tool (PAT) for estimating dredging and mitigation costs; this tool is currently not operational.

The contract between the ABP and the USGS for the NRIAS is ending on May 31, 2015. The ABP is currently working to transition the NRIAS from USGS to LDNR web servers. The first step in this process is to rebuild the Project Assessment Tool (PAT), and that effort is currently underway.

### **Dog Leg Canal Sediment Trap Maintenance Dredging**

The Dog Leg Canal was previously opened to the Atchafalaya River, at the request of commercial fishing interests, to allow fresh water to flow into this area of the Basin and improve water quality, primarily dissolved oxygen levels. A natural sediment trap existed near the Dog Leg cut that is believed to be in part responsible for the initial success of the project. That sediment trap was almost completely filled, which caused transport of sediment further into the canal. This sedimentation decreased the canal's ability to transport fresh water into the adjoining swamp. Maintenance dredging of the Dog Leg Canal sediment trap is needed to restore its functionality and to prolong transport of fresh water from the Atchafalaya River to the swamp.

**Status Report:** Construction began in mid-October 2012 and was completed in December 2012. A report on the project from LSU was submitted to the ABP in January 2014 and has been reviewed. LSU is evaluating the effectiveness and longevity of the sediment trap over a three year period. The second report was received in January 2015. ABP identified additional data analysis needs, and an addendum to the report was received on March 30, 2015.

### **Development of a Complete and Specific Plan to Address Water Quality and Sedimentation in East Grand Lake/Flat Lake/Upper Belle River Management Units through Modification of Water & Sediment Inputs**

The East Grand Lake/Flat Lake/Upper Belle River WMUs have degraded due to blockage of water flow by sediment and spoil deposition, thus causing low oxygen levels and loss of habitat. This project includes analyses of water flow and sediment deposition throughout the study area, including six inputs into the system: American Pass, Bayou Sorrel, Blue Point Chute, Coon Trap Weir, Dog Leg Canal and Indigo Bayou. A plan is being developed to realign water flow patterns and strategically redirect sediment. The result of this action is a specific list of construction items to accomplish water and sediment realignment in these WMUs, thereby improving water quality and habitat and reducing sedimentation of waterways and lakes.

**Status Report:** The ABP has worked with the TAG and developed scopes of services and interagency agreements to implement the project. Data collection has been initiated by USGS and LSU who are collecting discharge and sediment information. Scientists have begun this planning effort and will be working with the TAG to utilize the data collected to develop a water management unit level plan for redistribution of water and sediment. A summary document has been developed and placed on the Basin web site. Data have been included in the Atchafalaya Basin NRIAS. Projects resulting from this planning effort were approved by the TAG for inclusion in the FY 2012 Annual Basin Plan. Planning efforts are now moving to the south in these WMUs and field reconnaissance is being performed. A meeting was held with a landowner for several of the features in this project, but he voiced objections to construction of any features on his property. Western region field trips began in late March 2013 to finalize plans for all potential features. Costs per cubic yard to either transport spoil out of the Basin or to transport and dump into a main channel have been developed and are being evaluated. Per the direction of the TAG, work is being discussed with private landowners to construct features along Bayou Sorrel to improve one assessment unit at this time. Plans and specifications have been generated by the engineer to present to the landowners for their consideration. Two of the three landowners have declined to allow construction of the water input features.

### **Buffalo Cove Water Management Project**

The Buffalo Cove Water Management Project was designed to improve water circulation and sediment management in the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit to enhance fish and wildlife resources. The project includes interior circulation improvement; removal of barriers to north-

south flow; input of oxygenated, lower temperature river water; and prevention or management of sediment input into the interior swamps. The project is in the lower Basin in Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary Parishes. The Corps began construction in 2004, and the project was expected to benefit more than 7,500 acres initially and 53,000 to 58,000 acres eventually.

**Status Report:** Previously constructed elements include 1, 7, 8, 9-1 and 9-2. The Corps continues efforts to acquire private lands for right of entry, construction and monitoring easements necessary for construction of uncompleted elements in the Buffalo Cove WMU. In 2012, the Corps New Orleans District was allocated \$7 million to be used for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project. The Corps met with members of the TAG, LDNR, USGS, and LSU to collaborate on project priorities. The funds were used to continue engineering and monitoring and to restore the previously constructed Buffalo Cove elements. The existing Buffalo Cove elements were impacted by unprecedented high water during the Mississippi River Flood of 2011 and the elements were no longer functioning as designed. The following elements were repaired: 6, 7, 9-1, 9-2 and elements within Bayou Eugene (E1, E2, and E3). The Corps began construction of Buffalo Cove repairs in December 2012 and reported that all construction repairs were completed in early February 2013. In November 2013 the Corps requested that LDNR assist them in gaining access to survey state and private lands. ABP accompanied the Corps on a field trip to examine a new construction feature in Buffalo Cove – clearing of the “Log Jam”. ABP concurred with other state and federal agencies that this was an essential feature.

On July 7, 2014, OCM received a Right of Entry agreement from the Corps with regard to elements 3, 12, 14, and 16. A revised proposed Right of Entry was sent to the Corps on August 22, 2014. A new Right of Entry was sent to LDNR Legal by the Corps on September 30, 2014. Element 10 (removal of the log jam) has not been authorized at this time, but once it is authorized, the State will be required to pay a 25% cost share. Funding is being requested in the FY 2016 Annual Plan. An access agreement for state-owned properties and water bottoms was finalized during March 2015. The Corps opened bids in April, and the low bid was approximately double the available funds. The Corps is considering options as of April 30, 2015.

#### **Henderson Water Management Unit (WMU)**

In an October 2006 scoping report, the Corps identified three major challenges within the Henderson WMU in St. Martin and St. Landry Parishes: hydrology, environment/habitat, and environmental quality. Regarding hydrology, the use, control, and function of the water control structures at the northern and southern ends of the WMU was the main concern, followed by restoring the area’s water flow patterns. Constructing a freshwater distribution structure to increase water flow throughout the WMU was an additional concern. Habitat issues that are considered a primary component of the project include the control of invasive aquatic vegetation, protecting native habitat, and the effects of initiating these activities.

**Status Report:** This project remains in the planning stage. Proposed actions, benefits, and alternatives are being evaluated, as are additional details such as dredging dimensions, the size of gaps to be cut to restore water flow patterns, and measures to introduce additional flows into the upper end of the WMU. The Corps-led planning group, consisting of state and federal agencies, held meetings to complete the planning documents. A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement had been scheduled for public release in March 2013; however, the release date is now indefinite.

### **Sherburne Freshwater Diversion Structure at Big Alabama Bayou**

This project was authorized by the Water Resource Development Act of 1986 in accordance with the plan recommended in the February 1983 Chief of Engineers' Report. The plan included construction of freshwater distribution structures from the Atchafalaya River to provide water inflow into the Alabama Bayou area. No funds have been allocated to this effort by the Corps; however, the ABP has worked with the Corps New Orleans District to try to move this project forward.

**Status Report:** This project remains in the planning stage. The project has been on hold since the funds budgeted for the Engineering Documentation Report were redirected to address public safety issues associated with the Mississippi River Flood of 2011.

### **Beau Bayou Swamp Hydrologic Restoration**

Beau Bayou Swamp is located in the west-central portion of the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin Parish. Once a highly productive fisheries area, hydrologic changes from levee construction, pipeline canal spoil banks, sediment diversions, and river channelization led to hypoxic conditions in Beau Bayou Swamp. Most of the bayous and canals flowing into Beau Bayou Swamp carry significant amounts of sediment, adding to the swamp's degraded condition. St. Martin Parish has been approved to receive \$3,701,400 in Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds to implement this project.

**Status Report:** St. Martin Parish hired an engineering firm for the project, which is currently in preliminary design. Meetings have been held with the ABP, USFWS, contractors and the parish to identify and prioritize features for improving water quality. Additional meetings with stakeholders are anticipated. The engineering firm conducted surveying work and completed preliminary cost estimates for the prioritized features. A meeting was held in August 2012 to discuss project feature priorities and cost issues. The ABP compiled landowner contact information for those properties located where the priority water management features have been identified. That information was provided to St. Martin Parish in December 2012 to assist them in contacting landowners. The parish stated in January 2015 that it has hired a local engineer/land man to begin contacting landowners.

### **Henderson Lake Access Channels**

This project is being implemented through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the ABP and St. Martin Parish Government. It consists of dredging access channels from the existing boat launches along the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee into Lake Henderson to facilitate boat traffic during low water periods that are due to the periodic lowering of lake levels for hydrilla control. Dredging will also create deep water fish habitat during low water periods.

**Status Report:** Construction began in mid-October 2012 and channel dredging was determined to be complete in February 2013. Prolonged high water levels through June 2013 delayed planting of tree seedlings on the spoil disposal areas for mitigation until the next planting season. The Corps has granted an extension for planting through December 2014. A permit to lower the lake level for hydrilla control was submitted to the Corps in March 2014. The permit went out for a 20 day public comment period on April 7, 2014 and a meeting with all stakeholders was held on June 4, 2014. Corps Operations and Corps Cultural developed special conditions regarding cultural resources, and the permit was issued on August 15, 2014. The lake levels were successfully lowered between September 15, 2014 and November 1, 2014.

### **Big and Little Bayou Pigeon Water Improvement Projects (Engineering and Design)**

The project for Big Bayou Pigeon was to dredge about seven miles of its main channel and install an integral sediment trap feature to restore the bayou's original dimensions. The strategy for the Little Bayou Pigeon project is to clear debris and vegetation, and potentially perform light dredging to remove accumulated silt.

**Status Report:** After preliminary engineering and design, it was determined that the primary property owner would not allow dredged material to be placed on his property. However, previously unknown landowners were identified and the consulting engineer was tasked with 1) determining if the dredged material could be placed on those properties and, 2) providing cost estimates for that alternative and other potential alternatives for dredged material placement. The reports were received in late September 2012 and were reviewed. Contacts with the previously unknown property owners indicated that they have an interest in allowing construction of the recommended project alternative. Costs per cubic yard to either transport spoil out of the basin, or to transport and dump into a main channel have been developed and are being evaluated. Both projects are included in the list of approved, prioritized projects for FY 2016. These projects are included in the Comprehensive Dredging Project, for which Sigma Engineering is developing a project development plan.

### **FY 2012 ANNUAL PLAN ACCESS PROJECTS THAT WERE APPROVED AND FUNDED**

#### **Butte LaRose Boat Launch**

Upgrades to this launch were proposed in the Atchafalaya Basin Program Master Plan. The project involves extending the Butte LaRose Boat Launch on the Atchafalaya River to provide safe launching when the river falls below three to four feet at the Butte LaRose gauge, as well as other improvements.

**Status Report:** The CEA was approved by Facility Planning & Control (FPC) in late March 2012, and St. Martin Parish was mailed authorization in early April to develop detailed plans and specifications. The parish is in the process of obtaining additional property at this location and will submit plans based on the amount of property available. Plans and specifications are expected to be submitted after the parish finalizes this additional property acquisition.

### **OTHER ONGOING ACCESS PROJECTS**

#### **ADA Compliant Trail/Wilderness Trail at the Visitor Center**

A 1,200 foot ADA-compliant trail and an additional 2,400 foot wilderness trail will be designed and built south of the Visitor Center. A construction grant from the Federal Highway Administration together with 20% matching funds from the ABP for design will fund the project.

**Status Report:** The engineer developed a design/construction oversight budget in late November 2013 that was reviewed internally. Approval was given to the engineer in December 2013 to proceed with development of plans and specifications and those plans and specifications were completed and submitted to the ABP at the end of April 2014 and are under review. Talks were held with the Office of State Lands to develop a "Special Use Agreement" as the next step. An operation and maintenance plan has been approved by State Lands. CRT is reviewing the project as of October 31, 2014. A Corps permit application was submitted in February 2015.

## Primitive Camp Sites

Primitive camping areas were proposed in the 2011 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan.

**Status Report:** ABP personnel met with stakeholders including municipal and parish officials, personnel of the Office of State Lands and the Office of State Parks, Boy Scouts of America (BSA), and others about this project. A draft project plan was sent to stakeholders for input. The final project plan was completed in August 2012. St. Martin and Iberville Parishes as well as the BSA were contacted in late 2012 about possible participation in the fabrication and installation of the sign posts, but no responses were received. The project was put out on bid by the Office of State Purchasing and a pre-bid meeting was held on May 9, 2013. The bid opening was held on May 22, 2013 and the bid award was made by State Purchasing with concurrence of the ABP. Construction commenced in July 2013 and was completed in August 2013. The LDNR website promoting the campsites went live in late August 2013. A brochure was developed and distributed in April 2014 to increase the awareness of these features and is also available online. An “Atchafalaya Cap” contest was conducted to promote awareness of the sites. ABP staff met with Harold Schoeffler to identify additional campsites, which are accessible by car, to be included in the list of primitive campsites. Internal review was completed and site locations are being forwarded to the Office of State Lands for review. The “Atchafalaya Cap” contest was held in October 2014 for the fall camping season.

## Bayou Sorrel Boat Launch

Construction of improvements to the current Bayou Sorrel boat launch location has been an ongoing project of the Corps, state, and Iberville Parish Government. The proposed project consists of two new concrete ramps with five lanes each; a new floating courtesy dock adjacent to one of the ramps and a relocated floating courtesy dock adjacent to the other ramp; concrete landings adjacent to the boat ramps; an expanded and improved crushed stone parking area, security and restroom shelter; access roads; demolition of the existing ramp; and electrical service to power and light the facility.



**Status Report:** Funding was provided through capital outlay in the FY 2011 Annual Basin Plan. Iberville Parish elected to move forward with this funding immediately and to construct the facility as soon as possible. Plans and specifications were revised after the original design estimate exceeded available funding. The plans and specifications were forwarded to FPC in April 2012; FPC comments were addressed by the engineer and the project was authorized to go out for bid. A discrepancy discovered during September 2012 in the Act of Donation for the property was resolved in mid-January 2013 and the bids were opened on March 21. The low bid exceeded the budget. Revised plans and specifications were received April 22, and the bid opening was held on May 30. FPC reviewed and advised the ABP that it could

approve the concurrence package. The ABP issued a letter to the parish authorizing them to award the project. The parish issued the “notice to proceed” to the contractor on August 26, 2013, construction commenced in October 2013, and was completed in March 2014. Iberville Parish will notify ABP when a ribbon cutting is scheduled. The launch is open and operational; a sign was delivered on December 16, 2014 to Iberville Parish Maintenance Facility for installation. As of January 28, 2015, sign installation was complete.

### **Big Alabama Boat Launch Phase II**

The Sherburne Wildlife Management Area, operated and maintained by the LDWF, has between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors annually. The first phase of this boat launch project, which renovated the existing boat launch, did not include adequate funds for other needed improvements. Phase II of this project includes a handicap-accessible fishing pier.

**Status Report:** Construction was initiated but was placed on hold due to high water. Construction resumed on May 8, 2012, and the project was completed in August 2012.

### **Krotz Springs Boat Launch**

The Krotz Springs Boat Launch project in St. Landry Parish is the subject of a cooperative agreement between the state and the Greater Krotz Springs Port Commission. The facility will consist of coordinated signage to the site and improved access from the service road, construction of a new concrete three-lane boat launch with floating courtesy dock, renovation of the existing launch into a canoe launch, expansion of parking area, security lighting, landscaping and curbing.

**Status Report:** Construction has been initiated and concrete has been poured. Issues have been identified regarding launch stability and actions are being taken to see that these issues are addressed. Mediation was held and a settlement was reached. Recovered funds have been reallocated to the Wilson’s Landing Boat Launch project.

### **Bayou Amy Boat Launch**

This new boat launch facility is funded and will be constructed on Bayou Amy, directly across from the Atchafalaya Basin western guide levee in Henderson. The project will include a boat launch, parking area, and docking facility. Additional improvements designed for this site will be constructed with St. Martin Parish’s CIAP funds. That portion of the project will include an educational pavilion, self-guided nature walk, and a restroom facility.

**Status Report:** Bids were opened for this project on April 17, 2013; the ABP approved the concurrence package and the bid was awarded. Construction commenced in August 2013 and was completed in March 2014. St. Martin Parish held the ribbon cutting ceremony in May 2014. The launch is open and operational. The invoice was processed by FPC in January 2015.

### **Millet (Myette) Point Boat Launch**

The Millet (Myette) Point Boat Launch project was constructed under a cooperative agreement between the Corps and St. Mary Parish Government. The project is located near Charenton. The purpose of the project is to provide a point of entry into the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway for recreational fishing vessels, commercial fishing vessels, hunters, crew boats, federal and state government personnel, and others. This project includes a new concrete boat ramp with five lanes (four-lane boat launch and one canoe launch); a new floating courtesy dock; a comfort station (restroom); a crushed stone parking area; upgrading of existing public roads used for

ingress and egress; partial demolition and partial removal of an existing boat ramp with the remainder of that ramp converted to a canoe launch; water service for the comfort station; a sewage treatment plant; electrical service to the comfort station and to light the parking area and boat ramp; and landscaping.

**Status Report:** The project has been completed. The launch is open and operational.

### **Big Alabama Boat Launch Phase I**

This new two-lane boat launch, with a center pedestrian pier, is located in Pointe Coupee Parish in the state-owned Sherburne Wildlife Management Area, located in the Morganza Floodway of the Atchafalaya Basin. The Sherburne WMA adjoins other public properties, including lands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps. Those three government properties encompass 44,000 acres.

**Status Report:** Construction has been completed and facility is in use.

### **Bayou Benoit Boat Launch**

This launch was originally constructed with funds from a Wallop-Breaux Grant. Planned improvements were to consist of a floating dock to allow boaters to tie up their boats while parking trailers.

**Status Report:** Construction has been completed and the facility is in use.

### **Belle River Boat Launch**

This project is already funded and involved the installation of restroom facilities at the existing Belle River boat launch. The boat launch is operated and maintained by the Atchafalaya Basin Levee District.

**Status Report:** Modular restrooms have been installed at the launch and are operational.

## **OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS**

### **Geo-Caching Trail**

This project is to establish a number of locations (20-30) of interest related to the Atchafalaya Basin that would be documented by photos/GPS coordinates accompanied by a booklet that explains the significance of each location to the history/physical/cultural geography of the Basin. Individuals who complete and document visits to all locations would receive a geo-cache "coin".

**Status Report:** In April, 2014, this extremely low cost (<\$200) project was approved by the executive staff and project design was begun. Design by staff continues with cooperation from the Atchafalaya National Heritage Program.

### **Lake End Park Cabins**

This project is to design and construct cabins at Lake End Park in Morgan City as outlined in the State Master Plan.

**Status Report:** This project is partially funded through the ABP. A CEA was executed and plans and specifications were developed and approved by FPC. Bids were opened on January 24, 2012. Morgan City submitted the concurrence package in March 2012 and it was approved by the ABP. The ABP authorized Morgan City to award the contract, and pilings were driven to

initiate construction in May 2012. Construction continued to progress on the three cabins during August with only slight damage reported from Hurricane Isaac. Construction moved forward during October and progressed on schedule through December 2012. A ribbon-cutting was held on January 11, 2013 and the cabins began renting on May 1, 2013.

#### **Veterans Park Phase IV**

Phase IV of this project includes parking improvements, upgrades to the concession pavilion (appliances, vent hood, and pass-through windows), baseball park bleachers and bleacher covers.

**Status Report:** Some of the concession equipment and bleachers were installed in July 2012. The parking lot improvements were completed in December 2012. Additional equipment was put out for bid by the Recreation District in January 2013. Work is now complete for Phase IV.

#### **Veterans Park Phase V**

The Phase V project scope consists of a basketball court, a storage building, and miscellaneous improvements to the existing park features.

**Status Report:** The project scope was received March 28, 2013 and will be made part of the upcoming Request for Contract and CEA between the ABP and the Assumption Parish Recreation District. The CEA was signed by LDNR and the Recreation District in May 2013 and was forwarded to FPC in May 2013 for final signatures. An amendment was submitted in July 2013 to apply the balance of Phase IV funding to Phase V. The amendment was circulated for signatures and approved in October 2013. The letter requesting plans and specifications was sent to the Recreation District in October 2013. Those plans were delivered to the ABP in April, and forwarded to FPC for review. FPC provided comments in June 2014 and those were forwarded to the Recreation District and their engineer to be addressed. A concurrence package was approved by ABP in October 2014 and a letter was issued authorizing the Recreation District to award the contract. Construction commenced in January 2015.

#### **Stephensville and Belle River Parks**

These projects consist of the installation of permanent restrooms and covered pavilions at Stephensville and permanent restrooms, a kitchen, and a meeting hall at Belle River for the Lower St. Martin Parish Recreation District.

**Status Report:** Bids were opened in late June 2012, but were above budget. Change orders allowed the Stephensville project to be awarded after the concurrence package was submitted and approved. Electrical supply and cost issues for Belle River were resolved and a concurrence package was submitted and approved in late August. Stephensville construction started in late September. Belle River construction commenced in mid-November and both projects progressed according to schedule during early 2013. The Stephensville concession stand, restrooms and pavilion were complete as of May 1, 2013. Belle River construction was completed and a ribbon cutting was held on September 26, 2013.

#### **Catahoula Meeting Center**

This project entailed the design and construction of a new pavilion in the Clayton Boudreaux Park in Catahoula. It also included the repair of the existing concession stand building adjacent to the old pavilion, and demolishing the old pavilion.

**Status Report:** Construction was initiated in summer 2011 and is now complete.

### **Grosse Tete Welcome Center**

This project was to construct a visitors' center in Grosse Tete adjacent to I-10. The facility includes a reception/visitor area, one office, restroom facilities and coffee/vending area.

**Status Report:** This facility has been completed and is in use.

### **Doris Park**

This project consisted of final design, specifications and construction of iron fencing between brick columns, an iron fountain surrounded by a seat wall, brick and concrete walkways, benches, trash receptacles, an irrigation system, sub-surface drainage and landscaping.

**Status Report:** This facility has been completed and is in use.

### **Uncle Dick Davis Park, Phase II**

This project included lighting and ground surfacing for 18 RV camping sites, and new fencing installed along the highway.

**Status Report:** Construction has been completed on this project, with the exception of the fencing, which was dropped from the project due to cost issues.

### **Cajun Coast Welcome Center**

This project will assist St. Mary Parish with funding for construction of a Welcome Center which will offer travelers a view of cypress-tupelo swamp as well as refreshments and restroom facilities.

**Status Report:** This project is funded with capital outlay, local, and Atchafalaya Basin funds. Contracts have been signed. Thirty days from completion in early June 2012, the building suffered a catastrophic failure of some component of its foundation, causing parts of the building to sink five feet. The cause of the failure was investigated and corrective measures were taken by the parish to repair the building. Correction work began in May 2013. ABP was notified that personnel were moving into the building in April 2014, but it was not yet open to the public. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 20, 2014.

### **Eagle Point Park**

This project was to plan, design and construct a parish park along the northwest shore of Lake Fausse Point in Iberia Parish.

**Status Report:** A CEA has not been executed for this project. LDNR sent a CEA to the recreation district but it was never returned. The land donation does not appear to be moving forward. Further discussion must take place between project sponsors and property owners to resolve issues prior to project moving forward.

### **Harry Hewes House**

This project provided funding for improvements to the Harry Hewes House, including exterior lighting, carpentry on the second floor, plumbing and painting.

**Status Report:** Project has been completed.

**Opelousas Gateway**

This project included improvements to landscaping, additional fencing and additional lighting along both sides of Landry Street and the fencing of the historic Myrtle Grove Cemetery.

**Status Report:** Project has been completed.

**Avoyelles Interpretive Plaza**

This project included installation of an Atchafalaya Basin interpretive display, historic cistern lighting, landscaping and handrail and steps repair.

**Status Report:** Project has been completed.