

Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

**Minutes of Meeting
2019-2020 Interim
November 5, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Valarie Hodges, chairwoman of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force, called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Valarie Hodges, chairwoman
Representative Barbara Carpenter
Senator Regina Barrow
Senator Dale Erdey

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Bodi White, vice chairman

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patrick Landry for Christopher Knotts
Jerry Passman
J. R. Saucier
Tom Stephens
Brenda Zeringue

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jason Lanclos
Brandon Rogillio
Paul Sawyer
Jerry Thibeau
Eddie Williams

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

House:

Ashleigh Clare-Kearney, attorney
Glenn Fleming, attorney
Angelique R. Mozee, committee secretary
Fay Talbot, sergeant at arms

Senate:

Fate Mitchell, sergeant at arms

III. OPENING REMARKS

Representative Hodges thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to the task force and congratulated Representative Carpenter on her re-election to the legislature. She gave an overview of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.

Representative Hodges provided a letter to the task force, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. She read into the records the letter from various state representatives requesting that the Council on Watershed Management designate the Amite River Basin as a separate and unique region for the purposes of the Watershed Initiatives.

IV. DISCUSSION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Transportation and Development

Mr. Bobby Duplantier, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 862-1037, spoke for information only and narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Comite River Diversion Project Status Update", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

He discussed the organizational chart for the USACE, Comite River Diversion Overview, Comite River Diversion Construction and Relocation Agreement with KCS Rail Road Update, Comite River Diversion Project, and the Comite River Diversion MVN Estimated Construction Schedule.

Mr. Patrick Landry, Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-3010, spoke for information only and narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Comite River Diversion Project Status Update", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records. He discussed the organizational chart for the Department of Transportation and Development, DOTD Project Tasks 2019-2021, US Highway 61 Utilities, and Remaining Parcels - COM Contracts 1-11.

Mr. Duplantier and Mr. Landry addressed questions from Representatives Hodges and Carpenter and Senator Barrow.

Mr. Nick Sims, USACE, 7400 Leak Aveune, New Orleans, LA, no zip code provided, (504) 862-2128, spoke for information only and addressed questions from Representatives Hodges and Carpenter and Senator Barrow.

Dewberry

Mr. Edward Knight, Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 218-0719, spoke for information only and the Amite River Basin Model Overview.

Mr. Sam Crampton, Dewberry, 2835 Brandywine Road, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30341, (404) 308-1286, spoke for information only and narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Amite River Basin Model Overview", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records. He discussed the Amite River Model, the Darlington Reservoir Study, Example Dry Reservoir, Summary of Findings - Flood Elevations, and Project Status.

Mr. Crampton addressed questions from Representative Hodges and Mr. Saucier.

Mr. Nick Sims, USACE, 7400 Leak Aveune, New Orleans, LA, no zip code provided, (504) 862-2128, spoke for information only and narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Amite River and Tributaries - East of the Mississippi River, LA Feasibility Study/Darlington Reservoir ", Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records. He discussed the AR&T East of the MS River Feasibility Study, the Darlington Reservoir, and the Schedule Milestone and Baseline.

Amite River Basin Commission

Mr. Dietmar Rietschier, Amite River Basin Commission ARBC, 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 296-4900, spoke for information only. Mr. Rietschier gave brief updates on the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, the Darlington Feasibility Study, and the ARBC Inundation Map Model of the 2016 flood.

Mr. Larry S. Bankston, 8708 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 766-3800, spoke for information only. He discussed the Council on Watershed Management letter and advised the task force that ARBC is the primary watershed, and he agreed with Representative Hodges' effort to designate the Amite River Basin as a separate region.

Mr. Bankston advised Representative Carpenter and Senator Barrow of the ARBC availability to attend their district meetings to give updates on the Comite River project and the Amite River Basin.

Department of Transportation and Development (National Flood Insurance Program)

Ms. Cindy O'Neal, Department of Transportation and Development, national flood insurance program, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-3005, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records. She gave an overview on the National Flood Insurance Program and addressed questions from Mr. Passman.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Valarie Hodges
Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

Date approved: _____