

Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

**Minutes of Meeting
2014 Interim
September 11, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Valarie Hodges, Chairwoman of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in Room 1, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Valarie, Chairwoman
Senator Bodi White, Vice Chairman

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Al Bargas
Mr. Chip Kline
Mr. Christopher Knotts
Mr. Jerry Passman
Mr. Brandon Rogillio
Mr. Tom Stephens
Ms. Jeanne Stroda
Mr. Jeff Taylor
Mr. Jerry Thibeau

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

House:

Katy Giroir, Attorney
Jared Evans, Attorney
Angelique R. Mozee, Committee Secretary
Danny Leming, Sergeant at Arms

Senate:

Glenn Arton, Sergeant at Arms

III. OPENING STATEMENT

Representative Hodges thanked the task force members and visitors for attending the hearing. She honored those persons who died and survived the tragedy on September 11, 2001, with a prayer and

the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PRAYER

Pastor Glenn Kirby lead the prayer for the nation.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Henry Threeton, Fire Inspector, Baton Rouge Fire Department Honor Guard, lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. DISCUSSION

Task Force Goals

Representative Hodges gave a brief overview of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 of the 2014 Regular Session and the goals of the task force. She asked the members to introduce themselves to the committee.

Representative Hodges advised the committee that the meeting is for information only in order to move the project forward. She stated that the committee goal is to determine the responsibilities of the committee, to make sure the project is in compliance, and to hear presentations from the Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation and Development, and the Amite River Basin Commission. She stated that the next meeting will be on Monday, September 29, 2014.

Jared Evans, Attorney, House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, gave a brief overview of the Comite River, Amite River, Bayou Manchac, and the Great Flood of 1983. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Comite River Diversion Canal A Brief Timeline" which included the slides for the "Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014", and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. At the request of Representative Hodges, Mr. Evans provided the committee with the final number (cost) from the damage of the flood of 1983.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

On behalf of Colonel Hansen, Bobby Duplantier, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, (504) 862-1037, spoke for information only. He gave a brief overview of the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Transportation and Development and the Amite River Basin Commission roles and their responsibilities with the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.

Department of Transportation and Development

Christopher Knotts, Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Room N 514, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, (225) 379-3010, spoke for information only. He gave a brief overview of the Department of Transportation and Development role and responsibilities with the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.

Amite River Basin Commission

Mr. Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Director, Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District, 3535 South Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816-2255, spoke for information only.

Larry Bankston, Amite River Basin Commission, 8708 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, spoke for information only.

Mr. Rietschier and Mr. Bankston gave a brief overview of the Amite River Basin Commission role and responsibilities with the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Comite River Diversion Canal Project (2000-2014)" and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Project Coordination Team

Representative Hodges, Mr. Bankston, and Mr. Duplantier discussed and gave a brief synopsis of the Project Delivery Team (PDT) and the Project Coordination Team (PCT).

Dirt Storage

Representative Hodges advised Mr. Bankston that at the next meeting she wanted to know the status of the dirt storage and excavated dirt done on the project, and how much is the dirt worth. Mr. Bankston discussed briefly the public bid process for selling the dirt.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Coghlan, Zachary City Council, 1625 Gleneagles Bend, Zachary, Louisiana 70791, spoke for information only. He spoke about the drainage issues from the Cypress Bayou.

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Representative Hodges announced to the task force that the next meeting will be held on November 29, 2016. She advised the task force that she wanted updates and more suggestions on moving the Comite River Diversion Canal Project forward.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie Hodges, Chairwoman
Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

Date approved: _____