

Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

**Minutes of Meeting
2015 Interim
November 10, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Valarie Hodges, chairwoman of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Valarie, chairwoman

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Bodi White, vice chairman
Representative Dalton Honore'

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Hannah Kimbrough on behalf of Mr. Al Bargas
Mr. Chip Kline
Mr. Christopher Kline
Mr. Brandon Rogillio
Mr. R. J. Saucier
Mr. Tom Stephens
Mr. Jeff Taylor

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Troy Constance
Ms. Jeanne Stroda
Mr. Jerry Thibeau
Mr. Thomas Wormack

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

House:

Katy Giroir, attorney
Jared Evans, attorney
Angelique R. Mozee, committee secretary
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms
Julie Thomas, sergeant at arms

Senate:

Glenn Arton, sergeant at arms

III. OPENING REMARKS

Representative Hodges gave an overview/purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Final

Report that was presented to the Legislature in January. Representative Hodges stated that she looks forward to hearing all updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation and Development, and the Amite River Board of Commissioners (ARBC).

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Department of Transportation and Development

Christopher Knotts, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, (225) 379-3015, spoke for information only. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Comite River Diversion Canal Update", and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Bobby Duplantier, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, (504) 862-1037, spoke for information only. Mr. Duplantier stated that he did not have a presentation to present, but was willing to address questions from the committee. He discussed the Corps of Engineers updates which included the Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) modifications between DOTD and the ABRC, Brooke Lake, Lilly Bayou, US Hwy 61, Mitigation Credits and Congressional Funding.

Amite River Board of Commissioners

Dietmar Rietschier, Amite River Basin Commissioner, 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815, (225) 296-4900, spoke for information only. Mr. Rietschier gave a brief synopsis of the Amite River Basin Commission current projects, ongoing litigations, Profit Island, the sale of excess dirt for the landfills from East Baton Rouge parish, permits for relocation of utilities on ARBC properties, monthly meeting with the project coordinating team, floodplain management plan, funding in reference to cash on hand for ARBC, DOTD, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

On behalf of Dr. John Day, Joel Lindsey, 11643 Port Hudson Pride Road, Zachary, Louisiana 70791, (225)654-8847, spoke for information only. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Impact of Comite River Diversion Canal on Upper Comite River", and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Wayne Massina, city of Central, 7256 Woodlett Drive, Central, Louisiana 70818-6523, (225) 261-4771, spoke for information only. He discussed repealing legislation pertaining to the Comite River project. Mr. Massina suggested that a congressional representative become a fifth partner of the

project coordinating team to attend the monthly meetings in order to move the Comite River project forward.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

Representative Hodges commended the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation and Development, and the Amite River Basin Commission for their hard work and dedication to the project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie Hodges, chairwoman
Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

Date approved: _____