I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present:
Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
John Walther-Coastal Conservation Association of LA
John Clark-Iberville Parish
Nancy Woodlock-Jefferson Parish
Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education
Emelise Cormier-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Anthony Roussel-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Nick Matherne-Lafourche Parish
Randall McGimsey-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Shannon Lafont-Louisiana Science Teachers Assoc.
John Conover-LUMCON
Chris Macaluso-Louisiana Wildlife Federation
David Muth-National Park Service
Gary LaFleur-Nicholls State University
PJ Hahn-Plaquemines Parish
J.A. Rummier-Pointe Coupee Parish
Al Leon-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Susan Hennington-US Army Corp of Engineers
Mark McManus-US Coast Guard
Doug Jacobson-US EPA
Susan Testroet-Bergeron-USGS
Rick Hartman-US National Marine Fisheries Service
John Boatman-USDA/NRCS

Organizations Not Represented:
American Sugar Cane League
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Commercial Fisheries
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Economic Development
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
LA Assoc. of Conservation Districts
LA Assoc. of Levee Boards
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Assoc.
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Louisiana Landowners Assoc.
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
LSU Ag Center
South Central Planning & Development Commission
Daily Comet (Thibodaux, LA)
- "Fishermen want freshwater flow reduced to save oysters", September 2, 2010
- "Estuary program harnessing donations to help birds", September 13, 2010
- "BP wants surf to clean beaches" September 13, 2010
- "La Fete d'Ecologie revels in environmental entertainment", September 17, 2010
- "La Fete d'Ecologie", September 24, 2010
- "Rita moved residents but didn't build levees", September 24, 2010
- "Threats remain for birds on coast", October 14, 2010
- "Marshes, beaches still tainted with oil", October 15, 2010
- "Recovery Plan: Locals suggest oil-spill recovery actions", October 26, 2010

Richland Beacon News (Rayville, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 2, 2010

The Alexandria Town Talk (Alexandria, LA)
- "Program harnessing donations to help birds" September 20, 2010

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)
- "Nutria-control program racks up half-million killed", September 2, 2010
- "Audubon: Birds look OK after oil leak", October 15, 2010

The Alexandria Town Talk (Alexandria, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 8, 2010

The Assumption Pioneer (Napoleonville, LA)
- 14th Annual La Fete d'Ecologie Schedule of Events", September 23, 2010

The Banner-Tribune (Franklin, LA)
- "Audubon: Birds look OK after spill, threats remain", October 14, 2010

The Caldwell Watchman (Columbia, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 1, 2010

The Church Point News (Church Point, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 1, 2010

The Clinton Watchman (Clinton, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 1, 2010

The Courier ( Houma, LA)
- "Fishermen want freshwater flow reduced to save oysters", September 2, 2010
- "Estuary program harnessing donations to help birds", September 12, 2010
- "BP wants surf to clean beaches" September 13, 2010
- "St. Francis de Sales", September 19, 2010
- "An Awakening:Rita moved residents but didn't build levees", September 24, 2010
- "La Fete d'Ecologie", September 24, 2010
- "Audubon Society says birds look OK after spill, but threats remain", October 14, 2010
- "Recovery Plan: Locals suggest oil-spill recovery actions", October 26, 2010

The Daily Report PM (Baton Rouge, LA)
- "Nuria pelts featured on New York fashion runway", November 18, 2010

The Daily Review (Morgan City, LA)
- "Half a million nutria killed from November to March", September 2, 2010
- "Marshes resilient to oil, erosion still problematic", September 3, 2010
- "Estuary program feeds on donors to help birds", September 20, 2010
- "Audubon: Birds look OK after spill, threats remain", October 15, 2010

The Democrat (St. Francisville, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 1, 2010

The Eunice News (Eunice, LA)
- "Dispersants: health threat or red herring", September 2, 2010
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D. Projects Initiated
   1. Support for Wetlands/Cultural Day-NSU Jubilee 2011-S. Helmuth
   2. CWPPRA Shorts-Video Productions-M. Landry
   3. Tresors du Bayou (Treasures of the Bayou), The Bayou French Education Program-S. Helmuth
   4. Development of Website Summaries for Specific Projects Undertaken by the BTNEP Program-R. DeMay

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date for next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Barataria Preserve Canal Backfill Project-David Muth, National Park Service
David Muth, Chief of Natural & Cultural Resource Management at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve. He announced that this will be his last Management Conference meeting representing the National Park Service. Starting January 2011, he will begin working for the National Wildlife Federation as their new State Director, working on Louisiana coastal restoration campaign.

David’s presentation is about a project the NPS has been working on for several years in the Barataria Preserve on canal reclamation, to restore canals to marsh. He stated this started in 2000 in partnership with Dr. Eugene Turner, LSU, and some of his students and collaborators. In 2009-2010 federal fiscal year, funding was received through the stimulus package.

He stated there are many canals in the preserve, many that go back to the 18th century. They were drains and navigation canals for plantations, and cypress logging canals that date back to the 19th century. In the 20th century there were deeper, wider, more disruptive canals.

The NPS has a policy of managing systems as natural systems, with as little interference within that as possible. It’s clear that manmade are not part of a natural system.

In 2001, did a pilot project on two canals that enter the Segnette waterway where they backfilled the canals. The canal on the north, they scraped down the spoil banks, put in a partial plug and let it flow. The canal on the south, they did the same and then put a dredge out in Lake Salvador and pumped sediment in to see if they could fill it back up to marsh level.

In 2009-2010, more canals were identified to reclamate, which the stimulus funding was received to do. These projects are currently in progress. What the reclamation creates is a platform for new emergent marsh or swamp along the edges of the canal.

David then showed slides of the progress of the pilot program since 2001 to the present.
Stakeholder meetings were held to educate stakeholders because a lot of them were not aware that their parishes were located within the Atchafalaya Basin Program.

The stakeholders of the UTB were excited to learn that they are a part of the BTE, but were disappointed that their waterways were not meeting their designated uses. So efforts began on this cause.

In 2006, Point Coupee, Iberville and W. Baton Rouge parishes signed a Tri-Parish Partnership agreement to work together cooperatively to restore the waters they shared in common in the UTB. Later that year, a project was funded to identify the problems that existed in the basin. This was done by holding stakeholder meetings where state and local programs provided educational information and outreach about their programs and what they have to offer. The stakeholders were able to sit down and point out on maps what and where the problems were located. All of this information was compiled and a final report was completed in 2008.

Once the problems were identified, the Tri-Parish Partnership needed to come up with a priority type project, one to improve water quality because that was the underlying issue in the area. The project that was submitted to DEQ and EPA, and approved, a 319 project, is titled “The Upper Terrebonne Basin Water Quality Improvement Project”. The goal is to help water quality by helping reduce non-point source pollution, and continuing stakeholder support.

The first objective of the project is to continue stakeholder coordination awareness. John stated the partnership wants to have a water festival. The second objective is to identify non-point source pollution hot spots. There will be strategic sampling sites set up throughout the UTB. This will be wet weather sampling, meaning they will be taken after a rainfall. The third objective is to implement water-born debris control. The partnership hopes to encourage leadership, encourage ownership and support, which they believe leads to success and sustainability. They believe beautifying the waterways is the way to do that. The last objective is hydrologic modification. All the stakeholders want more flow, introduction of more freshwater. Feasibility studies will be done and TMDL’s will be used as a problem guide.

The Tri-Parish Partnership realizes they are a part of a big picture and it has been suggested that they coordinated with the Lower Terrebonne Basin efforts to help with coastal erosion and water quality issues. The UTB occupies about 25% of the entire Terrebonne Basin, about 640 sq. acres, 956 sq. miles.

John then talked about all the different aspects of the area they would like to expand, such as its culture, habitat, recreation, coastal restoration efforts, GIS mapping, invasive species eradication, native plants, natural channel design, planning and zoning, and green spaces.

John wanted to thank EPA and DEQ for their support and BTNEP as well.

D. Righteous Fur Shows in New York and New Orleans-Cree McCree, Righteous Fur Designer,

Michael reminded the MC that Righteous Fir came about from an Invasive Species Mini-Grant. Cree informed the MC that she and her group did a successful show in New York before Thanksgiving and generated a lot of press, including a full page article in the New York Times in Style Section.

Cree then gave a history of her company and the development logo. She showed a slide presentation starting with designs she developed pre-Righteous Fir to the 2009 La Fete d’Ecologie featuring her designs in a fashion show to the shows at the Marigny Theater in New Orleans to the New York Show. Cree hopes to manufacture her designs on a larger scale in the future. Each article of clothing/accessory has a hang tag with FAQ’s on them that tells them about nutria and what they are supporting.