

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

MC Meeting # 36 Minutes

9:00AM-March 16, 2006

Nicholls State University Campus

Student Union-Plantation Room

Thibodaux, LA

9:00 AM-9:10 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members/Alternates Present:

Herman Waguespack-American Sugar Cane League
Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Mark Ford-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Len Bahr-Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Bryce Autin-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Vickie Duffourc-Jefferson Parish
Butch Stegall-LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development
Jean May-Brett-LA Dept. of Education
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Vince Guillory-LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
Jess Curole-Lafourche Parish
Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowners Association
Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teachers Association
Jessica Kastler-LUMCON
Rex Caffey-LSU Ag Center
Gary Lafleur-Nicholls State University
Andrew MacInnes-Plaquemine Parish
Laura Michel-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Sue Hawes-US Army Corps of Engineers
Dan McQuate-US Coast Guard

Organizations not represented:

Assumption Parish
Coastal Conservancy Association of LA
Commercial Fisheries
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Louisiana Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Louisiana Assoc. of Levee Boards
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Association
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
National Park Service
South Louisiana Economic Council
St. Charles Parish
US Fish & Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey
US National Marine Fisheries Service
USDA/NRCS

Guests:

Kyle Winslow-CH2M Hill
Quentin Fontenot-NSU
Bob Roberts-LDNR
Allyse Farrar-NSU
Matt Brown-Times Picayune
Jack Fredine-US Army Corp of Engineers
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish
Patsy Powell-Happy Tats
Gary Wilkinson-NSU Masters Student
Lou Temporella-City of Morgan City/Atchafalaya River Coalition
Dave Jacobs-
Fred Kopfler-Gulf of Mexico Program
Wendi Billiot-resident of Terrebonne Parish/local author
Robert Dubois-US Fish & Wildlife
Mike Jacobs-LRA
Chuck Villarubia-LDNR
Jonathon Davis-NSU Graduate students
Lori Petticlerc-Sen. David Vitter's Office
Barney Arceneaux-Congressman Charlie Melancon's Office
John Boyles-FEMA
Jim Atergen-FEMA
Students from the Yale School of Forestry
Joanna Jones
Terrence Lockett-Senator Landrieu's office
Amy Wold-The Advocate
Tony Cheramie

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting

The chairman entertained a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes. Tim Allen moved and Archie Chaisson seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Kerry took a moment to inform the MC that John Woodard, who was a huge supporter of the Program in the early days and represented the landowners, had a major stroke and is not doing well at this time. A moment of silence was offered in John's honor.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

Chackbay Elementary Cajun Day
Shell Oil-Houston
FEMA Team Leaders-Orientation Presentation
Eagle Expo-Morgan City
USACE/EPA Cypress Harvesting Tour

Mini-Grants Review Meeting
Grand Isle/Nature Conservancy Volunteer Event
Tallow Tree Pull Volunteer Event
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Bayou Haystackers

Teacher Workshop-Bossier City
Environmental Educator's Symposium
Citizen Monitoring Presentation-NSU Chemistry
Oaklawn Junior High
LSU Cooperative Extension-Lake Charles
Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Workshop
St. Genevieve Catholic School
Bayou Lafourche Project Stakeholder's Field Trip
NSU Jubilee

Water Quality Presentation-New Roads
NSU Pre-Service Teachers
Tulane University-Katrina
FEMA/Volunteer Field Trip to Fourchon
Lockport Kiosk Dedication Ceremony
Lafourche Coastal Zone Meeting
Thibodaux Elementary School
Crab Trap Removal Project Media Day
4-H Jr. Leaders Group-Lafourche Parish

B. Media Interviews

KKAY Syndicated Radio-Coastal Advisory Comm.
Andrew Barron
KKAY Radio-Dean Blanchard and Vince Guillory
"Derelict Crab Trap Program"
For additional interviews see press clippings

KKAY Radio-Kerry St. Pé and Steve Mathies
"What is Estuary?"/Pipeline Slurry
NOAA Magazine "Coastal Services"
WBAI Pacifica Radio-Hurricane Katrina/Rita

C. Meetings

Plaquemines Parish Council Mtg.
FEMA
CH2M Hill
Governor's Coastal Committee
CIAP Public Meeting & Development Comm.
Migratory Bird Action Plan Team
Thibodaux Rotary Club
Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force
Audubon Institute-Cichlid/Invasive Species Exhibit
Bayou Lafourche Project Open House
Davis Pond Advisory Comm. Meeting

Restore America's Estuaries Planning Meeting
USACE Comprehensive Coastwide Hurricane
LUMCON Open House Planning Meeting
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber Coastal Comm.
CWPPRA Task Force
South Louisiana Hurricane Protection Stakeholder
Input Meeting
LINKS Art Advisory Group
Southeast Partner's in Flight Conference
EPA/NEP Spring Meeting
USACE Scoping Meeting on Levees

D. Projects Initiated:

1. "Distribution and Abundance of larval fishes in Bayou Chevreuil: Transfer of Scientific Data to the Public Through a MultiUse Webpage"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
2. "Go Native: Discovering and Planting Native Trees in Terrebonne Parish. A youth education program sponsored by the Terrebonne Parish Tree Board and the LSU 4-H Clubs"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
3. "Swamp Tour Operators Outreach Program"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
4. "Spirit of the Estuary Arts Curriculum Development Completion"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
5. "Breeding Biology Study of Wilson's Plovers in Coastal Louisiana-Richard DeMay
6. "Development of the 2007 Bird Calendar Text"-Richard DeMay
7. "Layout and Design of the Chenier Publication"-Richard DeMay

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date Suggested is Thursday, June 1, 2006.

The meeting date was changed to May 31, 2006 due to another meeting being held on June 1st.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Coastal Wetland Forestry Easement Program Resolution-Andrew Barron

Kerry then announced that BTNEP/MC was asked to pass a resolution regarding possible purchase of easements for some of the cypress forests. He stated that an option is to set up a state fund that is focused on purchasing conservation easements. This program will compensate the landowner and still maintain the cypress forest.

Andrew Barron handed out a proposed resolution to the MC. He gave a brief review of the Coastal Forestry Advisory Committee. He stated that after meeting for approximately 2 years, the committee has put together a report. However, due to personnel changes in the Governor's office, the release of this report has been delayed.

Len Bahr stated that Cynthia Duet is no longer with the Governor's office so he is the contact for the Coastal Forestry Advisory Committee. He stated his team is determined to get a draft of the report out by March 29th

Andrew stated BTNEP wanted to pass this resolution to reinforce our support for easements and potentially tidal purchases of land, specifically condition Class 3 forests. These are areas that have no potential for regeneration whether through natural or artificial means. He stated that this resolution establishes a state program/revenue stream to protect coastal forests by buying titles or easements.

Doug asked if there had been any thoughts into using CIAP funds and Andrew stated there has.

Al asked if it was the intent of the writer to suggest that these properties be purchased from willing sellers; Andrew stated yes. Al suggested that those words be added to the resolution.

Vicki Duffourc asked for an example of a Class 3 cypress swamp. Andrew stated that it is a place that stays permanently flooded and has no potential for being planted.

Gary stated that it might be useful to mention that these cypress forests are an upper component of the estuary.

Tim Allen stated that landowners fear that their lands will just be taken away from them. He feels this resolution is a good way to stem those fears.

Jean May-Brett asked if the MC would consider in the first "Whereas" adding the words "educational".

Al then entertained a motion to adopt this resolution as amended. Gary LaFleur made the motion and Len Bahr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and no opposition. The motion was then passed.

IV. Discussion Items

Review of Sediment Delivery Alternatives, Presentation of Phase II Results of the Third Delta Conveyance Channel Study-Kyle Winslow, CH2M Hill

Kerry reminded the MC that LDNR has been funding a study of the Third Delta Conveyance Channel. CH2M Hill has been contracted to do that study. The first phase of the study was to look at what it would take to transport sediment from the Mississippi River to the lower regions of the estuary.

Phase II was to look at potential alternatives to transporting sediment. Kerry stated that this phase is nearing completion. Dr. Kyle Winslow is present to give a presentation on that phase.

Kerry informed the MC that Dr. Winslow received his B.S. and M.S. from UC Berkeley, as well as his Ph. D., from Berkeley. He specialized in numerical modeling and participated in the updating of the model that is being used in the Bayou Lafourche Reintroduction Project.

Dr. Winslow reminded the MC that Phase I of the project was basically the engineering feasibility portion of the study and Phase II is an alternative analysis. Phase I was to answer the question "can we build the channel, will it move water and will it move water fast enough to transport sediment to the lower regions of the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary". Phase II will identify and evaluate of project alternatives and environmental engineering and economic impact and benefits of the project.

He gave a brief overview of the Third Delta Concept proposed by Dr. Woody Gagliano. The total length of the system is approximately 100 miles and will include features such as a dam across Bayou Lafourche with an initial flow of 20,000 cfs into a small pilot channel that would self erode over a period of years to a final capacity of approximately 200,000 cfs. The concept is that the center of the channel that is eroded becomes the basis of the deltas, which will be located one near Little Lake and the other near Lake Felicity.

Different scenarios showed that a median value of 100,000 tons of sediment per day would go through the Third Delta system. The study also showed that the initial 20,000 cfs proposed may not provide enough sheer to induce adequate erosion. So it was recommended that the initial channel should actually be closer to 40,000 cfs. The limiting factor to all of this is the stage of the Mississippi River.

There are several influences on delta building but the one most focused on in the report is the wind/wave analysis. The reason being that based on the Wax Lake system, which is what this model is based on, the only difference is the wind/wave component. Wave action was studied in both the Terrebonne and Barataria systems and showed that the wave heights and energy were much less than that in the Atchafalaya area. The results showed that if the same amount of material used in the Wax Lake area was also used in the Barataria-Terrebonne systems, which are much more sheltered sites, more would be expected to be retained.

Dr. Winslow stated that 5.7 million tons of sand and 24 million tons of sediment per year would be transported by the Third Delta Channel at 300,000 cfs.

Phase I of the project concludes that the Third Delta Concept is feasible from an engineering stand point, with an average sediment transport of 100,000 tons per day, resulting in more land being built than what is currently being built in the Wax Lake system. Wax Lake took 30 yrs to build 100 sq. miles.

Vince Guillory asked if a projection was made to tell how long it would take to build these delta lobes. Dr. Winslow stated that it was estimated to take 40 yrs to build out from a 40,000 cfs channel to a 200,000 cfs channel.

Dr. Winslow stated that the task of Phase II was to conduct a workshop to brainstorm alternatives. Several stakeholders were invited to get several different views. The environmental engineering and economic effects were evaluated in all the alternatives. Kyle reviewed the 2005 workshop, he then went over refined land building estimates for the Third Delta Channel and then talked about each of the alternatives.

The workshop resulted in three alternatives: 1) sediment transport via pipeline from riverine sources; 2) sediment transport via pipeline from off-shore sources; 3) fall-back line, a man made constructed interior barrier island chain. The primary goal of the alternatives is the restoration of a sustainable eco-system. And it is recognized that the pathway to that goal is a large scale creation of wetland habitat in the Barataria-Terrebonne basins.

These alternatives were then compared to the Third Delta Conveyance Channel proposal by refining the original land building estimates submitted in Phase I.

According to Dr. Winslow, models show that with the Third Delta Channel proposal after reaching full "build out", we'd be down 300 sq. miles from where we started from, and full build out will not occur until 50 yrs from now.

Andrew Barron asked what assumptions were built into this. Dr. Winslow stated that a 40 yr assumption on the physical evolution of the channel is built in and that does not include the 15 yrs to construct. However, subsidence is not calculated in the land building capacity of the Third Delta Conveyance Channel.

When subsidence is incorporated, only 16.6 sq. miles will be built during the entire first 20 yrs of the channel being online in Terrebonne.

Dr. Winslow then discussed each of the 3 alternatives. He stated Bayou LaBranch is a good example of the first alternative and added that it built 300 acres of wetland habitat. The sediments were transported from Lake Ponchartrain at 90,000 cubic yards of sediment per day from one dredge.

Dr. Winslow then discussed examples of where pipeline sediment delivery has been successful.

He stated there were 3 different approaches, defensive, neutral and aggressive. The defensive approach has a land building goal of 5 sq. miles per year. The neutral approach has a goal of 10 sq. miles of land per year and the aggressive approach has a goal of 15 sq. miles per year. However, the land loss of 8.3 sq. miles per year has to be taken into account. If 90,000 cubic yds of sediment were to be pumped, which has been proven to be successful in LaBranch, for a year, 6 sq. miles of land would be built. This is 3 times the amount that the Third Delta Conveyance Channel would produce at full build out, according to the evaluation.

Dr. Winslow then discussed the areas of coastal Louisiana that would most benefit from pipeline sediment delivery and how the pipeline networks would be utilized and maintained.

Kerry asked Dr. Winslow how many years would it take to rebuild and how much would it cost if the aggressive approach would be used. Dr. Winslow stated that the aggressive approach would yield 15 sq. miles per year and would cost over \$100 million per year. Over a 50 year project life, this would give over 300 sq. miles more land than there is right now.

Vince Guillory asked Kerry what are BTNEP's plans to get this information out to the public. Kerry stated that BTNEP has designated funds to do a contract with Cote Blanche Productions to do a video on the pipeline sediment delivery. Also a brochure will be designed with information the public will be able to understand.

Gary LaFleur made a motion to encourage the BTNEP to stay on the track to support this plan. He also moved to develop a resolution in support of this plan. Jessie Kastler seconded the motion. There was no opposition and no discussion. The motion was passed.

V. New Business

Kerry then introduced John Boyle who discussed FEMA's plan that was developed for Bayou Lafourche to help resolve issues that occurred with the hurricanes but also to improve and make things better so there is less damage in the future. This would include projects that follow BTNEP's CCMP. This plan is now in the hands of the different parishes to push forward.

VI. Adjourn

12:49p