I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call
Management Conference Members Present:
Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
John Walthers-Coastal Conservation Assoc. of Louisiana
John Tessvich-Commercial Fisheries
Chett Chaisson-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
John Clark-Iberville Parish
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish
Matt Benoit-LA Dept. Of Ag & Forestry
Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development
Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education
Emelise Cormier-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Anthony Roussell-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Jerome Zeringue-Louisiana Assoc. of Levee Boards
Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowners Assoc.
Ed Landgraf-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gass Assoc.
Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teacher’s Assoc.
John Conover-LUMCON
David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center
David Muth-National Park Service
Gary LaFleur-Nicholls State University
Martha Cazaubon-South Central Planning & Development Comm.
Simone Maloz-South Louisiana Economic Council
Earl Matherne-St. Charles Parish
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Sue Hawes-US Army Corp of Engineers
Dan McQuate-US Coast Guard
Doug Jacobson-US EPA
Ronnie Paille-US Fish & Wildlife
Heidi Hitter-USGS
Rick Hartman-US National Marine Service
John Boatman-USDA/NRCS

Organizations not represented:
American Sugarcane League
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Lafourche Parish

LA Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Louisiana Farm Bureau
B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the November 7, 2007 meeting
David Bourgeois moved to dispense of the reading of the minutes and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted. There were no objections.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Personnel Changes
Student workers- Lainey Pitre resigned, Bobbi Sue Prejean hired

B. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips
Wal-Mart Executives Dickenson College Field Trip
Debris Removal w/Verda Valley School ILGIS Conference-Keynote Speaker, Chicago IL
, Sedona AZ Orange Festival-Belle Chasse
TMDL Bayou Petit Caillou with DEQ staff E. Thibodaux Middle School
Union College Bayou Lafourche Field Trip Houma-Terrebonne RV & Boat Show
Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Project NSU Pre-Service Teacher Workshop
Grand Isle Beach Sweep Barataria Debris Removal w/E.D. White
C. Media Interviews

Katie Mayer—“Climate Ready Estuaries”
- The Tri-Parish Times
  - “Our Work’s Not Done,” [editorial]
- WWLTV
  - Kerry St. Pé, “Solution to Louisiana’s coastal erosion half a world away,”
- The Plaquemines Gazette
  - “Woodlands Trail earns National Coastal America Partnership Award,”, Richard DeMay – award recipient.
- The Times-Picayune
  - “Community Report” BTNEP Coastal America award.
- The Banner-Tribune
  - BTNEP Eagle Expo
  - Richard DeMay, 2008 Tidal Graph Calendar
- KTIB radio
  - Kerry St. Pé, “NEP anniversary,”
  - Vince Guillory, LDWF and Shelley Sparks, Crab Trap Removal and BTNEP volunteer program
- The Houma Courier
  - Kerry St. Pé in listing of Governor Jindal’s Coastal Restoration and Hurricane Protection Advisory Council.
  - Michael Massimi, about how land loss affects birds and native plants
  - Discovery center organizers will work with LUMCON and BTNEP for guidance in wetlands education
  - BTNEP volunteer project.
  - BTNEP Christmas tree volunteer project
  - Michael Massimi, invasive apple snail
- The Cajun Gazette, (Pierre Part, LA)
  - BTNEP Eagle Expo.
- The Daily Comet
  - Michael Massimi, about how land loss affects birds and native plants
  - BTNEP Christmas tree volunteer project.
  - BTNEP volunteer event.
  - Michael Massimi, invasive apple snail
- Gumbeaux Magazine (Lake Charles, LA)
  - BTNEP Eagle Expo.
March 6, 2008

- **‘E’ The Environmental Magazine**
  - Kerry St. Pé about wetland loss in Louisiana.

- **The Tri-Parish Times**
  - Michel Claudet, Terrebonne Parish President spoke with BTNEP about coastal restoration and preservation.

- **The Advocate**
  - BTNEP Eagle Expo.
  - BTNEP volunteer event
  - 2008 Birding Calendar
  - Richard DeMay, 2008 Tidal Graph Calendar
  - Mel Landry, Christmas tree restoration volunteer project

- **The Daily Review**
  - BTNEP volunteer project, Grand Isle Beach Sweep

- **Southwest Daily News (Sulphur, LA)**
  - Richard DeMay, 2008 Birding Calendar.

- **Bayou Catholic**
  - Volunteer event in Barataria preserve.

- **“WWLTV Investigates on Eyewitness News**
  - “Coastal restoration yet to get into full swing,” BTNEP wetland loss animation used.

### D. Meetings

- **Meeting Details**

  - Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
    - Multiple Lines of Defense Plan Workshop
  - Eagle Expo Planning Meeting
  - Invasive Species Rapid Assessment Meeting
  - America’s Wetlands “A New Sustainability for the Future of the Gulf Coast”
  - Staff EPA Performance Evaluation Meeting
  - Wetlands Discovery Center
  - Elmer’s Island Meeting
  - Invasive Plant Control Training Workshop - Alabama
  - LSU Ag Center & America’s Wetland Partnership Opportunities Volunteers
  - Ecosystems Function & Dynamic: Atchafalaya River
  - Bayou Lafourche Corridor Plan & Bayou Lafourche History Outreach Project
  - Underserved/Under-represented/GOMA Grant w/Dr. Diane Austin
  - Smart Growth Conference-Washington, DC
  - ANEP/NEP Spring Meeting-Washington, DC
  - Regional Planning Team Meeting - Morgan City
  - Regional Planning Team Meeting - New Orleans
  - New Orleans Historic Collection

  - ANEP/NEP Fall Meeting-San Juan, Puerto Rico
  - LUMCON Open House Meeting
  - CWPPRA RPT Voting-Baton Rouge
  - Wading Bird Colonies Meeting
  - Governor’s Transition Team Meeting
  - CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting
  - USDA Plant Materials Evaluation
  - E. D. White Education Training Plan w/Sister Barbara
  - Bayou Lafourche Focus Team Meeting
  - Terrebonne Parish Science Fair Judging
  - CWPPRA Outreach Meeting
  - Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species w/ Task Force
  - Senate Natural Resource Committee
  - Habitat Evaluation Team/LACRP
  - CPRA Annual Plan Meeting-Houma
  - LACRP meeting with NGO’s-Vicksburg, MS
  - CWPPRA Task Force Meeting
  - LDEQ NPS Interagency Meeting
  - Migratory Bird Action Plan Team Mtg.
  - Donaldsonville to the Gulf
  - Clean Water Initiative w/DEQ
  - Gulf of Mexico Alliance Env. Ed. 5 Yr Strategic Plan
  - Chuck Wilson w/SeaGrant- Children’s Museum
E. Projects Initiated
1. “Conversion of Educational BTNEP Videos to DVD” - S. Testroet-Bergeron
2. “Organization and Development of Symposia and Mini-Grants Program for Strengthening the GOMA: Enhancing Local Capacity to Reach Underserved and Underrepresented Populations” - Shelley Sparks
3. “Technical and Logistical Support for Strengthening the GOMA: Enhancing Local Capacity to Reach Underserved and Underrepresented Populations” - Shelley Sparks
4. “Production of the Paddle Bayou Lafourche Paddling Trip 2008” - Shelley Sparks
5. “Development of a Video Addressing Coastal Land Loss and the Use of Pipeline Slurry as a Restoration Tool” - R. DeMay

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 5th, 2008

IV. Discussion Items

A. Christmas Tree Project - Jason Smith, Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept.
Jason started his presentation by stating that this project is a tool to getting the public aware of coastal wetland loss. There has been a lot of press coverage, especially this year, which got the community, especially kids, involved.

He stated the project was partially funded by a $53,000 grant from LDNR, along with corporate donations. There were many volunteers, civic clubs, BTNEP, and environmental organizations that were there to help.

The trees came from Jefferson and Plaquemine Parishes.

Most of the project took place in Goose Bayou. Jason then discussed how the sites progressed over the years.

B. H-2-0 Water Quality Workshop - Jennifer “Murt” Conover, LUMCON
Murt informed the MC that this workshop was held at LUMCON and funded by BTNEP Education Action Plan Team.

She stated the objectives of the workshop were:
1. to re-introduce teachers to BTNEP and LUMCON and the estuary
2. to further teacher understanding of water quality issues within the estuary and the LUMCON Bayouside Classroom program
3. to provide teachers with resources to implement the Bayouside Classroom program in their own classroom

She then explained to the MC what the Bayouside Classroom provides to the teachers and students. She stated the goals of the program are to teach students science using hands on techniques so they will be able to answer questions scientifically using the scientific method and to promote stewardship.

Bayouside Classroom currently has 88 trained teachers. There is 7 years worth of data on the Bayouside Classroom database.
Murt stated that the H-2-O workshop took the place of the S.T.E.P.S. workshop. She then went over the schedule of the workshop.

C. **LaCPR HET Restoration Alternatives for the B-T**, Ronnie Paille, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ronnie informed the MC that LaCPR evaluated multiple alternative plans for restoration, including the State’s preliminary draft Master plan and LCA.

Two new alternatives were also developed for the Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries. These 2 alternatives included ways diversions could be operated off the Mississippi River. The goal of these alternatives is to achieve “no net loss” of wetlands based on year 2010 wetland acreages.

Ronnie then described the two diversion plans, R1 and R2, and showed results of the diversion influenced areas in the Barataria Bay.

He then stated that the methods used could not calculate the synergistic benefits. He then went over some of the predicted results from each of the plans.

Ronnie then went over the projected results of the plans in the Terrebonne Bay. However, the Atchafalaya River would be used with smaller GIWW type diversions since the Mississippi River is not within reach for West and South Terrebonne.

Ronnie stated that before these plans could be further studied or put into place, sediment sources needed to be identified.

There was then discussion of Ron Bustany’s model which was used in developing these plans.

D. **2009 CPRA Draft Annual Plan**-David Miller, LDOTD
David stated that the public comment period for the annual plan had been extended through March 13th. He stated that the idea with the annual plan was to bring a draft to the public and stakeholders for comment. He stated three regional planning groups would be developed to interface with the public and stakeholders on a regular basis.

The annual plan is set up to deal with projects that are in the Master Plan that was completed last year and approved by the Legislature. It will provide accountability in that things will be done under an umbrella. It will show everyone how the funds are being spent and it will provide a framework to show the funding needs for FY09, as well as projected funding needs for FY10 and FY11.

In the future, the annual plans will have performance measures and performance indicators that are outcome based.

Project criteria for the plan included needing to be consistent with the Master Plan, they have to come from the three major basins and emergency projects have to be considered.

David then talked about the funding sources: traditional, CPR Trust Fund and Capital Outlay; and non-traditional, CIAP and CWPPRA.

He then discussed some of the projects that will be funded through this plan.

David stated that this plan has to be submitted to the House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Natural Resources on March 19th for their approval.
E. Point-aux-Chenes Stormwater Redirection Project Update—Dr. John Day, LSU

Dr. Day stated that this 3-year project has been looking at the impact of stormwater from the Point aux Chenes pumping station.

Dr. Day showed aerial images of land accretion and mud flat formation in the area over a 3 year period. This project was designed to add sediments, increase vegetative cover, and freshen the area. He stated that data showed a reduction in nutrients from the impacted area from where the water flows out under the Isle de Jean Charles road. Total suspended solids and dissolved oxygen have increased, whereas fecal coliform was much lower in distant sites. There was no significant change in aboveground bio-mass, but the vegetation is spreading. Findings show that the receiving area has freshened, nutrients are being retained, and the marsh is healthy and spreading.

This project is demonstrating that a pumping station of the size of the Pointe aux Chenes station can significantly lower salinity, assimilate nutrients and promote the spreading of marsh vegetation.

Darin Lee pointed out that the Pointe aux Chenes WMA had put in flap gates on the culvert that is the only outlet for the area that receives the water from the pumping station, and that the decrease in salinity is partially a result of the flap gates.

V. New Business

Rick Hartman made a few announcements concerning Davis Pond, and CIAP project.

VI. Adjourn