Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #76 Final Minutes

Plantation Suite – NSU Student Union

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, July 28, 2016

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Delaina LeBlanc  Emily Clark  Kristy Monier | X  X  X  X  X  X | Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief | | | X  X  X  X | Seth Moncrief  Susan Testroet-Bergeron  Steve Mathies, Director Emeritus  Kerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus | |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | | ***Member*** | | | ***Alternate*** | |
| American Sugarcane League | | | |  | Herman Waguespack | |  | John Constant |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | | | |  | Hugh Caffery | |  | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | |  | Kimberly Reyher | |  | Deb Abibou  Giovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority | | | |  | Chip Kline | | X  X  X  X | Austin Faldbaum  Brad Miller  Bren Haase  Carol Parsons Richard  Daniel Dearmond  Darin Lee  Elizabeth Shoenfelt  Robert Routon  Honora Buras  Jason Lanclos  Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc  Karim Belhadjali  Michael Ellis  Kenneth Bahlinger  Natalie Peyronnin  Rudy Simoneaux  Thomas McLain |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | |  | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Chett Chaisson | | X | Davie Breaux  Joni Tuck |
| Iberville Parish | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish | | | |  | Marnie Winter | | X | Jason Smith  Seamus Riley  Matt Sevier (BTEF-BM) |
| LA Association of Conservation District | | | |  | Ruben Dauzat | |  | Brad Spicer  Jerome Cantrelle |
| LA Association of Levee Boards | | | | X | Dwayne Bourgeois | |  |  |
| LA Department of Ag & Forestry | | | |  | Joey Breaux | |  | Carrie Castille  Caitlin Lambert  Faran Dietz |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism | | | |  | Debra Credeur | |  | Karen Leathem  Linda Smith |
| LA Dept. of Economic Development | | | |  | Paul Sawyer | |  | Anne Perry |
| LA Department of Education | | | |  | Ann Wilson | |  | Jill Cowart |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | | | |  | Christy Rogers  Andy Ventuo | | X | Gregory Waldron  Mary Gentry  Karen Vidrine |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | | | |  | Chasity Cheramie | | X | John Williams  David Baggs |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | | X | Charles Reulet | | X | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | |  | Brady Carter  Jeff Marx | | X | Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble  Kristen Thibodeaux |
| LA Forestry Association | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  | Randy Robichaux | |  |  |
| LA Landowners Association | | | | X | Tim Allen | | X | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  |  | | X | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | | | |  | Brian Wynne | | X | David Gisclair  Karolien Debusschere |
| LA Science Teachers Association | | | |  | Shannon Lafont | | X | Tera LaPrarie  Nathan Cotten  Nicole Cotten  Jean May-Brett  Natalie Lirette |
| LA Wildlife Federation | | | | X | B.J. Barney Callahan | |  | Rebecca Triche |
| Lafourche Parish | | | |  |  | |  | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | | X | Rex Caffey | | X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Don Davis |
| LUMCON | | | |  | Dr. Craig McClain | | X | John Conover  Murt Conover  Nancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | | X | Richard Hartman | | X | Lisa Abernathy  Mel Landry  Twyla Cheatwood |
| Nicholls State University | | | | X | Dr. Bruce Murphy  Jeanne Murphy | | X  X | Gary LaFleur  Quenton Fonteno |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | | X | Vincent Frelich | | X | Robert Spears  Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | |  | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | | X | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council | | | |  | Vic Lafont | | X | Simone Maloz  John Lombardo |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | | X | Jonathan Foret | | X | Angelle Percle |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | |  | Al Levron | | X | Mart Black |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | | X | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | | X | Angela Rathle | | X  X  X  X  X  X | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Alexa Romersa  Nuri Melancon  Clare Lister  Rebecca Flourney |
| US Coast Guard | | | |  | Charles Reed | |  | Brian Black |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | |  | Susan Hennington | | X | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Sarah Bradley  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | | X | Doug Jacobson | |  |  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck |
| USDA/NRCS | | | |  | Quin Kinler | | X | John Boatman  Ryan Johnson  Alton James  Andrea Moore Harris  Arnelis Crespo  Russell Richard  Scott Edwards |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X | Phil Turnipseed  Kate Spear  Nikki Cavalier  Victoria Segrera  Melissa Collin  Cole Ruckstuhl |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X | Earl Melancon | |  | Nolan Falgout, III  Paula Rome  Matt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | | | |  | Christy Naquin | |  |  |
| Bayou Grace | | | |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler | |  | Jenny Dupre  Anne Parr |
| Bayou Land RC & D | | | |  | Dr. Colleen Butler  Jennifer Roberts | |  |  |
| Bayou Some Fun | | | |  | Dottie Hartman | |  |  |
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | | | | X | Bruce Baird | |  |  |
| Conoco Phillips | | | |  | Betsy Brien | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | |  | Jacob Batte | | X | Bridgete Mire  Sean Ellis |
| Ducks Unlimited | | | |  | Leslie Suazo | |  | Joe Fifer |
| Grand Isle Port Commission | | | |  | Wayne Keller | |  |  |
| Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw | | | |  | Chief Albert P. Naquin | |  |  |
| Lori LeBlanc LLC | | | |  | Tyler Gray | |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | |  | Tara Richard | |  |  |
| Lowlanders | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | |  |  |
| LSU | | | |  | Loren Hull | |  |  |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux | | X  X  X  X | Jenny Schexnayder  Keri Turner  Allyse Ferrara  Ashleigh Lambiotte(Student) |
| NSU Biology | | | |  |  | |  | Nicole Lundberg |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | | X | David Cavell | |  |  |
| Public Schools | | | | X | Tina Galler | |  |  |
| RES | | | | X | Frank Cuccio | |  |  |
| Restore Council | | | |  | Justin Ehrenwerth | |  | John Ettinger |
| Restore or Retreat | | | |  | Simone Maloz | |  | John Lambardo |
| Royal Engineering | | | |  | Shelley Sparks | |  | Kirk Rhinehart |
| Ryan Productions | | | |  | Andre’ Lyons | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | |  | Andy Wellbaum | |  |  |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  |  |
| St. John Parish | | | | X | Evelyn Campo | |  |  |
| Soil and Water Consortium | | | | X | Courtney Nelson | |  |  |
| TLCD | | | |  | Angela Rains | |  | Darin Guidry |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) | | | |  |  | |  | Melanie Sand  Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory (Guest Speaker | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Victoria Phaneuf | |  | Morgan Lundy |
|  | | | |  | Chuck Simmons | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
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**Minutes from Management Conference #76**

**1.** Management Conference members and guests were asked to introduce themselves by stating their name and

affiliation. Those who had not checked in with Emily Clark at the door were asked to do so.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS DATE MEETING**

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the May 7, 2015 minutes and to accept them as submitted. Motion carried.

**2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

1. Personnel Changes – New Director at LUMCON, Dr. Craig McClain.
2. Mrs. Murphy made a presentation thanking everyone present and gave an update on Nicholls State University’s efforts in working with local groups to preserve and restore the estuary. She discussed the new non-profit Friends of Bayou Lafourche.
3. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips/Volunteer Events

Susan discussed the improvement of BTNEP’s marketing plan thanks to Kristy. The Estuary Artworks project and the calendar made were also discussed. WETSHOP was also deemed a success by Alma.

Seth discussed the plantings done. Air potatoes were picked out and crab trap removals were done and will continue to be done. The next Resident’s Guide was introduced. The topic is on coastal wetlands restoration, there are many copies available. CWPPRA was identified as a partner.

Michael introduced the invasive species mini grants. They were opened, applications were being taken. $20,000 has been set aside in order to fund a few of the highest ranked applications.

Richard discussed the bird projects including the radio receiver towers that are being used to detect nanotags placed on migratory animals, such as birds. This data is being used to build an array of the distribution of migratory animals in collaboration with Wildlife and Fisheries. The organization called Motus will be joined. This organization collects data from the Nano tagging of migratory animals and combines it. This data is then sent to the various researchers. Nanotags will be put on Least Terns and Wilson Plovers located near Grand Isle and Port Fourchon.

Andrew discussed engaging in a contract with DEQ which will work on water quality sampling in the Bayou Folse area. This will include sampling in the area. Hopefully DEQ will be moving to contract soon. BTNEP also has a contract with a GIS expert to redo the TM map. This project has been in the works for a while; however, Andrew has confidence in the new GIS expert.

Natalie discussed partnering up with Boy Scouts in order to build nest boxes which were then employed. The boxes were successful this year and resulted in many waterfowl chicks fledging from the boxes. Geo-locators were placed on the adults in order to track their migratory pattern. There is interest to build an educational kiosk in the park to provide information on the waterfowl species. There is also an interest in expanding the area in which these nesting boxes are located.

Emily discussed the collaboration with CPRA to discuss an experiment looking at the nesting habits of mostly Least Terns and Wilson Plovers which are utilizing the restored beach habitat on the Caminada headlands. This experiment will be conducted over a multi-year period. The first season of data collection is just being finished up. Next year supplementary materials will be placed on the beach, in order to see how restoration projects can possibly increase the productivity of beach nesting birds.

Delaina discussed the Piping Plover surveys. This is the third year that surveys have been conducted. Surveys are also being continued on Red Knots. Delaina is also planning a fall opportunity for banding and tracking the Red Knots. The birds banded in the past have been spotted in various areas across south Louisiana. In the future data is to be compiled from the banding and tracking efforts of these birds to further understand their survivability and how they are using the ecosystem.

Production of plants at the farm has been increasing, and is predicted to continue increasing. The Wetland Warriors group has helped with plantings even during the summer heat. Organization at the farm is also being done.

Future meeting dates are scheduled for November 3, 2016 and February 2, 2107

A slide of events with dates was shown.

1. Media Interviews

All media events were listed in the agenda.

1. Meetings

All program meetings were listed in the agenda.

1. Projects Status

All projects initiated and completed were listed on the agenda.

**3. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Reminders − November 3, 2016 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

− February 2, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

− May 4, 2017 – Cotillion Ballroom @ NSU Student Union

− August 3, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

− November 2, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

BTNEP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan Update by Committee – CCMP Committee Co-chairs

1. Revision of CCMP –

Andrew Barron

The revision of the CCMP is the current main focus. The original CCMP was written from 1990-1996. During this writing period around 250 people met monthly in order to write this plan. Several committees are meeting and taking on different action plans. Everyone attending this meeting should view themselves as a part of the CCMP. Without the people present, the CCMP cannot be fully implemented.

Susan Testroet-Bergeron (Committee 1 – Coordinated Planning: Implementation)

All of the co-chairs got together to agree on what would be put into the CCMP. An outline was made from this meeting, agreeing on a strategy of revision and common goals. Committee 1 is coordinated planning and program implementation. Legislative Education was moved into Coordinated Planning. Centralized data sets were moved to Coordinated Planning. It was decided that a management conference would be kept. It was decided that point of contacts was also already established. Common ground solutions and decision making is in the making of being modified. The names of the members of Committee 1 were read.

Dr. Steve Mathies (Committee 2 - Restoration)

Steve was a part of the team that wrote the first CCMP. He encourages all to read the original CCMP. The major issue of the original CCMP was habitat loss. A lot of input was made from various sources on the original. The current committee is looking at what is written before and whether or not it applies today. The first draft is planned to be received in October. Originally there were seven action plans, there are still 7 but some have been combined and new ones have been added. The current changes are: hydrologic restoration is being changed to hydrologic restoration and management, freshwater and sediment diversion is being combined into river diversions, Bayou Lafourche’s action plan will be looked at and revised, beneficial use of dredge material and indigenous use of other materials will focus on the beneficial use of dredge materials, preservation of barrier islands will be kept but will include the sources of offshore sand, living shorelines was added to shoreline stabilization, marsh management was moved to another action plan, the new action plan will focus on flood risk reduction and coastal resiliency.

Kerry St. Pé (Committee 3 - Water Quality)

All of the action plans of the original CCMP were ways to address the seven priority problems. Three of these seven priority problems are habitat or land loss issue related. Three other priority problems are water quality issues. The final priority problem is changes in living resources. Ten action plans were to be addressed. Nutrient, habitat, and toxic contaminant loading evaluation were changed to pollutant identification and assessment. Contaminated sediment databases (EM 13) will be included into EM 8. Oil and produced water spill prevention and early detection used to keep track of individual spills via the DEQ, however DEQ no longer keeps track of individual spills. A new system will need to be developed in order to keep track of the amount of spills. The point is to prevent the amount of spills. Reduction of sewage pollution was changed to improve water quality through reduction of sewage pollution. Reduction of agricultural pollution was changed to be named improve water quality through the reduction of agricultural pollution. Storm water management was also changed to improve water quality through storm water management. Assessment of toxic and noxious phytoplankton bloom was kept as is. Citizen monitoring program will be moved to citizen environment programs and activities. Urban green spaces were suggested to be moved to ecological management. Storm water drain stenciling was moved to SR3.

Dr. Earl Melancon (Committee 4 – Living Resources)

The first thing done as a committee was the recognition that the original CCMP contained a lot of good material. It was also recognized that an update is needed. Five action plans that they were originally met with were reduced into three. Nutria market development was recommended to be moved to the economic group. Protection of habitat for migratory and resident birds was originally the hottest topic. This was changed to attempt to maintain the diversity of living resources, not just birds. This action plan is likely to be very large. This action plan will be broken down into taxonomic groups. Invasive species will also be looked at, especially those that have an impact on our local estuary. Centralized data sets will be looked at in order to make BTNEP a support to all data sets being made. An initial draft is projected to be made by August. Earl and Rick will do an initial editing.

Seth Moncrief (Committee 5 and 7 - Citizen Involvement and Sustained Recognition)

Citizen Involvement and Sustained Recognition will be combined into one committee. There are ten action plans that this committee will oversee. These ten action plans will be condensed into four more broad action plans. The names of these action plans are currently Community Engagement (Community Sectors and Leader Teams, Citizen Involvement Programs and Activities, Citizen Monitoring Program, and Storm Drain Stenciling). The second action plan will be changed to Civic Engagement (Participatory Meetings and Forums). The third action plan will be Media Engagement (Media Support). The fourth action plan will be Public Information (Speakers Bureau, Audio and Digital Materials, Distribution of Information Materials, and the 1-800 number). No action plans were gotten rid of, they were just condensed and put into broader action plans.

Alma Robichaux-Jackson (Committee 8 – Education)

Most of the things for education have not changed. There will be an effort to reach education programs other than the K-12 group.

Dr. Rex Caffey (Committee 9 – Economics)

The committee has not yet met. The previous action plans will be covered; some may be changed or be added to.

Susan Testroet-Bergeron (Committee 6 – Cultural Heritage)

Committee 6 has only one action plan and the team is moving forward.

Susan asks that if anything is missing, that anyone can notify her. Dr. Kerry Turner was also recognized for help. She will be writing all of the plans so that they flow and sound like one voice. Doug Jacobson commended everyone for all the work done so far.

**5. CPRA 2017 Master Plan**

1. Michael Ellis (CPRA)

Three projects will start soon, one in Plaquemines and two one the East side of the river. CPRA was able to meet with the governor for about five hours. It was very well received, and he plans to support the updated plan. They are currently looking to hire a new outreach and engagement person.

1. Karim Belhadjali (CPRA)

The master plan is not just a plan that sits on a shelf it is a plan of action and is about implementing projects. An executive order was signed by Governor Edwards that discusses all state activities on the coast being consistent with the state master plan. The objects from the 2012 master plan are to be kept in the 2017 master plan. In the 2017 master plan there will be improved resolution on the models. New ideas were collected from various sources to be included in the 2017 master plan. There is also a greater focus on community resilience in the 2017 master plan. There will also be a more in depth approach to non-structural action plans in order to get money to the community faster and more effectively. The risk viewer will also be revamped with new data and made available to the public. There will also be an attempt to make the master plan more available to the communities of coastal Louisiana. There is a plan to emphasize national significance of the plan as well. Near term and long term benefits should be balanced. Modeling will be done in order to determine which projects will do best under future uncertainties. Throughout the development of this project there will be research and engagement in order to reach out and receive input.

**6.**  **Flesh Eating Bacteria – Alma Robichaux-Jackson, BTNEP**

The *vibrio* *spp.* Responsible for this is not containment. There is more than one type of bacteria that cause infection for type I, type II is occurs in hospitals and accounts for 70-80% of cases, type III is the *vibrio spp*. That is the same one found in oysters, Type IV is a fungal infection. There are 600-700 cases annually. In Louisiana there are about 10 cases annually. This infection usually occurs in someone who is immunocompromised or has insect bites or abrasions. This is treated with antibiotics, and the symptoms are very painful and occur quickly.

**7.** **Apple Snails - Julie Whitbeck & Staff, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve**

Jean Lafitte park has been working with conservation legacy which places environmental stewards to bring two individual stewards to the park to work on invasive species projects. BTNEP has helped found the invasive species projects here. For three and a half years the *salvinia spp.* has been being worked on. This year in addition to monitoring *salvinia spp.* there has been an extension to managing apple snails by looking at their early life history stages. Apple snails consume mainly floating and submerged aquatic vegetation. It is easy to locate apple snail eggs to do their color. Eggs are typically laid above the water line on woody or herbaceous structures. Pam contains canola oil which is a natural herbicide, there are currently ten sites being sprayed in. It is believed that the canola oil can suffocate the egg masses. The experiment has also been expanded to City Park. The egg masses treated with pam have a hatch rate of 20% and the untreated egg masses have a hatch rate of 40%. In the future they would like to have more community outreach projects involved in spraying apple snail eggs.

**8.** **Update on LSU’s Center for River Studies and Expanding Small Scale Physical Models – Thomas McClain, CPRA**

In 2003, a small scale model of the Mississippi River was built in France and shipped to LSU. This model has been used to study things such as river dynamics, sediment management practices, and the effects of large scale sediment diversions. The river diversions were able to show that the large scale river diversions had the potential to build land. In 2010 building a larger model was looked into. The construction of this model was delayed in 2014 due to high river events. Since then the model space itself has been finished. The domain of the original model has been increased. The model scaling has also been improved. The new model will include 1400 square miles from Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico. The Center for River Studies should be turned over to LSU’s possession in about a week or two.

**9. New Business**

1. Michael Massimi (BTNEP)

Michael showed a presentation on the flower garden banks. It is the northern most coral reef in this hemisphere. Over the last few years the flower garden banks expansion program has evolved. A draft of the environmental impact statement has been made. Public comment is being requested on this draft. There are five alternatives of expansion, each alternative increases the amount of area protected. NOAA prefers that alternative three be the one implemented.

1. David Gisclair (LOSCO)

The source for the Hill Corp Energy Spill located near Lake Washington oil field was an out of service flow line that is checked daily. The check valve on the line failed which resulted in the spill. The source remained secured and the whole thing has been shut down relative to that point source. Aerial flights are performed daily to attempt to recover more oil. Most of the oil is contained within the marsh around the source.

**10.** **ADJOURN**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meetings adjourned.

Power point presentations can be found on our website at [www.BTNEP.org](http://www.BTNEP.org)