Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #77 Roll Call

Plantation Suite – NSU Student Union

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, November 3, 2016

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Dean Cooper  Delania LeBlanc  Emily Clark | X  X  X  X | Kristy Monier  Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay | | | X  X  X  X | Seth Moncrief  Siva Nunna  Susan Testroet-Bergeron  Steve Mathies, Director Emeritus  Kerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus | |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | | ***Member*** | | | ***Alternate*** | |
| American Sugarcane League | | | | X | Herman Waguespack | |  | John Constant |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | | | |  | Hugh Caffery | | X | 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 | 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  Jim Pahl |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | | X | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Chett Chaisson | | X | Davie Breaux  Joni Tuck |
| Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities | | | | X | Morgan Crutcher | |  |  |
| 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 | | X | Carrie Castille  Caitlin Lambert  Faran Dietz  Jeremy Rodriguez |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| 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 | | | |  | Jill Cowart | | X | Lydia Hill |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | | | |  | Christy Rogers  Andy Ventuo | |  | Gregory Waldron  Mary Gentry  Karen Vidrine |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | | | | X | Chasity Cheramie | |  | John Williams  David Baggs |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | |  | Charles Reulet | | X  X | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley  Rod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Brady Carter  Jeff Marx | |  | 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  Bob Stewart | | X | Rebecca Triche  Stacy Ortego |
| Lafourche Parish | | | |  |  | | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | |  | Rex Caffey | | X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Don Davis |
| LUMCON | | | | X | Dr. Craig McClain | |  | John Conover  Murt Conover  Nancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | |  | Richard Hartman | | X | Mel Landry  Twyla Cheatwood |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Bruce Murphy  Jeanne Murphy | | X | Gary LaFleur  Quenton Fontenot |
| 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 | | | | X | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| South Louisiana Economic Council | | | |  | Vic Lafont | | X | Simone Maloz  John Lombardo |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | |  | Jonathan Foret | |  | Angelle Percle |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | | X | Al Levron | |  | Mart Black |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | |  | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | | X | Angela Rathle | |  | 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 | | | | X | Susan Hennington | |  | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Sarah Bradley  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | Doug Jacobson | |  |  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | | X | 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  X  X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Nikki Cavalier  Phil Turnipseed  Victoria Segrera |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X | Earl Melancon | |  | Nolan Falgout, III  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) | | | |  | Bruce Baird | |  |  |
| Conoco Phillips | | | |  | Betsy Brien | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | |  | Jacob Batte | |  | Bridgete Mire  Sean Ellis |
| Ducks Unlimited | | | | X | Leslie Suazo | |  | Joe Fifer |
| Entergy | | | | X | Steve Tullos | |  |  |
| 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 | | | |  | Keri Turner  Alex Arceneaux | |  | Allyse Ferrara  Ashleigh Lambiotte(Student) |
| NSU Biology | | | |  |  | |  | Nicole Lundberg |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | |  | David Cavell | |  |  |
| Public Schools | | | |  | Tina Galler | |  |  |
| RES | | | |  | 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 | |  | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  |  |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | |  |  |
| Tulane University | | | | X | Torbjorn Tornqvist | |  |  |
| TLCD | | | |  | Angela Rains | |  | Darin Guidry |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) | | | |  | Melaine Sand | |  | Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory (Guest Speaker | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Victoria Phaneuf | |  | Morgan Lundy |
| Water Institute of the Gulf | | | | X | Scott Hemmerling | |  |  |
| Guest | | | |  | Cyndi Chez | | X | Kacie Brown |
| Guest | | | | X | Aubrey Cooper | |  |  |

**Minutes from Management Conference #77**

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

affiliation. Those who had not checked in at the door where 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 Management Conference #77 minutes and to accept them as submitted. Motion carried.

**2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

1. Personnel Changes – New Director at LUMCON, Dr. Craig McClain. New Water Quality scientist at BTNEP, Siva Nunna. New Student Intern at BTNEP is Justin Homer.
2. Dr. Craig McClain announced that he has been the Executive Director since July 1st. He plans to grow LUMCON over the next 5 years. This year 3 new faculty will be hired, next year another 3 new faculty members will be hired. The goal at the end of the 5 years is to have about 12 members of faculty. He is also working on having a better relationship with Nicholls. Currently he is working to raise funds to replace the research vesicle, the Pelican. There are now three equal parts to LUMCON that have equal weight. The three equal parts are research, conservation, programs of the consortium, and education outreach programs. Two new educators have been hired in the education outreach programs. Four new one week programs will be introduced during the summer focusing on skills. The goal for the population of LUMCON during the summer is to have the dorms full at all times. He would also like to serve the community better.
3. Michael Massimi talked about acquiring $250,000 through the Federal Department of Justice. This money was received through the Foundation and will be used for a restoration project on Grand Isle removing Chinese tallow trees. Grand Isle also has a pretty bad infestation of morning glory vines. The project will replant Grand Isle with native tree species and pollinator species. Foundation is the lead on this project and it’s a 2-year contract. We will start pretty soon. Grand Isle State Park stands to be a much nicer forest in the future.
4. Kristy Monier talked about the Estuary Artworks event at the Purple Penguin in Thibodaux. It’s the 3rd year for the event and it was opened up to all students in the 16 parishes from K-12th. She displayed the winners on the table. A team also picked 9 additional drawings to produce our first Estuary Artwork Calendar in 2017.It is featuring 13 of the artist; on the cover, and then each month, then she added 4 in the back as honorable mention. Students from as far away as Point Coupee, Thomas Jefferson High School, and St Charles Parish, so she thinks it will do what she wanted to do in reaching these other parishes and these students. BTNEP is going to print a thousand of these, so if you would like a calendar please let Kristy know the art work is great and the kids are very talented.
5. Susan Testroet-Bergeron announced that last week Alma Robichaux was recognized as the Distinguished Informal Educator of the year by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association.
6. Alma Robichaux talked about the Marine Debris Prevention Program. Seth and Alma took a group of students down to Elmer’s Island to start the BTNEP Marine Debris in Education and Prevention Program. It was 36 students from 4 different parishes, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Jefferson and it’s all high school Seniors and Juniors. A lot of the students had never seen the beach before, or hadn’t been to the Louisiana coast, students had been to Alabama and Florida. This was a wonderful experience. Elmer’s Island was beautiful and just restored, they walked a mile and a half down the beach. They did have a little restoration finishing up the restoration project so they got to see a newly restored beach. They set out transects, they did a study in marine debris. They are going to go back on December 1st to do the same thing in the same spot to see how much marine debris is accumulating. The students were absolutely great; Seth was amazing with them as well. It was a good educational experience and they got to explore. They were truly amazed at the amount of trash that were on our beaches. This is a newly restored beach. It’s amazing on how much is already there. It was great projest!!
7. Susan made an announcement that all other National Estuary Programs are coming to Louisiana December 9th. BTNEP is going to take the out in the field to go out to Barataria Bay. They will be shown CWPPRA projects and go into the National Park Service. If you’re interested in meeting some of our other directors were going to meet at Sphar’s in the evening on Highway 90 in Des Allemands. This event will be associated with Restore America’s Estuary Conference, which will be starting on Sunday. On Sunday Seth & Michael will host two events; Michael will be taking them to Woodland Conservancy to talk about what’s been going on there and Seth is taking a group out to the Ridge in Port Fourchon to work on restoration.
8. Seth Moncrief talked about November 17th, Central Lafourche High school ROTC program. It will be a 100 students and chaperones going out to Grand Isle State Park and will be doing habitat restoration. Part will be clean up and other parts will be removing overgrown grass areas to improve bird habitat.
9. Richard and his team are continuing to work on the tracking of birds using nano-tags. He has developed a Shorebird publication which he shared. He encouraged everyone to pick up a copy. BTNEP is working on the ducks publication which is next in the series of the bird educational products. Piping Plover work is continuing and will end in December, but plans are being made to continue to collect data of the birds educationally products.
10. Dean stated that BTNEP was issued their grant from EPA that contained the previously approved work plan. The federal budget is projected to increase in FY18 based on recent legislation.
11. Andrew stated that the tidal graph calendar for 2017 is being worked on. The calendar is to focus on bait fish in the Estuary.
12. Media Interviews

All media events were listed in the agenda. Less clippings were noted due to flooding in August.

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 − 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**

1. **Introduction to Climate Change - Dwayne Bourgeois, North Lafourche Levee District**

We have to deal with what we can see that is measurable. One thing that is measurable is relative sea level rise. In our area, relative sea level rise is more about the land going down than the water coming up. Many people seem to be observing this but are unaware of what they are observing. Relative sea level rise is about 1 cm a year. People need to stop thinking about horizontally and instead think vertically when in reference to relative sea level rise. Dwayne used a meter stick to help people understand that one year equals about 1 cm in change in relative sea level.

1. **Sea Level Rise in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan – Jim Pahl, CPRA**

Revisiting the master plan every five years gives an opportunity to stay up to date in science. For the new master plan there are six environmental uncertainties that are the driving forces. These environmental uncertainties include precipitation, evapotranspiration, subsidence, seal level rise, storm frequency, and storm intensity. The intention was to build on the 2012 master plan as well as use up dated scientific findings. In order to proceed with the process of making a new plan, new information after 2014 was not to be considered. The calculated rate of sea level rise is dependent on the period of record, measurement type, as well as other factors. Sea level rise will not be equal all over the globe. There is a 10-20% higher value for the Gulf of Mexico than the global mean.

1. **The Energy Industry’s Engagement in Climate Change and Coastal Louisiana – Steve Tullos**

Entergy is a relatively large investor in utility. Entergy’s goals are a great return, customer satisfaction, and employees that bring social responsibility back to the community. In 2010 Entergy along with American Wetlands did an adaptation study. There is a total asset value at risk of almost $370 billion dollars associated with climate change.

In 2001, Entergy made a commitment to maintain their greenhouse gas emissions. From 2001-2005, greenhouse gases form plants were maintained at the 2000 levels. Their shareholders also spent $25 million to fund projects that helped achieve this goal. By the end of the first year, the greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by about 9% while increasing load by 23%. From 2006-2010, the new goal was set to reduce greenhouse gases by 20%. This goal was surpassed with greenhouse gas emissions 9% below the 20% reduction goal. Evaluations of how structures are being built are being done as well as extreme weather conditions are being experienced. The ability to bring back power into communities recovering from disasters is especially important because of power’s key role in returning normalcy. Transmission lines are being built to new standards associated with resiliency.

1. **Is Coastal Louisiana Sustainable – Torbjorn Tornqvist, Vokes Geology Professor and Chair-Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences**

The future of coastal Louisiana depends primarily on climate change. The rate of sea level rise over the past recent years is a little more than 2mm each year. Grand Isle has a much higher rate of about 1 cm each year. Subsidence is responsible for this difference. Prior to acceleration, sea level rise was about half a mm each year. Subsidence rates can vary over many different factors. The lowest elevations correlate with the oldest areas. One theory for increased subsidence is that it is due to sediment loading from the Mississippi River. This was proven to only contribute to a fraction of the difference of subsidence experienced in the Mississippi delta. Glacial isostatic adjustment is a big player of subsidence that affects most coastlines in the United States. Bayou Lafourche formed a thick layer of sediment. Five years was found to be a good amount of time to find a surface change rate. There is a large amount of spatial variety of subsidence in the Chenier plains. Tide gauges do not play any role in the subsidence analysis. 36% of sites in the Mississippi delta have a significant accretion deficit. Their interest was the calculation of sedimentation rates. A median rate of about 1 cm/year was calculated. This means that the systems can potential accrete at very rapid rates. The Wax Lake Delta is viewed as the poster child for the possibility of accretion; however, the Wax Lake Delta is inefficient. The reason the Wax Lake Delta is inefficient because it is sitting on the open coast where small sediment can be washed away into the Gulf of Mexico. The point is that river diversions need to be built in an area where they can retain more sediment. The is potential for coastal restoration by mimicking the natural processes of the Mississippi River system.

1. **Climate Change and What’s at Risk – Scott Hemmerling, Ph.D.,**

Sea level rise and subsidence have a large impact on coastal communities. There will be an increase in the density of hurricane and tropical storm strikes because of climate change. The industrial infrastructure is a big economic driver in coastal communities. Essential facilities are facilities that are important for community resilience. A timeline was made showing which essential facilities will be taken out by a 100-year storm. Another timeline was made for gas and oil structures located near the coast.

**9. New Business**

1. Susan Testroet-Bergeron

Susan thanks everyone that has been helping with the CCMP. The goal is to have the CCMP action plans written by the end of December 2016.

**10.** **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by David Gisclair and seconded to adjourn by Earl Melancon. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.