Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #80 Roll Call

National Park Services

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, August 3, 2017

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** |
| XXXX | Alma RobichauxAndrew BarronDean Blanchard Dean CooperDelaina LeBlancKristy Monier | XXXXX | Matt BenoitMichael MassimiNatalie WatersNicole BabinRichard DeMaySeth Moncrief | XXXX | Siva NunnaSusan Testroet-BergeronSteve Mathies, Director EmeritusKerry 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 AbibouGiovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA |  | John Walther |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority  |  | Chip Kline |  | Austin Faldbaum Brad MillerBren HaaseCarol Parsons RichardDaniel DearmondDarin LeeElizabeth ShoenfeltRobert RoutonHonora BurasJason LanclosJoseph “Wes” LeBlancKarim Belhadjali Michael EllisKenneth BahlingerNatalie Peyronnin Rudy SimoneauxThomas McLainJim Pahl |
| Commercial Fisheries |  | John Tesvich |  | Peter VujnovicchClint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission |  | Chett Chaisson | XX | Davie BreauxJoni Tuck |
| Iberville Parish |  | John Clark |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish |  | Marnie Winter | X | Jason SmithSeamus RileyMatt Sevier (BTEF-BM) |
| LA Association of Conservation District |  | Ruben Dauzat |  | Brad SpicerJerome Cantrelle |
| LA Association of Levee Boards |  | Dwayne Bourgeois |  |  |
| LA Department of Ag & Forestry |  | Joey Breaux | X | Carrie CastilleCaitlin LambertFaran DietzJeremy Rodriguez |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism |  | Debra Credeur |  | Karen LeathemLinda Smith |
| ***Management Conference Member*** |  | ***Member*** |  | ***Alternate*** |
| LA Dept. of Economic Development |  | Paul Sawyer |  | Anne Perry |
| LA Department of Education |  | Jill Cowart | X | Lydia Hill |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | X | Aimee PreauCrisalda Adams |  | John SheehanJonathan McFarlandJohn Jennings |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals |  | Chasity CheramieMichael Bourgeois | X | John WilliamsKathy LeBlanc |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | X | Charles Reulet |  | Don HaydelSara KrupaRobert WilliamsonTori O’MalleyRod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries |  | Brady CarterJeff Marx |  | Mark SchexnayderChris SchiebleKristen Thibodeaux |
| LA Forestry Association |  |  |  |  |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association |  | Randy Robichaux |  |  |
| LA Landowners Association |  | Tim Allen | X | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association |  |  |  | Ed LandgrafMelissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office |  | Marty J. Chabert | XX | David GisclairKarolien Debusschere |
| LA Science Teachers Association |  | Shannon Lafont | X | Tera LaPrarieNathan CottenNicole CottenJean May-BrettNatalie Lirette |
| LA Wildlife Federation |  | B.J. Barney CallahanBob Stewart |  | Rebecca TricheStacy Ortego |
| Lafourche Parish |  | Jimmy Cantrelle | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant |  | Rex Caffey | X | Julie FalgoutDianne LindstedtEmily Maung-DouglassDon Davis |
| Lowlander Center | X | Kristina Peterson |  |  |
| LUMCON |  | Dr. Craig McClain | X | John ConoverMurt ConoverNancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | X | Richard Hartman | X | Mel LandryTwyla Cheatwood |
| Nicholls State University |  | Dr. Bruce MurphyJeanne Murphy  | X | Gary LaFleurQuenton Fonteno |
| Plaquemines Parish |  | Vincent Frelich Robert Spears |  | Scott RousselleKrista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish |  | J.A. Rummler |  |  |
| Sassafras LA |  | Alex Naquin |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | X | Kevin BelangerMartha Cazaubon |  | Cullen CuroleArianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council |  | Vic Lafont |  | Simone Maloz |
| ***Management Conference Member*** |  | ***Member*** |  | ***Alternate*** |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center |  | Jonathan Foret | X | Angelle PercleSamantha Hicks |
| St. Charles Parish |  | Earl Matherne |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | X | Al Levron |  | Mart Black |
| The Nature Conservancy |  | Jean Landry |  | Nicole LoveKaren Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service |  | Angela Rathle | X | Allyn RodriguezMark FordJulie WhitbeckAlexa RomersaNuri MelanconClare ListerRebecca Flourney |
| US Coast Guard | X | Kelsey Holford |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | X | Susan Hennington |  | Barbara KleissMark WingateCheri PriceSarah BradleyBrad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency |  | William “Bill” Honker |  | Doug Jacobson |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service |  | Ronnie Paille |  | John SavellJeff WellerBrad Rieck |
| USDA/NRCS |  | Quin Kinler | XX | John BoatmanAlton JamesSamuel Terry |
| USGS |  | Scott Wilson |  | Cole RuckstublKate SpearMirka Zapletal Melissa CollinNikki CavalierPhil Turnipseed |
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| ***Guest Organization*** |  | ***Guest*** |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | X | Earl Melancon |  | Nolan Falgout, IIIMatt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum |  | Christy Naquin |  |  |
| Bayou Grace |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler |  | Jenny DupreAnne 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 | X | Dan BoudreauxGarrett Ohlmeyer | X | Bridgete MireAbby Tabor |
| Ducks Unlimited |  | Leslie Suazo |  | Joe Fifer |
| Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities |  | Morgan Crutcher |  |  |
| Grand Isle Port Commission |  | Wayne Keller |  |  |
| Gulf Coast Eco System Restoration Council |  |  |  | John Ettinger |
| Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw |  | Chief Albert P. Naquin |  |  |
| Lori LeBlanc LLC |  | Tyler Gray |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed |  | Tara Richard |  |  |
| LSU |  | Loren Hull |  |  |
| Moffatt & Nichol |  | Jonathan Hird |  |  |
| Nicholls State University |  | Alex ArceneauxJenny Schexnayder | X | Keri TurnerAllyse Ferrara |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | X | David Cavell |  |  |
| Pan Am Communication |  | Lenny Delbert |  | Lenny Delbert Jr. |
| Port of Morgan City |  | Cindy Cutrera |  |  |
| Public Schools |  | Tina Galler |  |  |
| RES |  | Frank Cuccio |  |  |
| Restore Council |  |  |  | John Ettinger |
| Restore or Retreat |  | Simone Maloz | X | Victoria Segrera |
| 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 |  |  |
| TLCD |  | Angela Rains |  | Darin Guidry |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) |  |  |  | Melanie SandKatherine NorwoodBennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory  |  | Martin O’Connell |  |  |
| University of Arizona |  | Victoria Phaneuf |  | Morgan Lundy |
| VISTA | X | Katie DeHart |  |  |
| WYES TV |  | Marcia Kavanaugh |  |  |
|  | X | Vincent Guillory | X | Marty Bourgeois |
| ***Guest Organization*** |  | ***Guest*** |  | ***Guest*** |
| BTNEP Intern. | X | Alexis Rixner |  |  |
| BTNEP Student Workers | X | Justin Homer | X | Maci Schexnaydre |
| Thomassie Construction | X | Thomas Thomassie |  |  |
| Cajun Music Preservation Society | X | Quenton Fontenot |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference #80**

1. Meeting was called to order by Al Levron, BTNEP MC Chairman at 9:30am.
2. Al asked before we get started, “I would like to introduce a special guest- the Captain of the Port, Blake Wellborn. Your comment, sir?” Blake responded, “As stated, I’m Blake Wellborn, Captain of the Port. My area starts from and runs right around Lafayette to Grand Isle. That’s my back yard. My office was recently in Morgan City but because of business factors and with the industry, they decided to move it to Houma. Thank you for the invite and will be willing to chat and I have business cards to give out like tic tacs.”
3. 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 were asked to do so.

1. Reading and Approval of Minutes for MC Meeting #79 – April 25, 2017

A motion was made by David Gisclair and seconded. Al Levron agreed to dispense with the reading of the Management Conference #79 minutes and to accept them as submitted. Motion carried.

1. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
2. It is my honor to announce that our Director, Susan, has received the Gulf Guardian Award.
3. Susan – “We have a lot of things going on, so usually you get to hear from each one of the Program staff, but the staff asked for Dean and I to do a briefing today. So Dean and I will do the briefing and we will show you something new that we created as part of this, and then were going to take a group picture of our CCMP. So Lane Lefort didn’t introduce himself today. He is a contractor for BTNEP right now. I’m sure you’ll know Lane he’s worked with the Corp of Engineers and with CWPPRA for many years. He will take a group picture so we can put it in our new CCMP.” BTNEP MC members agree to take a group picture a bit later in the meeting.
4. Dean – “Usually, once a year, all 28 National Estuary Programs have a meeting in Washington. We usually do Hill visits while we’re there. We meet with the congressmen, discuss the activities of the program and discuss what is coming up. This year we had a bunch of successful meetings. We are funded through September 2018. So this 2018 grant that we discussed at the last meeting and we all agreed upon that work plan was submitted to EPA has funding for the projects. So next year’s funding which would start in October 2018 through September 2019 is on the current federal budget plan. The 2018-19 funding has passed the House again at 600 thousand, and it has our 1.5 million competitive grant components in it next year. It’s in the Senate now. We’re going to see how it’ll come out. They will work with it, play with the bill, and we will see how it will come out. So right now it’s through the House at 600 thousand. So we’re looking good for the 2017-2018 year and the budget is moving forward for 2018-19 also.”
5. Earl - “When did this 1.5 million competitive grant begin?” Dean- “EPA is still trying to develop what they are going to do with it. It was in the bill two years ago to give all NEP’s in the field an increase in their base funding and also develop this competitive grant program.”
6. Earl- “In other words all the estuary programs will competitive for that 1.5 million? Dean: “They’re still developing what’s going to go on. EPA’s going to figure out how they want to handle the funds. It is possible that not just 28 national estuary programs could compete but all of their partners also. So, we just haven’t seen any structure on it yet, on what EPA is coming up with. We were hoping that we wouldn’t be excluded in the application for that 1.5 million. Earl- “One follow-up question, this 600 thousand based funding has that been steady for the last few years has it increased or decreased? Dean- “It’s been steady.” Earl- “For about how long?” Dean- “I guess about the last five years.” Earl- “So you haven’t seen an increase in the last five years?” Dean- “No, and the only increase we get is when EPA make or they want us to do our CCMP.”

Susan- “The next thing we going to talk about is the EPA Program Evaluation. I know I sent several emails about our five years’ program evaluation. You’ll noticed that Doug’s not here today. Doug Jacobson came down and brought Michael Craghan from Washington D.C. and they evaluated the program and they spent 2 days with us. We talked to them about the different projects that we have going on. We were going to go into the field but Tropical Storm Cindy came along so we didn’t go. But we had a huge team effort and I really want to say this, in front of all of you, because you are our bosses; the staff did an extraordinary of sharing what we have, sharing all the projects that we do, where we’re moving, and how things are growing. So I really want you all to show your appreciation to the staff for the 5-year evaluation efforts. It’s been a lot of work and it’s also a lot of paperwork. I think I had to send them 175 files of different things that we’ve been working on and the staff had to get all that stuff together and it had to look just right. So, I really want to thank the staff!

Susan- “There were other groups that participated too. First was our management conference. If you were at that meeting representing the management conference, would you raise your hand. Thank you. So we had several people representing the management conference and the foundation come and talk to EPA about why we do what we do. They got drilled on several things. A couple of things they asked were some pretty tough questions. So these representatives did a great job about sharing your mission and then what they want us to do. So, I really want to thank the BTNEP MC members that came! We had other groups that helped. We had partners. Sometimes we just pick up the phone to call one of our partners and talk to them about project that we were working on together. I think EPA got a pretty good overview of who we are and what we do. What’s going to happen next? EPA was here in June. EPA will write a draft letter and then that has to go up through the EPA chain in Washington D.C. for comments and approval. By the next management conference or before, we should get a final letter based on EPA’s findings during the evaluation. There are three things that can happen: we can pass, pass with a condition, or we can fail. Those are the 3 things. EPA is working on the draft letter right now. Also, Mark Alderson from Sarasota Bay, one of the other National Estuary Programs in Florida came. Mark did a good job of sharing some of the things that is going on there too. It was really interesting. We were happy with that.”

Al Levron- “So does he have anything to do with the EPA letter, and what’s his role?”

Susan- “Yes he does. Mark provides input to the letter and shares the viewpoint of the local NEP”

Susan- “The next thing I have to update you all on is the CCMP. We are making good progress. We have 4 action plans left to finish writing: drinking water, diversion, marsh management, and were still looking at the resiliency one. We haven’t sent these over to Keri Turner. Keri is not here this morning but those are the last few. We also hired Phyllis Lear who is working as our Graphic Design artist and the layout is absolutely beautiful. I had hoped to have it for you all but it’s not going to be done for another few months. I just want it to be right before we put it up on the website. Now, once we get it done, we will put it up for you to review. We need to decide how long it will take for everyone to review. Will a 2- week review period for the BTNEP MC work? Once that is done we will put it out for the public and that has to stay out for two months? It will be about a two-month public review.”

Susan- “I want to talk a little about some other Program Activates, Natalie, Delaina, Richard and Curtis, who is one of our contactors, have been on Grand Isle for a good part of the summer doing Piping Plover surveys. Natalie has been doing her Prothonotary Warbler surveys. All that work is continuing. Andrew and Siva has been working on Bayou Folse, all that is continuing. This year Michael was the key note addressed at the Louisiana Chapter of Fisheries and he talked about invasive species. We also have been working with LUMCON on an H2O Water Quality Workshop. Delaina, Alma, and Andrew were all down with a bunch of teachers for WETSHOP this summer. Matt and Seth have been busy with volunteers. Matt just this week got 3,000 plugs to start working on part time. We will be adding on to the shade house at the Farm this fall or winter so we will keep you’ll posted on that. So it been a very busy few months.

Susan- “We also have a new website. Amy will pull it up. Would you go up and explain? Everyone take out your phones; now you can look at the BTNEP website on our phone. Go to BTNEP.org. You can get the new website. Amy like she said has been working on it. So we kind of want to show it to you. There is a couple of new things that are little bit different than what were on the website before that I would like to point out to you. Amy said these are all standard things now.”

Amy pulls up the website. Amy: “Susan this is the new website. What do you’ll think? As you can see, it says we care working on our CCMP. This is news and events. Facebook will link to this now. We will have an events calendar. We will also have environmental jobs. Susan: “I don’t know about you’ll but I get a bunch of people that sends me jobs and I can’t get that out to everybody. If you send them to us, we will post them here so people can find jobs.” Amy: “The publications, volunteer, education, and calendars paged.” Susan - “Look how pretty it is: isn’t it nice. Okay, now go to programs and pick one of the programs. Amy:- Migratory & Resident Birds, it’s all about birds.” Susan – “They put a side menu, click on the side menu, and it will give you all the things that had formally been in that section.” Amy- “It does the same thing for water quality and education.” Susan – “If you see anything that is wrong in the next couple of weeks; please, let us know. Does anyone have any comments for Amy? No questions.”

Susan- “I do want to tell you the other things that are in here as usual are all the media, other meetings that we participated in and project status. That’s our updates.”

Quick intermission Lane Lefort will take a group management conference photo.

**2. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

* November 2, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union
* February 2018 – Location and Date TBD
* May 2018 – Location and Date TBD
* Earl discusses the date, time, and menu of the upcoming White Boot Gala

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Nathan Cotton, on behalf of Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS), presented “The New Standards” for science curriculum. According to Cotton, the current standards were 20 years old. On March 8, 2017, BESE approved the adoption of new standards. The need for the new standards was important due to recent studies showing students begin forming complex ideas and explanations at an early age, that content and the process of learning must be taught in tandem and it has been proven that depth is more important to student learning than breadth. Louisiana Science Standards are broken down into five domains: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, and Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science.

The new science standards can be found at *www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards.* Be sure to select LSS science standards for a particular grade or subject.

1. Dr. Diaz is an LSU Ag Center entomologist who is studying a small insect that has damaged vegetation key to the survival of Louisiana coastal marsh. For his presentation, Dr. Diaz gave an update on the insect call the Phragmites scale. The insect has damaged a considerable amount of Roseau cane in Plaquemines Parish from Venice to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Roseau cane is a common plant for erosion control at the mouth of the river. The roots of Roseau cane hold marsh soil in place, and it help with coastal land loss. According to Dr. Diaz, it is one of the best plants for preventing erosion. It grows in the deep water and stems reduce wave action. Some of the affected Roseau has started regrowth, but the scales have already established colonies on the new growth.

How the Phragmites got to Louisiana is still unknown. The insects originate from China or Japan. The scales are known to damage plants by massive depletion of its nutrients. They feed on the plant’s sap and reduce plant energy resources. The scales are present in the section of the stem right above the water. The female scales, which are oval, pale yellow to brown in color and measure slightly less than a half inch long, cling to the stem. Dr. Diaz stated that scales are present in 11 Louisiana parishes but die-offs are mostly occurring in Plaquemines Parish.

Dr. Diaz mentioned his group is still researching to learn more about the Phragmites scales, but wanted the public to know that they can aid in the research as well. Anyone interested in taking part should go to www.surveymoney.com/r/PhragmitesSurvey. There you will find instruction and survey questions to answer. As of right now, the extent of the damage or the long term implications of the die-offs are unknown.

1. The final presentation was given by Nick Matherne of APTIM on behalf of LA SAFE (Louisiana Strategic Adaptations for Future Environment). According to its website, LA SAFE is a group made of passionate leaders and organizations committed to enabling our community members to take proactive steps towards mitigating risk and increasing resilience against coastal issues. The group is working together to acknowledge that adaptation and restoration must go hand-in-hand with addressing community growth and contraction, as well as realizing our most vulnerable coastal communities will need to contemplate resettlement over the next 50 years.

According to Matherne, LA SAFE is conducting a pilot program in six parishes: St. John, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Tammy, Jefferson and Plaquemines. The group is looking for the next step after the State Master Plan. The group is 100% community driven. All points of view and knowledge are recognized. The group has conducted parish meetings discussing understanding change and goals, local meetings discussing needs and opportunities, and are in the process of completing parish-wide meetings to talk about projects, policies, and programs. Two more set of meetings are planned for local and parish-wide. The goal is to have the Final Adaptation Plan by the end of 2017. Matherne stated that even if the Master Plan were fully funded, risk would still increase for Louisiana. For more information on LA SAFE and its mission, please visit lasafe.la.gov.

1. To complete the meeting, the Management Conference decided on a resolution expressing support for continued action to reduce the size and growth of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and in support of research on the topic.

**4. New Business** –

Hypoxia in the Gulf - Doug Daigle, Dr. Nancy Rabalais & Andrew Barron:

The Management Conference decided on a resolution expressing support for continued action to reduce the size and growth of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and in support of research on the topic.

**5.** **ADJOURN**

Al asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Joni Tuck and seconded to adjourn by Marty Bourgeois. Motion carried.

 The meeting adjourned.