Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #81 Roll Call

Plantation Suite, Nicholls State University Campus

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, November 2, 2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Dean Cooper  Delaina LeBlanc  Kristy Monier | X  X  X  X  X | Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief | | | X  X  X | 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 |
| Cajun Music Preservation Society | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
| 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 | | | |  | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Chett Chaisson | | X | Davie Breaux  Joni Tuck |
| Iberville Parish | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish | | | | X | Marnie Winter  Lauren Averill | | 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 | | | |  | Dwayne Bourgeois | |  |  |
| LA Department of Ag & Forestry | | | |  | Joey Breaux  Caitlin Lambert | |  | Carrie Castille  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 | |  | Lydia Hill |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | | | | X | Aimee Preau  Crisalda Adams | |  | John Sheehan  Jonathan McFarland  John Jennings |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | | | | X | Chasity Cheramie  Michael Bourgeois | |  | John Williams  Kathy LeBlanc |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | |  | Charles Reulet | | X | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley  Rod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Willie Cheramie  Jeff Marx | |  | Brady Carter  Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble |
| LA Forestry Association | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  | Randy Robichaux | |  |  |
| LA Landowners Association | | | | X | Tim Allen | |  | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  | Tyler Gray | | X | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet  Katie DeRoche |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | | | |  | Marty J. Chabert | | 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 | |  | Rebecca Triche  Stacy Ortego |
| Lafourche Parish | | | |  | Jimmy Cantrelle | | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | | X | Rex Caffey  Julie Falgout | | X  X  X | Dianne Lindstedt  Don Davis  Dominique Seibent  Lori Moshman  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | |  | Kristina Peterson | | X  X | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | |  | Dr. Craig McClain | | X | John Conover  Murt Conover  Nancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | | X | Richard Hartman | |  | Mel Landry  Twyla Cheatwood |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Bruce Murphy  Jeanne Murphy | | X | Gary LaFleur |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | |  | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | | X | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council | | | |  | Vic Lafont | |  | Simone Maloz |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | |  | Jonathan Foret | |  | Angelle Percle  Samantha Hicks |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | | X | Al Levron | | X | 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 | | | | X | Capt. Blake Welborn  Kelsey Holford | |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Susan Hennington | |  | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Sarah Bradley  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | William “Bill” Honker | | X | Doug Jacobson |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck |
| USDA/NRCS | | | | X | Quin Kinler  John Boatman | | X  X | Alton James  Samuel Terry  Lacy Bellnger |
| USGS (CWPPRA) | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X  X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Phil Turnipseed  Sinead Borchert |
| ***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 | | | |  | Dan Boudreaux  Garrett Ohlmeyer | | X | Holly Duchmann |
| Ducks Unlimited | | | | X | 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 | |  |  |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | |  | Tara Richard | |  |  |
| LSU | | | |  | Loren Hull | |  |  |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Jenny Schexnayder | | X | Dr. Chris Bonvillain  Keri Turner  Allyse 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 | |  | Victoria Segrera |
| Royal Engineering | | | |  | Shelley Sparks | |  | Kirk Rhinehart |
| Ryan Productions | | | |  | Andre’ Lyons | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | | X | Andy Wellbaum | | X | 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 Sand  Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Victoria Phaneuf | |  | Morgan Lundy |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
| Aqua Safety One | | | |  | Woodrow Parker | |  |  |
| . | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  | Marty Bourgeois |
| BTEF/BTNEP Contractor | | | | X | Curtis Walker | |  |  |

**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #81 Final Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order by Al Levron, BTNEP MC Chairman, at 9:30am.
2. Management Conference members and guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves by stating their name and affiliation. Those who had not checked in at the door where asked to do so.
3. Reading and approval of Minutes for MC Meeting #81 – November 2, 2017. The minutes from the November 2, 2017 meeting were approved. There were no objections.
4. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
5. Susan announced the hiring of three new student workers in the recent few weeks. She announced Claire Pierce, a junior studying microbiology; David Woods, a senior; and Quinn Lapeyrouse, a first-time freshman.

She then went on to announce a few major changes, including the retirement of Al Levron and Rick Hartman. She gave a presentation in honor of the two men, announcing that this would be Al’s last meeting, retiring tomorrow, and Rick would be retiring in December. She related the story of Al’s work with the Clean Water Act and the idea of the creation of a National Estuary Program. She went on to state how this was brought up to national legislators, leading to the approval of a National Estuary Program in the Barataria-Terrebonne region, through the EPA and LUMCON, giving birth to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. She quoted, “The reason we’re all here is because of Al.” He was then presented with gifts. It was noted that Rick had also been with the program since in the 1990’s. Rick was thanked for his service and dedication to BTNEP. A presentation was given on Rick and he was thanked for his service.

1. Doug Jacobson, EPA Region, made the next presentation. He presented Al Levron with a certificate of appreciation from the EPA signed by Bill Honker.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
3. Al Levron asked to move nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to the next item on the agenda. Joni Tuck motioned and David Gisclair seconded. BTNEP Management Conference approved by consensus.
4. Angela Rathle and Quenton Fontenot were nominated for the position of chairperson. A roll call vote was taken amongst the Management Conference members. The results are as follows: Quenton Fontenot was elected BTNEP Management Conference Chairperson. Jean Landry was nominated for Vice Chairperson. She was the sole nominee, and all were in favor Jean Landry was elected BTNEP Management Conference Vice Chairperson by consensus.

BTNEP MC #81

Record of Public Votes for BTNEP MC Chairman

An oral roll call vote was taken. Results are as follows

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | ***Member*** | | ***Vote*** | |
| American Sugarcane League | X | Herman Waguespack |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | X | Benjamin Malbrough |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Cajun Music Preservation Society | X | Quenton Fontenot |  | Angela Rathle |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana |  | Kimberly Reyher |  | Absent |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA |  | John Walther |  | Absent |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority | X | Darin Lee |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Commercial Fisheries |  | John Tesvich |  | Absent |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | X | Joni Tuck |  | Angela Rathle |
| Iberville Parish |  | John Clark |  | Absent |
| Jefferson Parish | X | Lauren Averill |  | Angela Rathle |
| LA Association of Conservation District |  | Ruben Dauzat |  | Absent |
| LA Association of Levee Boards |  | Dwayne Bourgeois |  | Absent |
| LA Department of Ag & Forestry |  | Joey Breaux |  | Absent |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism |  | Debra Credeur |  | Absent |
| LA Dept. of Economic Development |  | Paul Sawyer |  | Absent |
| LA Department of Education |  | Jill Cowart |  | Absent |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | X | Aimee Preau |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | X | Michael Bourgeois |  | Angela Rathle |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | X | Robert Williamson |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | X | Willie Cheramie |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Forestry Association |  |  |  | Absent |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association |  | Randy Robichaux |  | Absent |
| LA Landowners Association | X | Tim Allen |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association | X | Katie DeRoche |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | X | David Gisclair |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Science Teachers Association | X X | Nicole Cotten  Jean May-Brett |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LA Wildlife Federation | X | B.J. Barney Callahan |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Lafourche Parish | X | Amanda Voisin |  | Angela Rathle |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | X | Julie Falgout |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Lowlander Center | X | Kristina Peterson |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| LUMCON | X | John Conover |  | ------- |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | X | Richard Hartman |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Nicholls State University | X | Gary LaFleur |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| Plaquemines Parish |  | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears |  | Absent |
| Point Coupee Parish |  | J.A. Rummler |  | Absent |
| Sassafras LA |  | Alex Naquin |  | Absent |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | X | Martha Cazaubon |  | \_\_\_\_\_ |
| South Louisiana Economic Council |  | Vic Lafont |  | Absent |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center |  | Jonathan Foret |  | Absent |
| St. Charles Parish |  | Earl Matherne |  | Absent |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | X | Al Levron |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| The Nature Conservancy |  | Jean Landry |  | Absent |
| U.S. National Park Service | X | Angela Rathle |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| US Coast Guard | X | Capt. Blake Welborn |  | -------- |
| US Corps of Engineers | X | Susan Hennington |  | Quenton Fontenot |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | X | Doug Jacobson |  | -------------- |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service |  | Ronnie Paille |  | Absent |
| USDA/NRCS | X | John Boatman |  | ------------ |
| USGS (CWPPRA) | X | Mirka Zapletal |  | Quenton Fontenot |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Quenton Fontenot was elected MC Chair**  **Jean Landry was elected by conciseness MC Vice Chair** |  |  |  |  |

1. BTNEP Program Activities discussion continued with Dean Blanchard relating the EPA 5-year Program Evaluation Summary, including the praise of the new water quality work conducted at the Bayou Folse watershed. He announced that “we officially passed our review.”

He went on to discuss the four major challenges that BTNEP would have to face over the next five years:

1. Evaluating education outreach emphasis
2. Professional development for staff beyond their area of subject matter expertise

including team building, decision making, leadership, and conflict resolution.

1. Preparing an estuary status and trends report. Dean mentioned how we were due to update our indicator report and how we needed to not only update it but see if the indicator reports from ten years ago were still valid and ultimately come up with a new report.
2. Completion of the new CCMP, that should be done by the next review.

Susan suggested implementing an education action plan team to come up with rubrics to assist further with evaluation of education outreach.

She invited Michael up to continue with program activities presentations.

1. Michael reminded the conference about the Estuary Foundation receiving a grant from the Department of Justice – a pollution penalty case that is currently being used to do an invasive species removal and native tree planting at Grand Isle State Park. He stated how he had visited the site yesterday with the contractor and state park staff, and that they would be allowing the program to use their barn for equipment and storage. Michael mentioned that a reassessment was done of the site, with probably 200-400 larger stems of tallow that would need to be removed over the next year and a half. There was also a serious problem with the morning glory vine that was covering some of the last remaining oak forests in the state park. The morning glory issue would be attacked first, stating that the tallows weren’t going anywhere, and could be dealt with later in the winter.
2. Richard was invited to talk about a new grant. He mentioned bird research work conducted in 2013 through the CPRA for the Caminada Headland restoration project that was finished a few months ago. He discussed how recently, discussions were opened with the CPRA in continuation of that project for extended data usage.
3. Alma then stated that they have been working on clean ups frequently. Recently she worked to help with the International Coastal Cleanup in conduction with Ocean Conservancy and the partnership with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Nicholls State University, cleaning up over two tons of trash, with 230 people in attendance. She also mentioned the continuing Marine Debris Prevention Program, with students in the estuary.
4. Natalie spoke about her osprey work. She mentioned that, thanks to the foundation receiving a generous donation from Apache, we are working with them to install some osprey nesting platforms. They will be installed in Terrebonne parish, starting off with about ten platforms.
5. Andrew presented on his new Gulf of Mexico Program grant. He went on to say how the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation had recently applied for and received an award from the Gulf of Mexico Program to do water quality work that’s going to be dovetailing with the Bayou Folse Watershed Project that we are currently doing. He mentioned sampling work and working with homeowners, paying them to improve their home sewage systems. Initial paperwork was needed to fill out to move forward on that grant.
6. Kristy discussed the 4th Annual Estuary Artwork Event during National Estuary Week, emphasizing its success from ten art submissions the Monday before the deadline to four hundred by the Wednesday, with thirty-one schools participating. Four division winners were picked for the calendar and nine additional were added. The calendar is being worked on. An idea was brought up to place the artwork that wasn’t selected for the calendar onto the website. Susan said that some of the better ones were being scanned to use for other things. Another idea was brought up for more funding for the calendars and sponsorships in order to print more copies for distribution. Similarly, someone else had brought up moving the competition to social media (Facebook) in order to create more of a buzz and attract more attention to BTNEP.
7. Susan raised the subject of recent work with Congressman Graves and Congressman Scalise on having a possible legislative aide field trip in the spring. We are waiting to see what the spring calendar looks like but would be willing to hold a field trip to illustrate how the estuary program works with business and industry and education and how the estuary program works together. She mentioned inviting members of Congress from the Midwest as well. This was in the talks and another meeting would need to be held before then.
8. Earl also announced that another grant coming through BTEF would be going to CAMO. President Ed Landgraf would be writing a $100,000 grant to prevent oil spills related to pipelines.
9. Dominique Seibent was introduced as the new marine extension agent for Louisiana sea grant for Plaquemine and St. Bernard, and Nicole Lundberg was introduced as the new fisheries agent replacing Al Matherne in Terrebonne-Lafourche
10. Doug announced that there will be two NRDA restoration plan drafts released to the state register December 20. There will be 30 days allotted to comment on it.
11. **SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATE AND OTHER INPORTANT DATES**

* February 1, 2018 – Plantation Suite @ Nicholls State Student Union
* May 3, 2018 – Ballroom @ Nicholls State Student Union
* August 2, 2018 – Plantation Suite @ Nicholls State Student Union
* November 1, 2018 – Plantation Suite @ Nicholls State Student Union

1. **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

* National Science Teachers Association of New Orleans – November 30, 2017

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Susan Testroet-Bergeron – CCMP Draft Update

Susan presented a draft of the action plans of the new CCMP, made using the old CCMP and the EPA checklist, that is meant to be a stand-alone document. The document includes an overview of BTNEP including its mission, vision, goals, estuary maps, and its seven priority problems. Financial strategy was added including an annual report of the funding stream. The funding now consists of about 35% from the EPA, 30% from the state, and 30% from the foundation. The document includes a compiled monitoring survey. It also includes a habitat protection and restoration strategy, including what is being done to date and proposed projects. There is one action plan left to finish for drinking water. The goal is to have a two-week review period for management conference between Thanksgiving and Christmas followed by a sixty-day review for the public posted online. 47 different agencies and organizations, 36 new action plans, over 1,000 volunteer hours, 9 committees, and 117 committee members worked on this draft. The draft was made with the help of Dr. Keri Turner on writing, Phyllis Lear on graphic design, and Hannah Fulton on layouts.

1. Curtis Walker – Passive Network of VHF Telemetry Towers in Lower BTNEP

Richard was asked to introduce Curtis. Curtis’s job is to develop VHF power and receiver network across the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program along the immediate coast, in part with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Curtis explained this further with an explanation of how this system can be used to gain more scientific knowledge on local shorebird species. He then went on to explain the impact of having more land (barrier islands, marshlands) against the forces of storm energy and saltwater intrusion, as well as many other ecological factors, such as carbon cycling and canal building, that factor into the stability of these shorebirds and the integrity of the diminishing coast. Curtis then mentioned current restorative efforts and explained the significance of using shorebirds as ecological indicators, relating this information into the conducting of management plans. He also explained the process used in gathering data from the Grand Isle site. From here, Curtis gave light on the technology behind radio telemetry into wildlife research and restoration. He explained the setbacks of telemetry work and ways to possibly overcome them.

1. Lori Moshman – Evaluation of Crowding as a Management Strategy for Improving Giant Salvinia Biological Control Performance in Terrebonne

Lori Moshman of LSU was invited up to speak on behalf of her project “Evaluation of Crowding as a Management Strategy for Improving Giant Salvinia Biological Control Performance in Terrebonne.” She presented a short survey to the members. She then went on to explain the impact of giant salvinia on industries such as recreational boating, crawfish and rice farming, industry, and native habitats. Lori mentioned the use of the salvinia weevil as a biological control agent since 2001. She discussed the effect of cold winters on the South American, tropical-based weevil and how releasing the weevils early in the spring might provide better results, as well as looking for cold-tolerant weevils. She explained the hypothesis of “crowding” the plants in order to provide better heat distribution to better support the weevils. Lori then illustrated an experiment performed, where weevils were released in a controlled site at different times throughout the year, varying in high/low density plant mats. Summarizing, she explained that they did see successful overwintering of weevil populations at all sites. Medium and high density treatments increased adult and larval weevil survival only in the southern Louisiana site. It was lower density treatments that had the highest mat surface temperature. Based on this, plant crowding does give some benefit to weevil overwintering; however, it may not be enough of a management strategy on its own to work in northern Louisiana. Although, it does seem to be useful in the South. She also mentioned how other factors such as water nutrients and temperature in different sites would need to be taken into mind when determining the need for more or less release of salvinia weevil. Lori concluded by discussing publications and videos from LSU Agricultural Center and thanking those who were involved.

1. Leslie Suazo – Terracing Program and Freshwater Enhancement Projects of Ducks Unlimited

Leslie is the Coastal Restoration Coordinator of Ducks Unlimited/Conoco Phillips Partnership. She began by mentioning freshwater enhancement programs worked on with collaborations with Apache, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Conoco Phillips, and CPRA. She spoke about their terracing program in association with Conoco Phillips that included the conditions of a net increase in land to water ratio, freshwater influx, and duck habitats. She explained that terracing became a very suitable option for meeting these conditions because even though it requires shallow, open water and stable soils, the terraces can be built in ideal conditions for about $17 per linear foot and about $30 in more challenging conditions, and big project areas could be benefitted over a short period of time. In a five-year period of work in 2012, a total of 12 projects were completed, seven being terracing projects mainly in partnership with Lafourche parish but also Terrebonne parish government. Their first terracing project was on the west bank of bayou Lafourche near Golden Meadow. Their current project will be constructed in late December 2017 or early 2018. They are looking for more funding partners to implement a terracing project in this area. In Lafourche parish, about 111,000 linear feet (about 22 miles) have been terraced, and about 4 miles have been completed in Terrebonne parish. After their current project, that number of Lafourche parish will increase to about 26 miles. They are now looking for partners to increase the channel improvements to the St. Louis canal. In Terrebonne parish, phase one of their project was completed on Island Road in June 2016. A demonstration of shoreline protection utilizing their living shoreline solutions wave attenuation devices on the south rim of Lost Lake – a more challenging site for testing accretion benefits promoted by the company because there is no direct source of granular riverine sediment. They were unable to get the cost efficiencies as low as they would hope. Although, there was a good amount of accretion – as much as they wanted to achieve. These devices are being donated to Ducks Unlimited. She presented before and after images of some projects. They have terracing, marsh creation, and fresh water enhancement projects currently in progress.

Seth Moncrief – Tidal Graph Calendar

Tidal graph calendar is going to print and is expected to be delivered around December 15.

1. **ADJOURN**

Quenton Fontenot, new BTNEP MC Chairman, asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by David Gisclair and seconded by Joni Tuck.

The meeting adjourned.