Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #82 Roll Call

Century Room under the Stadium

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, February 1, 2018

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Dean Cooper  Delania LeBlanc  Kristy Monier | X  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 | | | | 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 | |  | 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 | | | | X | 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 | | | |  | 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 | |  | 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 | | X | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  |  | |  | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| 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 | |  | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | |  | Rex Caffey | | X  X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Don Davis  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | |  | Kristina Peterson | | X | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | |  | Dr. Craig McClain | |  | John Conover  Murt Conover  Nancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | |  | Twyla Cheatwood | |  | Mel Landry |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Jay Clune | | X  X | Gary LaFleur  Chris Bonvillain |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | |  | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | | X | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) | | | |  | Vic Lafont | | X | Simone Maloz  Victoria Sagrera |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | | X | Jonathan Foret | | X | Angelle Percle  Samantha Hicks |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | |  | Al Levron | | X  X | Mart Black  Jennifer Gerbasi |
| 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 | | | |  | 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 | | | | X | Doug Jacobson | |  |  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck |
| USDA/NRCS | | | |  | Quin Kinler | | X | John Boatman  Alton James  Samuel Terry |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Nikki Cavalier  Phil Turnipseed |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Aqua Safety-First Community Program | | | | X | Woodrow Parker | |  |  |
| Atchafalaya NHA | | | | X | Steven Fullen | | X | Justin Owens |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X | Earl Melancon | |  | Nolan Falgout, III  Matt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | | | | X | Christopher Gergeni | |  | Christy Naquin |
| Bayou Grace | | | |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler | |  | Jenny Dupre  Anne Parr |
| Bayou Land RC & D | | | |  | Dr. Colleen Butler | | X | Jennifer Roberts |
| Bayou Some Fun | | | |  | Dottie Hartman | |  |  |
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | | | |  | Bruce Baird | | X | Victoria Phaneuf |
| Conoco Phillips | | | |  | Betsy Brien | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | |  | Dan Boudreaux  Garrett Ohlmeyer | |  | Bridgete Mire  Abby Tabor |
| Ducks Unlimited | | | |  | Leslie Suazo | |  | Joe Fifer |
| Farm Bureau Insurance | | | | X | Robert Adams | |  |  |
| 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 | | | | X | Tyler Gray  Katie DeRoche | |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | | X | Stephanie Beaugh | |  | Christy Kane |
| LSU | | | | X | Dr Benjamin Springgate  Loren Hull | | X | Jennifer Sato |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder | |  | Keri Turner  Allyse Ferrara |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | |  | 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 | | | |  | Andy Wellbaum | | X | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  |  |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | |  |  |
| The Water Institue of the Gulf | | | | X | Scott Hemmerling | |  |  |
| TLCD | | | |  | Angela Rains | |  | Darin Guidry |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) | | | |  |  | |  | Melanie Sand  Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
| Citizen | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  |  |
| Citizen | | | | X | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
| Pointe Au Chien | | | | X | Donald Daedar | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | | X | Andria Ostrowski | | X | Kellyn LaCour |
| Citizen | | | | X | Lacy Bellanger | |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #82 Final Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order by Quenton Fontenot, 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 #82 – February 1, 2018.

David Gisclair motioned to accept the minutes as written.

Mart Black seconded the motion.

The minutes from the February 1, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

1. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
   1. Susan opened stating that she would give a short summary of programs as well as a quick update on the CCMP, which is almost ready for review.

* She started by stating that the Tidal Graph Calendars were a great hit, with the only person left to pick them up was Susie with USACE. She noted that 20,000 copies of the tidal calendar were printed for the public. Seth was the project coordinator for the 2019 tidal graph calendars.
* Another calendar was released with children’s artwork, headed by Kristy. 1,000 of the Estuary Artwork calendars were printed. More than 400 students provided estuary artwork from grades K-12. In all, both calendars released were great hits.
* Natalie is working on new publications to show off her work with the Prothonotary warblers.
* Andrew has been working on behalf of BTNEP to sign a memorandum of understanding with Minnesota and BTNEP to try and stop some of the nutrients from feedlots from getting into the watershed. The goal is to reduce nutrients coming down the Mississippi River.
* Alma has the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup coming up Saturday, March 10. It is on the front page of the website, and we will be working with a cleanup in Terrebonne Parish later in the year.
* BTNEP will also be conducting some work in part of the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act with the National Park Services.
* Seth and Matt were hosts to the University of Buffalo last week with a group of twelve students out in the canoes to not only work but to see the estuary.
* Michael has been moving forward with his partnership with Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, (CRT) down in Grand Isle. He will be removing invasive species in the Grand Isle State Park.
* Matt represented BTNEP at the ANEP annual meeting.
* Richard has been working with University of Louisiana at Lafayette on data analysis of bird surveys and bird research information.
* Susan also recognized Angela Rathle, (NPS) and Joni Tuck, (GLPC) who put together an interesting meeting with Secretary Zinke, Congressman Graves, and Senator Cassidy.
* Kristy was called upon, stating that the upcoming Bayou Lafourche Paddle Trip is scheduled for April 5-8 and registration should be opening either next week or the week after. Information is on social media; Sponsors are needed.
* Susan then gave a presentation on how to access the CCMP for review. Log-ins would be received by COB Friday. The CCMP Management Conference review will be followed by a 30-day public review.

1. **UPCOMING DATES**
   1. Next Management Conferences meeting scheduled to be held in the same room, May 3rd, at 9320 AM.
   2. Susan asked for the next February meeting to be held a week later due to annual meetings held by CWPPRA with Barataria-Basin.
   3. There is a water quality training DEQ coming up.
   4. World Wetlands Day is tomorrow (February 2) – Jonathon Foret, (SLWDC) will host the event.
   5. The Great Backyard Bird Count is on the February 17th.
   6. The Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium is going to be in Baton Rouge during the weekend of the February 23rd and 24th.
   7. Bayou Terrebonne Cleanup is March 3rd, and the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup will be March 10th.
   8. Dean and Susan will be going to the annual EPA workshop in Washington D.C. March 13th-15th.
   9. Paddle Bayou Lafourche is April 5th-8th.
2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   1. Ms. Katlyn Bernie, Vice President of Policy and Communications for the Greater New Orleans Inc., gave a presentation on the future of sustainable flood insurance.

Susan stated that Ms. Bernie was invited as economic growth is included in the CCMP. She also noted that she had seem Ms. Bernie speak about how insurance may affect coastal Louisiana residents. Bernie gave an introduction and explanation of the company. She explained that GNO Inc.’s flood insurance coalition is a regional economic development group for South East Louisiana. In 2013, when the Bigger Waters Act was being put into law, flood insurance premiums rose significantly due to removal of grandfathering and new, inaccurate maps. The coalition began to lobby for a dial back of this act and to further keep flood insurance affordable. Now, the coalition is putting pressure on the Senate to come to a full reauthorization. Strides have been made to pass reform bills in the Senate to no avail. Bernie went on to list the issues that are keeping the Senate from passing a bill. The first and biggest issue at hand is the desire of some for private markets to serve as safe guards. The supporters of these private markets want no compromise. The second issue is the resolution of the National Flood Insurance Plan’s (NFIP’s) debt held by the US Treasury. The NFIP must currently pay interest on debt ($400 million in premiums paid last year). The third issue is the desire for more funding for mitigation. The fourth is an issue in the claims process after disasters in which firms that deliver adjusting services have immunity from being sued and consequently perform some fraudulent acts. She also mentioned the Cassidy Bill and the Kennedy Bill in the US Senate, both of which allow for affordability program establishment and funding. Continuous coverage language in the private market path was also discussed. Bernie included the challenges involved, including politics and getting the public more involved and educated in the importance of purchasing flood insurance.

* 1. Mr. Robert Adams, Farm Bureau Agent

Mr. Robert gave a presentation on the key points of purchasing flood insurance in your community. He stated that purchasing insurance from a national company versus a local company like his would be essentially the same. One of the benefits of going local would be local adjusters that could adhere to wind or flood events better. He mentioned that since the Baton Rouge event, there has been a decrease in purchase of flood insurance due to response and small grants by the national government. Mr. Adams offered the benefits and pricing of purchasing more than 80 percent on coverage, especially with the changing of maps in the area.

* 1. Ms. Delaina LeBlanc, BTNEP, gave a presentation on shorebird nest and habitat.

Delaina began by discussing the initiative of the project due to the CPRA restoration project at Caminada Headland was designed to restore and protect the headland beach and interior by creating habitat for beach nesting birds, who are rapidly losing habitat. Construction began in August of 2013, and finished in January of 2015. About six miles of habitat was used for the project. Study plots were set up with the idea that pure sand habitats are thought to leave the birds’ nests more exposed to predators and that a different substrate (a more visually “noisy” substrate) could lower predation rates. The two substrates used were limestone and sandstone, placed linearly and randomly throughout. She described the two-species involved and their nesting behaviors. She mentioned the Wilson’s Plover, a more territorial shorebird, and the Least Tern, a colonial nester and focus of the study. Nests were located, charted, and then relocated to safer areas. Data collected was discussed with limestone being the best option for success, but there being really no significant difference in exposure.

* 1. Dr. Benjamin Springgate, LSU Health and Sciences Center

Dr. Benjamin gave the next presentation. Michael, BTNEP, gave a short introduction stating that BTNEP is collaborating with the Health and Sciences center, helping to lead a project attempting to develop useful tools for community resilience and disaster recovery in the coastal zone and other areas. Dr. Springgate began by stating the National Academy of the Sciences began funding the project last summer to try and promote community resilience, opportunities for the communities to adapt, and better able to withstand future natural events. He explained how reoccurring events could cause constant anxiety and social stress within communities, making them hard to function. They are working with six selected communities stretching from Baton Rouge to coastal parishes, providing training, coalition building, and shared resources to enhance communities’ abilities to work together and eliminate non-physical environmental stressors. He discussed the main project and its different phases. The first of these would be including interviewing individuals across Southeast Louisiana on their perceptions of risks from natural disasters and what makes their communities resilience and what allows both individuals and communities to bounce back. The next phase would be analyzing the information given to assess the resources needed for each community. Phone and computer-based apps would be utilized for those on an individual level support to allow for better stress-management techniques. Dr. Springgate stressed the importance of mental resilience during natural disasters just as much as physical structures and other restoration projects (levees). Providing an example of post-Hurricane Katrina, stating that 40+ percent of the surviving and remaining population experienced some form of depression, anxiety, or PTSD. This, he mentioned, made it much harder for rebuilding and preparing for another disaster. He closed his presentation by offering the option to those present at the meeting for interviews. Dr. Springgate was asked to stay for further interviews.

1. **NEW BUSINESS – None**
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. Barney Callaghan noted that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation’s Annual Conservation Awards Program was upcoming. He urged BTNEP MC members to think of those colleagues and those that deserve awards attentive at the meeting. He reminded those there that a nomination form would only take about three minutes to fill out.
   2. Jonathan Foret announced that the Rougarou Fest is setting a goal over the next five years to become a “zero-waste” event. He hopes that better recycling methods and buying compostable products will lead them to become the first of hopefully many festivals to accomplish this feat.
   3. Kristy Monier reminded those present of the remaining 2017 Annual Reports, Tidal Graph Calendars, and Estuary Artworks Calendars at the sign in table. She then went into detail on the Estuary Artworks Calendar program and organization of categories, stating that this past year there were over 400 entries, expecting next year to be more. The 2017 Annual Report was also brought up, with projects in every section of BTNEP involvement. Those present were urged to contact Kristy if interested in receiving any.
   4. Doug Jacobson, (EPA) mentioned that there are two NRDA restoration plans out for public comment with very little time left. The first, the Recreational Use Opportunity Plan, would close the following day. It would consist of four projects: one at Elmer’s Island, one to improve fishing piers on Island Road, one to create artificial reefs, and the last to build a science center in Lake Charles. The second plan, the Strategic Restoration Plan for the Barataria Basin Restoration, would close on Monday. It includes sediment diversion, marsh creation, and mid-restoration. Both would be available on the CPA website, CPRA website, or a link on the Deepwater Horizon website. There will also be a second Recreational Use in Nutrient Reduction Plan that will be releasing March 20th. There will be a public meeting for that sometime in late-March or early-April.
   5. Seth Moncrief noted that LDWF was planning a crap trap removal for Terrebonne Parish will be on March 24th. The headquarters will be LUMCON. BTNEP would be participating.
   6. Dr. Gary LaFleur, Nicholls, brought up a few events would be coming up at Nicholls. The first of those being a film “On Our Watch” being premiered in Peltier Hall on March 1st at 6:00 pm. The director will be there. Nicholls will also host an event/picnic at the Chauvin Sculpture Garden for the Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, April 7th. That will also be the Terrebonne Paddle Trip down Bayou Petite Caillou on April 7th and 8th.
   7. Mirka Zapletal, CWPPRA outreach, brought up Susan’s mention of a conflict this particular year with the CWPPRA Regional Planning Team meetings. The previous day’s meeting dealt with Terrebonne Basin and today’s meeting with Barataria Basin. She stated that these are opportunities for the public or anyone can propose projects for the upcoming PPL, and those will be made available for public comment that can be sent by February 20th. An electronic vote will then happen between agencies and parish officials at the end of February. Further information can be found at lacoast.gov.
3. **ADJOURNED**

Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by David Gisclair and seconded by Doug Jacobson. The meeting adjourned.