Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #84 Roll Call

Century Room under the Stadium

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, August 2, 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 | Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief | | | X  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 | | | |  | Herman Waguespack | |  | John Constant |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | | | |  | Hugh Caffery | | X | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Cajun Music Preservation | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | | X | Kimberly Reyher  Emily Vuxton | | X | Deb Abibou  Giovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority | | | |  | Chip Kline | | X | Brad Miller  Bren Haase  Carol Parsons Richard  Daniel Dearmond  Darin Lee  Elizabeth Shoenfelt  Robert Routon  Honora Buras  Jason Lanclos  Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc  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 |
| 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 | | | | X | Joey Breaux | |  | Carrie Castille  Caitlin Lambert  Faran Dietz  Jeremy Rodriguez |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism | | | |  | Debra Credeur | |  | Karen Leathem  Linda Smith |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| 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 | Kathy LeBlanc  Michael Bourgeois | |  | John Williams |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | | X | Charles Reulet  Sara Krupa | | X | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley  Rod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Willie Cheramie  Jeff Marx  Gage Lasseigne | |  | 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 | | | | X | Lori LeBlanc | | X | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | | | |  | Marty J. Chabert | | X  X | David Gisclair  Eva Windhoffer  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 | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Don Davis  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | |  | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | |  | Dr. Craig McClain  John Conover | |  | Guillaume Rieucau  Murt Conover |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | |  | Twyla Cheatwood  Richard Hartman | |  | Mel Landry  Alexis Rixner |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Jay Clune | | X | Gary LaFleur  Chris Bonvillain |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | | X | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | |  | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| 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 |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | | X | Ivy Mathieu |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | | X | Mart Black | |  | Jennifer Gerbasi |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | | X | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | | X | Angela Rathle | | X  X | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Dusty Pate |
| US Coast Guard | | | |  | Kelsey Holford | |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Sarah Bradley  Susan Hennington | | X | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Kaityln Carriere  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | Doug Jacobson | |  |  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck  Bryan Pember |
| USDA/NRCS | | | |  | Quin Kinler | | X | John Boatman  Alton James  Samuel Terry  Lacy Bellanger |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Phil Turnipseed  Sinead Borchert |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Aqua Safety-First Community Program | | | |  | Woodrow Parker | |  |  |
| Atchafalaya NHA | | | |  | Steven Fullen | |  | Justin Owens |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | |  | Earl Melancon | |  | Nolan Falgout, III  Matt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | | | |  | Christopher Gergeni | |  | Christy Naquin |
| Bayou Grace | | | |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler | | X | 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 | | 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 | | | |  | 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 | | | |  | Tyler Gray  Katie DeRoche | |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | |  | Stephanie Beaugh | |  | Christy Kane |
| LSU | | | |  | Dr Benjamin Springgate  Loren Hull | | X | Jennifer Sato  R Eugene Turner |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder | | X | Allyse Ferrara  Keri Turner |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | |  | David Cavell | |  |  |
| Pan Am Communication | | | |  | Lenny Delbert | |  | Lenny Delbert Jr. |
| Pointe Au Chien | | | |  | Donald Daedar | |  |  |
| Port of Morgan City | | | |  | Cindy Cutrera | |  |  |
| Public Schools | | | |  | Tina Galler | |  |  |
| RES | | | |  | Frank Cuccio | |  |  |
| Restore or Retreat | | | |  | Simone Maloz | |  | Victoria Segrera |
| Royal Engineering | | | |  | Shelley Sparks | |  | Kirk Rhinehart |
| Ryan Productions | | | |  | Andre’ Lyons | |  |  |
| Senator John Kennedy’s Office | | | | X | Mary Elise Schlesinger | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | | X | Ian Voparil | |  | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  | Brent Roger |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | | X | Ivy Mathieu |
| The Water Institue of the Gulf | | | | X | Scott Hemmerling | |  | Monica Barra |
| 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 | |  |  |
| US Geological | | | | X | Jacoby Carter | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | | X | Ben McMahan | |  |  |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
| BTNEP IT | | | | X | Jason Russell | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Darryl Hambrinck | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Doug Daigle | |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #84 Final Minutes – August 2, 2018**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dr. 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. Members were reminded to be sure that they signed in once they arrived.
3. The floor was opened for comments on the reading and approval of minutes from the meeting.

* Dr. Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as written.
* Joni Tuck motioned to accept the minutes as written.
* Dwayne Bourgeois seconded the motion.
* Motion was approved by consensus.

1. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
   1. Susan Testroet-Bergeron opened with a summary of programs by announcing that there was a personnel change, a student worker has moved on the LUMCON and she was interested in looking to hire two more student workers. She also gave updates on the current projects of the BTNEP staff.
   2. Michael Massimi is working on invasive species removal in Grand Isle.
   3. Matt Benoit and Seth Moncrief have been working on open volunteer services every Wednesday and Thursday in July.
   4. Richard DeMay, Delaina LeBlanc, and Natalie Waters have been working on Prothonotary Warbler and Red Knots species.
   5. Andrew Barron and Siva Nunna worked on the H2O future workshop for water quality. Andrew found out that the EPA Gulf of Mexico program grant that helps repair home sewage systems in Bayou Folse was approved through the BTEF.
   6. Robert Spears and some of the BTNEP staff went to Plaquemines Parish to look at the work that has been done with the SMART program and the USACE’s work on ridge restoration.
   7. Susan Testroet-Bergeron gave an update on the CCMP. It will go to EPA and they’ll have 30-45 days to approve it. The final copy should be finished by November.
2. **UPCOMING DATES**
   1. White Boot Gala – September 12th
   2. International Coastal Cleanup- September 15th
   3. National Estuaries Week – September 15-22nd
   4. National Estuaries Day- September 22nd
   5. Fall Management Conference Meeting – November 1st
3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   1. Pipeline Spill Prevention Opportunities -- Ed Landgraf, Coastal and Marine Operations (CAMO)

* Mr. Ed Landgraf talked about pipeline spills and spill prevention. He proceeded to say that industry and environmental groups should work together for the common good. He said their main priority is to protect marine locations and not have any incidents in those locations. He showed the concentration of infrastructure in pipelines along the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary and questioned how they would be able to protect those areas. He noted that pipelines run through many different areas, such as offshore and marshes. Mr. Langraf stated that typically the largest spills come from third party damage in their industry. In a 20-year period there has been about 25 fatalities from some type of boat and pipeline interaction and about 100,000 barrels of oil spilled. Lafourche Parish has a pipeline running right in the middle of the estuary, he restated if something were to happen to disrupt the flow it would be terribly damaging. Bayou Lafourche also had an offshore supply vessel that started wheel washing, but no incident occurred. In Cocodrie, a charter boat hit an oil and gas facility that resulted in a fatality. CAMO is trying to raise awareness about the possible risks associated with any activity out on the water. A dredging initiative is also occurring. CAMO is working with the Dredging Contractors of America (DCA) to come up with solutions. They are meeting with the DCA in September. In Plaquemines Parish, the Spanish Pass project identifies those pipelines that could potentially cause a risk.
* CAMO received grant money from working with BTNEP and BTEF under the EM9 Action Plan and are in the process of executing that grant. CAMO hopes to help educate the public about spill prevention activities.
  1. Louisiana Land Loss and Restoration of Canal Systems – Dr. Eugene Turner, LSU
* Dr. Eugene Turner from LSU spoke about the possible ways restoration of canal systems could happen. Manmade canals have a huge impact on wetland systems. Canals are linear and as you travel further down the canal the spoil banks could be 5-12 feet higher than the marsh around it. Canals are much wider than a naturally occurring creek. Canals interrupts the hydrologic flow. From water overflow, the soil becomes weaker and oxidizes. This can decrease the size of the marsh. All of this happens within a few years. Dr. Turner provided an example by showing an area that started off with 15% open water which increased to 85% open water within one-two years when a canal was added. Every time a canal was dredged, land was lost. If dredging stopped, marsh loss stopped as well. 76,000 permits for canals have been permitted since 1900 and of those 35,000 of those are on land. 27,000 canals have been abandoned and could be backfilled. These canals are found all over the coast of Louisiana. He stated that permit numbers are a mirror image of land loss. There are 20,000 miles of spoil banks across the coast, each that is individually permitted. Dr. Turner stated the damage could be reversed by limiting the amount of permits for canals.
* Dr. Turner stated that 33 canals were backfilled about 20-30 years ago. He provided an example that showed the spoil bank was pulled down which would make the marsh reappear, however, it would take years for the channel to restore. He provided another example comparing the original position of a canal and spoil bank to where it is today. It was almost fully restored. Another example, from 1990-2000 showed marsh restoration. He looked at an area of about 200 meters long and found that the areas that were plugged did better at marsh restoration than areas that were not plugged.
  1. Coastal Sustainability Planning and Delta Deposition – Chris McLindon, New Orleans Geological Society
* Mr. Chris McLindon from the New Orleans Geological Society spoke about the rising problem of delta deposition and fault movement. He showed the 16 different deltas that provided a model for the history of the coastal areas over the past thousands of years. North of the Teche shore line, submergence has rarely taken place but south of that there has been a lot of submergence of the deltas present. McLindon stated the geological principle that, “The present is the key to the past.” Oil and gas reservoirs in south Louisiana are in the delta of the Mississippi River. Understanding the deposition of the deltas relies heavily on understanding depths of the deposition in the modern era. He also noted that the geological faults are as much part of the delta system as the channel. The rate of subsidence has changed over time and this is because of delta deposition and the interaction of the faults. As the delta deposits a load onto the fault, it causes the rates of subsidence to increase. Industries have been pushed to make their information available to the public, which has been successful. USGS provided some seismic data in Lake Pontchartrain, which is shallow high resolution data. Mr. McLindon stated that this was the holy grail for them because they use industry data so they can better evaluate fault placement and movement. There are about 7 research projects currently using oil and gas seismic data. Over time, sediment accumulates which causes the fault to slip. This makes subsidence greater on one side of the fault than the other and can have major infrastructure impacts. This information combined with subsurface data gives geologists an insight on fault movement. It was announced that in January of this year the Louisiana Coastal Geo-hazards Atlas officially became a joint publication of Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS).
* The Geo-hazards Atlas project has identified particular areas of interest, including, Darrow and Vacherie. The Vacherie fault ruptured on April 12, 1943, which came within about 1/3 of the mile of the river. This is the most direct evidence of recent fault movement. The blank areas in his maps meant that there was no data, so there is a long way to go to collect that data. There is a large push to get cooperative engagement from industries to bring in more data. Chevron and Shell are some of the industries they are talking with to get this data.
* He showed a model for evolution of the ecosystem relating to faults and found that subsidence allows for a greater amount of peaks over time. As the marsh tries to keep up with subsidence, it builds organically and soon enough there are thicker and thicker peaks. The marsh can no longer keep up with that rate of subsidence and ultimately the ecosystem collapses from this repeated incidence. He stated that by creating a peak thickness map, it could be viewed in a 3d model so they could see what it would look like on either side of the levees.
  1. Consequences of Backfilling Canals – Julie Whitbeck, National Park Services
* Ms. Julie Whitbeck spoke about the possible fixes for canal backfilling within the National Park. Louisiana is one of the only major river delta in southern North America. Louisiana experiences one of the most rapid rates of levels of sea rise on the continent. This is about 9 mm a year in Grand Isle. The production of hurricane protection levees systems cuts off natural surface drainage flow in the Barataria basin. One of the National Park Services main priorities is to maintain the integrity of our coastal wetland landscape. They want to sustain it as long as possible and in the most natural way. Canals disrupt coastal properties and processes on a landscape and ecosystem scale. They also interfere with the plant, tree, and marsh communities. They want to restore plant and animal communities. They also want to restore natural landscape and reestablish the flood-plain and watershed functions. Some benefits of hydrologic restoration include: reduce cross sectional area of canals, replace deep and shallow channels, reduce barrier to surface flow, and reduce impoundment. Reducing the size of pipes, increases the coastal freshwater wetlands resilience to disturbances from the gulf. These actions can have an increase primary productivity in carbon storage which could have additional economic benefits.
* She showed a map of an outline of the preserve, which showed the canals dissecting the landscape. There are 3-4 natural waterways in the preserve, the rest of the channels are man-made canals. She mentioned the pilot project for canal backfilling done in the park around 2000-2002. Backfilling canals resulted in the scraping of the spoil banks back into the existing channel, which resulted in shallower channels. If the dimensions of the canals are diminished, there would be less flow when there is storm surge from the Gulf.
* She provided an example showing the canals with the spoil banks still intact before backfilling and the result after backfilling. Before backfilling, there was an abundance of trees but after the trees became spread out and less abundant.
  1. More Opportunities for Canal Backfilling in Louisiana – Dusty Pate, National Park Service
* Mr. Dusty Pate from the National Park Service spoke about work he had done for his Master’s degree. Publicly available data was used to construct a model in order to estimate the opportunity for canal backfilling. The area of canal spoil bank is analogous to the area that could be restored rather quickly. For his research in 2014, he used habitat data for southern Louisiana that’s the basis for the National Wetland Inventory. The area wasn’t just restricted to wetlands, it also included uplands and spoil banks. Spoil features were identified and mapped across southern Louisiana. Although there were some gaps in the data, it was filled in with data from the National Hydrography data set. He attempted to look at this coast wide but it didn’t do as well as it did in southern Louisiana. An area of 100,000 acres with 15,000 individual spoil features contained a lot of open water areas that are non-restorable through canal backfilling. So he wanted to focus on relatively stable areas of the coast. He picked a figure at about 10 acres in size and analyzed spoil features within 1 kilometer of those. The purpose of this was to see if it was worthwhile to move equipment out to a large feature, you could potentially work on the features around it. He found that the number of features were cut in half. There is active infrastructure out there. He looked at congressionally authorized waterways for forth comers, spoil bank management is an option next to these features, although it’s not going to look like canal backfilling. He looked at active oil and gas data within the state and used that to pull out features associated with those active wells. The result he got in 2014 was that there was about 27,000 acres and about 3600 individual features distributed throughout the coastal zone.
* There is significant opportunity throughout the coast of Louisiana, including the Terrebonne and Barataria basins. Pate also analyzed broad scale habitat mapping with most of the opportunity being on the fresher side of the scale, although there is still opportunity near salt water and brackish areas. There is significant overlap between backfilling opportunity and areas of the coast that was targeted for sediment diversion and other projects of the master plan. Canal backfilling could improve the performance of diversion projects.

1. **NEW BUSINESS - None**
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Saturday, August 18th there will be a volunteer event at the Nature Conservancy in the woods in Grand Isle. It’s from 8 am-12 pm.

1. **ADJOURNED**

* Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
* A motion was made by Kristina Peterson
* Seconded by Joni Tuck.
* Motion was approved by consensus
* The meeting was adjourned.