Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #87 Roll Call

Plantation Suite near Student Union

10:30 a.m. – Thursday, May 2, 2019

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Delania LeBlanc  Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi | X  X  X  X  X  X | Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief  Siva Nunna  Susan Testroet-Bergeron | | | X | 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 | |  | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Cajun Music Preservation | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | | X | Kimberly Reyher  Emily Vuxton | |  | Deb Abibou |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (CPRA) | | | | X | Bren Hasse  Greg Grandy  Brad Miller | | X | Stuart Brown  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  Kellyn LaCour  Alexis Rixner |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | |  | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Chett Chaisson | | X | Davie Breaux  Mohan Menn |
| Iberville Parish | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish | | | |  | Lauren Averill | | X  X | Seamus Riley  Jayd Hill |
| 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 | |  | Faran Dietz  Jeremy Rodriguez |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism | | | |  | Debra Credeur | |  | Karen Leathem  Linda Smith |
| LA Dept. of Economic Development | | | |  | Paul Sawyer | |  | Anne Perry |
| LA Department of Education | | | |  | Jill Cowart | | X | Lydia Hill |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| 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  Chance Wooton | |  | Lauren Comeaux |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | | X | Charles Reulet | | X | Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Willie Cheramie  Jeff Marx  Gage Lasseigne | |  | Brady Carter  Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble |
| LA Forestry Association | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| LA Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities | | | |  | Chip Kline | |  | Morgan Crutcher  Charles Suteliff |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  | Randy Robichaux | |  |  |
| LA Landowners Association | | | |  | Tim Allen | | X | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  | Lori LeBlanc | | X | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | | | | X | Marty J. Chabert  David Gisclair (Retired) | | X | Eva Windhoffer  Karolien Debusschere  Tori Copeland |
| 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 | |  | Rebecca Triche |
| Lafourche Parish | | | |  | Jimmy Cantrelle | | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | |  | Rex Caffey | | X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Thomas Hymel  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | |  | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | | X | Dr. Craig McClain  John Conover | |  | Heidi Boudreaux  Murt Conover |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | | X | Craig Gothreaux  Richard Hartman | | X | Mel Landry  Alexis Rixner  Shannon Martin |
| Nicholls State University | | | | X | Dr. Jay Clune  Monique Crochet  Dr. John Doucet | | X | Mrs. Allison Clune  Gary LaFleur  Chris Bonvillain |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | | X | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | | X | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark  John Helmers |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | | X | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Pat Gordon  Stephanie Brunning |
| South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) | | | |  | Vic Lafont | |  | Simone Maloz  Victoria Sagrera |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | |  | 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 | | | |  | Angela Rathle | |  | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Dusty Pate  Aleutia Scott  Lea Scott  Kimberly Cooke |
| US Coast Guard | | | |  | Capt. Blake Welborn  Kelsey Holford | |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Sarah Bradley  Susan Hennington | | X | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Kaitlyn Carriere  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | Doug Jacobson | |  | Rachel Houge |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck  Bryan Pember |
| USDA/NRCS | | | | X | Quin Kinler  John Boatman  Arnelis Crespo | | X | Alton James  Samuel Terry  Lacy Bellanger |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X  X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Phil Turnipseed  Sinead Borchert  Kathy Ladner  Jennifer Guidry  Kacie Wright |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Aqua Safety-First Community Program | | | |  | Woodrow Parker | |  | Lee Hulsey |
| Atchafalaya NHA | | | |  | Steven Fullen | |  | Justin Owens |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X  X | Gary LaFleur  Earl Melancon  Laynie Barrilleaux | | X | Nolan Falgout, III  Matt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | | | |  | Christopher Gergeni | |  | Christy Naquin |
| Bayou Grace | | | |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler | |  | Jenny Dupre  Anne Parr |
| Bayou Land RC & D | | | |  | Dr. Colleen Butler | |  | Jennifer Roberts |
| Bayou Some Fun | | | | X | Dottie Hartman | |  |  |
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | | | |  | Bruce Baird | | X | Victoria Phaneuf |
| Conoco Phillips | | | |  | Betsy Brien | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | | X | Halle Parker | |  | 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 Ecosystem Restoration Council | | | |  | John Ettinger | |  | LaKeshia Robertson |
| 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 | | | | X | Dr. Benjamin Springgate  Loren Hull  Nancy Rabalais | | X | Jennifer Sato  R Eugene Turner  Ashley Everette |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder | |  | Allyse Ferrara  Keri Turner |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | | X | David Cavell | |  | John Lombardo |
| 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 | | | |  | Mary Elise Schlesinger | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | |  | Ian Voparil | |  | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  | Brent Roger |
| The Water Institute of the Gulf | | | | X  X | Scott Hemmerling  Erin White  Huy Ju | | X | Monica Barra  Bruce Yuill  Christine DeMeyers |
| TLCD | | | |  | Angela Rains | |  | Darin Guidry |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) | | | |  | Melanie Sand | |  | Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| US Geological Survey (USGS) | | | |  | Jacoby Carter | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Ben McMahan | |  |  |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| White Car Marketing | | | |  | Cody Blanchard | | X | Emily Knobloch |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
| Southern University | | | | X | Veronica Manrique | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Darryl Hambrinck | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Doug Daigle | |  |  |
| BTNEP Student Workers | | | | X | Kaitlyn Tabor | | X | Alexis Jones |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #87 Final Minutes – May 2, 2019**

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. Nicole Babin took role by sign in.
3. Susan Testroet-Bergeron introduced herself as the director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.
4. The floor was opened for comments on the reading and approval of the minutes from the meeting.
   1. Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to accept minutes as written and dispense with the reading of the minutes.
   2. Several people motioned to accept as written. Nicole Lundberg seconded the motion.
   3. Motion was approved by consensus.
5. Dr. Clune briefly welcomed everyone and spoke of the recent MOU between Nicholls & CPRA.

* **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

1. Susan Testroet-Bergeron led the discussion of the program activities. She mentioned the work that Andrew and Siva have been doing with the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFWD) and South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC). They are moving forward with the home sewage repair project and it’s going along really well. Alma Robichaux did great with the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup this spring. They were down to 20 tons of trash from it previously being 22 tons. Nicole Babin was the project manager for the Paddle Bayou Lafourche event and it went very well despite having to go up the bayou and stopping halfway through because of the wind on the last day. Senator Cassidy’s staff come for a staffer’s briefing and several of BTNEP staff members participated. Matt and Seth have been very busy with the volunteers from Appalachian State. They’ve been working hard on planting. Matt, Seth, Delaina, and Alma worked with Plaquemines Parish on tree plantings at Grand Liard. Matt mentioned that it looked really good with 95% survival. Susan also mentioned that Natalie did a video on Prothonotary Warblers and it was very well received. Natalie and Tim Allen were on a webinar with Restore or Retreat about the project with the Osprey nests. Natalie also represented us at the Migratory Bird Celebration in Grand Isle. All of the Action Plan Teams met and came up with more proposals that BTNEP could fund. Richard has been working with The Water Institute of the Gulf on Climate Ready Estuaries. Susan and Dean were in Baton Rouge for the Coastal Day with the legislature and talked a little about the Osprey nest platforms that Natalie and Tim talked about in the webinar. The project BTNEP has been working on with CAMO has ended. BTNEP and CAMO had been doing the oil spill accident prevention project. Susan then mentioned the PSA’s that have been circulating on television that Seth Moncrief and his son Wyatt are in related to oil spill prevention and pipeline safety. She thanks Seth and Nicole Lundberg for loaning their family to us. Those were a good partnership project with CAMO. BTNEP/BTEF turned in our final report to PHMSA for the grant and that was a $100,000 revenue. Susan mentioned how that was a basic summary of everything that’s been going on. She also mentioned how BTNEP has been working with EPA to keep track of all of our projects. BTNEP resubmitted the CCMP with all of the additional changes to it. We are hopeful that these changes with fulfill the requirements that EPA wanted. Susan then turned it over to Dean to talk more about the trip to Washington and EPA.
2. Dean Blanchard spoke of how once a year all 28 National Estuary Programs go up to Washington, DC at the EPA headquarters for two to three days. While NEPs are up there they also do Hill visits which we’ve had some extremely successful visits this year. We do an annual briefing and the National Estuary Programs have a lot of support. The support matters for our funding. They had letters go out to Congress. When the NEP’s were reauthorized 3 years ago, we were reauthorized at $750,000 per NEP and 4 million for the grant program. These letters went out again this year at the same level. We had a record breaking number on the US House side with 80 signatures including Congressman Cedric Richmond and Congressman Garret Graves from Louisiana. On the Senate side we had the same amount in the letter; $750,000 and 4 million for the grant program. We had 25 signatures including Senator Bill Cassidy. Dean again mentioned that most of the Hill visits were successful and even though signatures weren’t on the letters, this is only one tool used to support our funding. There’s many other ways to support our funding. Susan then thanked everyone who made this possible.

* **UPCOMING DATES**
  + Management Conference – August 1st, 2019
  + Recycling Facility and Landfill Tours – May 15, 2019
* **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. “BTNEP Annual 2020 Work Plan” – Dean Blanchard, Deputy Director of the Barataria- Terrebonne National Estuary Program
2. Every year BTNEP prepares an application to give to EPA, BTNEP has to have an approved Work Plan. With the one that we have this year, we were told to budget for $600,000. Hopefully next year it’ll be $750,000. All through the Work Plan we have projects and project details. At the end of the document they have a chart that summarizes everything. Dean mentioned that he’ll go through the first few projects and then each coordinator will talk more about their projects. The first several projects are what keep the Program going. It takes up most of the funding but allows everyone to do other things besides the 320 funds. The first item is the LUMCON indirect fee. Our grants are administered through LUMCON, all of our personnel, everything, goes through LUMCON. They have a very favorable 10% rate. We have the personnel salary in the grant; we have several salaries on this grant but not all of them are. The others we have from our state general funds. Fringe keeps going up and we are at an average of 45% so not only do you have a salary but you have 45% of that salary going to fringe. The administrative operating service is the rental for our offices. Dr. Clune mentioned earlier that we may have some promises at the end of the tunnel with some better offices. Also operating services are the normal everyday things we do within the office. A heavy part of this is printing. We have the printing of the calendars and the printing of all our documents. For our travel expenses we have a mandatory meeting with EPA and also other important conferences for staff to attend. Another part of this is supplies. This counts as every day supplies for the office, equipment, events, plant materials and supplies needed at the farm, volunteer supplies. Dean stated that he’ll be going over a few projects that fall under what we do every year for the program. The tidal graph calendars have been successful and we plan on doing it again. We have our media relations contract that’s new now that Kristy Monier has resigned. We’re going to write several contracts in order to do media related things instead of filling the position. It’s been a while since BTNEP has done another Indicator Report. Every year the EPA does a 5-year review on the program and a new Indicator Report has to be done by the time we have our next five-year review which will be about 3 years from now. For these funds the application usually goes in before June and if everything goes well we receive the money for October and we have 3 years to spend the money. Hopefully we’ll have a new Indicator Report out as well as everything else. Dean then turned it over to Andrew for his water quality Action Plan Team meeting that came up with the projects.
3. Andrew Barron greeted everyone. He mentioned that his first project was the H2O Teacher Workshop. This is a workshop that we do with LUMCON every year. We actually train teachers how to use water sampling kits and protocols that LUMCON has come up with and that program is called Bayouside Classroom. That’s really a citizen monitoring program that we’ve been doing for a long time now. This project has actually been going on for 19 years through LUMCON. We’ve been funding it for the past decade or more. Teachers can then give their kids sampling equipment and teach them how to use the kits and the science behind it. We also teach them how to upload their data to the LUMCON website and it’s very effective. He next one is the watershed no dumping signs. Our project manager at DEQ which is Aimee Preau came up with this idea because we have one particular sampling site which is off of Lefort Bypass Road which is where we’re sampling Bayou Folse as a part of our Bayou Folse Watershed project. This site is very popular for dumping because there’s always deer carcasses, fish carcasses, we’ve even had a small pig and some crawfish heads. We have many photographs. Aimee decided we do these watershed signs as well as the no dumping signs and suggested this as a project. That’s all of Andrew’s projects. Dean then chooses Natalie to elaborate on her projects.
4. Natalie Waters started off by talking about the Chimney Swifts Project. Chimney Swifts are long distance migratory bird species that winter in South America and breed east to the Rockies from the southern United States to southern Canada. They’re aerial insectivores and they’ve declined around 72% since the 1960’s. They got the name Chimney Swifts because they’ve adapted to nesting and roosting in chimneys. They’re vertical clingers which means they don’t perch like other birds; they cling to the side of surfaces. Historically, they nested in hollowed out trees or caves but they readily adapted to chimneys because they had that surface to nest inside. Especially in the southern United States a lot of people were building more modern chimneys that aren’t suitable for nesting such as metal chimneys. People are also capping their chimneys throughout the United States so they’re losing a roosting and nesting habitat for the species. A lot of conservation organizations are building these little chimney replicas to give them nesting and roosting sites. A family of Chimney Swifts can eat up to 12,000 mosquitoes, termites, or other aerial insects a day. With that we also do some educational outreach materials to tell people about the project and how they can be good chimney swifts hosts as well.
5. Richard DeMay then introduced the next project. The funding will provide for the survey of beach nesting birds along the coastline, particularly the BTNEP region. Right now, currently under our CPRA agreement we’ve been collecting a lot of information on both winter birds and nesting shore birds on the Caminada Headlands. That’s going to stick to wrapping up the summer. This money will allow us to continue collecting information on nesting birds, particularly in this area but we’re looking to expand our geography beyond just the Caminada Headland to points east and west of that area.
6. Alma Robichaux spoke about the 2020 Environmental Education State Symposium which would be the 24th one. It’s held in Baton Rouge this year and they usually have about 250 teachers from around the state. They come in for environmental education and BTNEP will be a sponsor at $1,000. Then we have the 2020 South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center Swamp camps. This is a wonderful camp that offers 25 students per week with a chance to go and find different things in Louisiana that support the wetlands and also support industry. They take them around to the gator farm and Conoco Philips then also does some work with them as well as BTNEP. That’s going to be a $4,000 event for next summer. We have the Talking Trash to Teachers education workshops. This can be enough for two education workshops. We have a new curriculum which we introduced last BTNEP Management Conference on microplastics, marine debris, and bringing this into the school system. We’re going to upgrade it to environmental education curriculum so that we can reach more teachers that can use it. We’re going to have two of these education workshops throughout Louisiana to try to bring teachers in and introduce them to this curriculum. The WETSHOP which we’ve been doing for 20 years and this is working with Wildlife and Fisheries, Sea Grant, and CWPPRA. It’s in Grand Isle for a week with 20 teachers that stay for a week and do everything from Port Fourchon to Elmer’s Island to Restoration Ridge with BTNEP. They get a lot of great information to take back. The teachers in-turn have to do a project to get additional stipend money whether its’s a project within their school or their community that displays what they learned.
7. Michael Massimi mentioned how his Action Plan Team meeting was very well attended and several of those people are at this Management Conference meeting today. We had 8 great proposals and we obviously can’t fund all of them but after voting the voters went with the classics; giant salvinia. The two proposals that are getting funded under section 320 both deal with giant salvinia. One of them is the impact of Cuban sedge on giant salvinia as a bio control. Cuban sedge is not a new invasive but it’s kind of localized and getting worse around Lafitte and the Barataria Preserve area. It’s an emergent aquatic, exotic sedge that rose along floating mats of vegetation and especially on giant salvinia mats. That has impacts when there’s bio-control efforts on giant salvinia so this project is to understand the relationship between giant salvinia and Cuban sedge. We want to know if there’s a selective herbicide that we can use on the sedge and is there a way we can manage the sedge without impacting our bio-control activities on giant salvinia. The other project deals with aquatic insects. We have a lot of data on giant salvinia and its impacts on various ecological functions but there’s almost zero on how it impacts the aquatic insect community which is very important for fisheries and is the base of the food chain, especially for insects that have aerial dispersals. When there’s giant salvinia mats there’s obviously no aerial dispersals and other submerged aquatics are being shaded out and killed and it’s impacting the aquatic insect community. The second project is to better understand that. Michael then mentioned Dr. Veronica Manrique’s project. She’ll be giving a presentation on the Chinese tallow work that she and Michael have been working on. Her proposal at the Action Plan Team meeting actually voted 3rd place but we didn’t have enough money in the Section 320 funds but the foundation has agreed to fund her proposal which is to manage air potato vines with a bio-control insect. Bio-control somewhat reestablishes that natural system of checks and balances. It’s probably not going to cause and eradications but it brings things back into balance. There is an approved bio-control agent for air potato and she’ll be making not only for the research of that but possibly establishing a breeding facility for the beetles which you currently have to get from Florida.
8. Seth Moncrief mentioned that they’re in their 3rd year of the Cultural Heritage Action Plan Team with BTNEP. Our team was able to rank and select two projects to be funded and the first has to do with the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center. They’re aiming to make progress in zero waste management at their annual Rougarou Festival which supports environmental education and Cultural Heritage and we are going to try to get $1,800 to get five more recycling stations and help them towards their goal of zero waste. The other project is called Bayou Stories and is put on by the Bayou Cultural Collaborative. It will be mentioning narratives from researchers and important people in the community about why they call it an estuary and hopefully this will be a start of an ongoing project. This was the last project and Quenton then asked if anyone had questions and the assigned people answered any questions.
9. The motion was made to approve the Work Plan as written.
10. Seconded
11. Motion was approved by consensus.
12. Susan wanted everyone to know that not only do we get money from the federal funds through EPA and state money through LUMCON but our Foundation also provides some additional money for projects. There’s state money that we’re working with for the breeding bird survey at the Caminada Headlands and West Belle Pass. We still have some money from the Department of Justice so we’re continuing habitat restoration at Grand Isle State Park where we’re removing invasive and planting natives. They’re going to keep working on the Osprey nest platforms with the funding from Apache. The Prothonotary Warbler surveys are something we’d like to continue but we need some additional money. Also the Red Knot surveys, Delaina’s out this week because she’s doing these surveys on Grand Isle and next week they’re going to the Chandeleur Islands to look for resights. Again we are looking for additional funding for this. The Plant Material Center and Farm Operations is something that Matt runs and our Foundation has been a great supporter of it so we still have funds to keep that running. Water sampling on Bayou Folse is funded through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality which is what we anticipated. The Gulf of Mexico Program with home sewage assistance, Siva wrote a $690,000 grant, that money goes towards helping homeowners fix their home sewage systems. We’re trying to do education and outreach about water quality in the estuary. Our volunteer program stays funded partly through the Foundation. We’re still working on a project with Shell Oil Company for marshes and ridges and we’re working a lot in Plaquemines Parish on the ridge at the Spanish Pass and then at Port Fourchon. We also hosted an additional paddle event in addition to the Bayou Lafourche paddle and we’ll probably do another one like that in the fall. We’ll also host the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup but we’re looking for additional money for the Marine Debris Education and Prevention Program. We’re going to continue working with the Louisiana Master Naturalists and they do a lot of field trips for the volunteers. We are also working with the National Park Service who is not here today and sends their regrets. These are a lot of the things that we fund that ends up going through our foundation so we’re appreciative to all of our foundation board members who attended.
13. “BTNEP Climate Ready Estuary Report” – Scott Hemmerling, Human Dimensions and Huy Ju, from The Water Institute of the Gulf

Richard DeMay introduces the project and spoke about the Climate Ready Estuaries process that the EPA requires all National Estuary Programs to do. He further explains how this process is helpful and how it’s used in the program. BTNEP contracted with Scott and those at TWIG to lead us through this process. The contract was just executed recently. They developed a survey that’s very painless, a process to go through to look at the stressors and the implications associated with climate change stressors and how it might impact our implementations. They’re going to present to you that process. What we’re looking for from you is if you’re interested in helping us, we’re looking for a number of people to join this effort to go through this process and to help us to find the specifics of what you believe the issues to be regarding climate change. Those things that rank high on those surveys are what we’re going to try to tackle. Richard then turns it over to Scott Hemmerling.

Scott starts off by thanking everyone for having him. He mentioned that he is the director of Human Dimensions at The Water Institute of the Gulf. As most of you know The Water Institute is a non-profit research institution that’s located in Baton Rouge. We focus on coastal issues in Louisiana. We are probably more well-known for the work that we’ve done for the state’s Master Plan but we also have our Human Dimensions team which focuses on the impacts of land loss. We do a wide range of activities from the spatial analysis that we’ve done but also some of the community work recently done in Plaquemines Parish with some of the tribal groups that were down here. Today we’re going to talk about the ready estuary program process that we’re doing. The first step is to go through the surveying process and we hope to have as much of the estuary members involved in this as possible. Scott then proceeded to introduce his team who consisted of Huy Vu who is a research scientist and Christine DeMyers who is a research anthropologist. Huy Vu will go into further detail about the process and Scott hands it over to Huy.

Huy Vu thanked everyone for inviting them to share their research that’s in partnership with BTNEP. This is still in the very early stages so he’ll just be walking us through the steps that they’ll be taking as they move on. The Environmental Protection Agency wants all National Estuary Programs to address climate change and to be ready. The EPA requires National Estuary Programs to assess their ability to assess climate change and these Action Plans will help us tackle these issues. Throughout the process they hope to engage and educate with stakeholders. As Richard said, this process is mandatory. He then showed a few estuary programs that have installed their process and mentioned that they will add BTNEP to the list. This climate ready process involves the Estuary Program to develop a type of climate change adaptation. This is a two-step process; there is the vulnerability assessment and the Action Plan. The vulnerability assessment is a necessary part of the process and focuses on risks. The process of the output of the vulnerability assessment is a description of all the conscious risks that are affecting BTNEP or what factors are keeping BTNEP from achieving its goals. The Action Plan is how BTNEP achieves its goals. This is the results of the vulnerability assessment and addressing the risks that BTNEP faces. This whole process is based off of the risk management. It’s basically whether or not BTNEP will be able to reach its goals.

This whole process is long but will force BTNEP to go in the direction that allows them to achieve their goals. They will be providing all of their contacts and analysis that will help in this process. In addition, this will allow them to look at risks systematically and from a different perspective and doing so will identify risks that action plans come up with that’ll help prevent surprises in the process. Finally, a better solution can be found by going through all potential risks and solutions and can come up with strategies that can tackle multiple risks at a time. When they’re looking at this risk management perspective, it’s about an organization and its goals, context, and decisions. For example, they take an imaginary organization with five goals, six stressors, and 4 risks for each stressor so you have 5 times 6 times 4. That’s 120 risks that the organization faces and these can add up very quickly. He then asked himself how to decide what to do when there are not enough resources to do everything that needs to be done. Risk based planning will allow them to answer this question.

The EPA published a workbook: a guide to climate change adaptation planning. This is based off of their past experiences with watershed management. The purpose of this workbook is to provide guidance for organizations such as BTNEP in creating an action plan. Huy then showed a page from the workbook and the workbook has two parts. The first part is the vulnerability assessment and the second part is the adaptation plan. Again, this will tell organizations step-by-step how to tackle climate change and Huy mentioned that he would be walking everyone through all of the steps.

The first step is communication and consultation. This is very important in the early stages because it allows stakeholders to learn their interests and level of involvement. This also allows them to learn more about communication and what things are affecting it. Step two is when they establish the context for the vulnerability assessment. This sets the boundary for the assessment and focuses on how climate change will affect BTNEP’s ability to achieve its goals and any of the factors that will hinder BTNEP’s ability to do so. Step three is the risk identification which is where they examine all of the potential risks that can refer to BTNEP being prevented from achieving its goals. Every risk will be listed no matter how lightly it is to occur. Step four is the risk analysis. This is where they take the set of risks they came up with in step three and analyze each risk. In step five they have the risk evaluation where they compare risks from step four. Doing this allows them to develop consequences or a probability matrix and will review with the stakeholders. The Water Institute worked closely with BTNEP to come up with these consequences and probability matrix. They also evaluated the likelihood of the risks occurring. At the end of step five they should get results from the consequence/probability matrix. Huy then explained the consequence and probability matrix. With limited resources, BTNEP will not be able to tackle every single risk present in this process.

The second part of the workbook is the adaptation plan. Step six is another context step as seen previously in step five but this is where we examine the local repertory and cultural situation of BTNEP and if there’s a certain action plan. Step number seven is when they’re going to start working closely with BTNEP and the management conference to evaluate every risk that will come up from the vulnerability assessment to determine whether to mitigate, transfer, accept, or avoid each risks. Some risks can be accepted if their consequences are minor. Some risks could be transferred if there is a different party that has a project that interests certain risks. Step 8a and 8b is where all possible action plans are assessed because some action plans will be better than others. Action plans that are feasible in terms of cost and risk reduction as well as not creating anymore risks will be selected. Step 9 and 10 rounds out the adaptation plan. Step 9 is preparing and implementing an action plan. This is to keep track of action plans in which risks are accepted will be established. Step 10 is to monitor and review and basically keeps track of the action plans and to update the vulnerability assessment as needed. The goal of this whole process is to move all the risks that are red in the matrix to the middle and then to the green. By taking adaptation actions that minimize the likelihood of the consequences.

He then showed some of the results that they had. The workbook lists some stressors which are warmer winters, warmer summers, warmer water, increased storminess, increased drought, sea level rise, and ocean acidification. These are all things we need to address. There are 17 different risks associated with warmer winters. If warmer winters were to occur, BTNEP would have to have an increase in disease prevalence and survival of overwintering populations. There are 28 risks for warmer summers which are more intense storms and hurricane events. For warmer waters there are 19 risks such as an increase in the concentration of diseases and pathogens, which can impact human health. There are 28 risks for increased storminess which are higher insurance rates and in-turn can force residents to be uninsured. Increasing drought has 22 risks which include a lower water table, which will cause an increase in subsidence along the coastline. Sea level rise has 31 risks such as an increase in aquafer salinity or saltwater intrusion. There are 12 risks that come from ocean acidification such as more corrosive waters, which will impact the shell development of bivalves and exoskeletons of crustaceans. There is a total of 152 risks with risks to plants and wildlife, ecosystems, and humans. The 152 risks were identified through literature review, the workbook, as well as the published CRE reports in addition to the recently published BTNEP CCMP.

He then showed a blank example of a risk survey. The example shown is on warmer waters and asks how the water will affect the estuary system such as the risks to plants and wildlife, ecosystems, and humans. People can help out with this process by being involved in the CRE process, providing inputs and comments as well as participating in email surveys. They’ll be sending out emails through the process so taking these surveys would help greatly. He then showed and explained a blank example of the survey as well. Please see attached presentation for more information. Scott then mentioned that the risk matrix is really dependent on the information they gather from the members of the management conference The input they receive is vital to making sure that the final product addresses the concerns of BTNEP, the management conference members, and the general region. They then take questions.

Richard DeMay mentioned how the process is actually relatively easy. One of the last slides showed the matrix survey. He then explained this spreadsheet and how easy it is. They’re going to take all of these surveys and use them to define the things that are of high concern, medium concern, lesser concern, and they’ll mainly be focusing on those of higher concern.

Susan mentioned that the more people who take the survey, the better chance we have at getting a real picture of what people think is the biggest problem. Most of the members of the BTNEP MC agreed to participate in the survey.

1. “Pre-released Data on Plant Demography of Chinese Tallow in Terrebonne before Biological Control is Initiated” – Dr. Veronica Manrique, Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources, Southern University

Michael Massimi introduces Dr. Veronica Manrique and spoke of her project on Chinese tallow and demography such as the growth rates and mortality. The idea of this project is that a bio-control agent for Chinese tallow is nearing the finish line for approval for release which is extremely important for tallow control. It’s a beetle and it only has to go through the environmental impact statement process before it’s approved for release. The idea of this was a forward-thinking project proposal that came from the action plan meeting to get the baseline demography recorded so that we know what the tallow is doing in the field before releasing the beetle. Hopefully it’ll be approved soon but now we have some baseline data to compare to see what the beetle is capable of.

Dr. Veronica Manrique thanks Michael for the introduction. She presented a project on the Chinese tallow. The project was being done by Southern University and Louisiana State University. Chinese tallow is a very invasive tree native to China. It is institutional to the southern and southeastern parts of the Unites States. This is invasive in many natural areas as well as controlled areas. The tallow displaces native species which results in ecosystem modification and loss of biodiversity. A very interesting study has been done to try to estimate the economic losses that will cost around $300 million over 20 years to try to control this plant.

Many different methods are being used against Chinese tallow. There has been mechanical control and chemical control such as herbicides. These can be very costly and sometimes harm the environment so that’s why it’s better to work with biological control. She’s also trying to find other ways that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Control of Chinese tallow has already started in Florida. A scientist from there has started doing this project and he started doing surveys of natural enemies in China to look for those insects that have been involved with the plant for a long time. That is what they look for when they do biological control.

The Baly Beetle or the *Bikasha collaris* was identified and extensive tests and procedures were done. The beetle was studied with over 70 different plants and testing showed that the beetle is a specialist. They don’t want to release anything that would be feeding on any other plants. Also, there were some studies done on the impact of the beetle. They want to release the beetle to manage the plant, eat the plant and slow the growth and get data on how the damage of the insect affects the plant. The petition was put together and sent to the TAG committee. There is a lot of information that goes into the petition and the committee has recommended the release of the beetle in the United States. This petition has been submitted to the APHIS-PPQ which is a government organization that provides the release permit. They are currently waiting to see if they get the release permit and when they do get it to really start seeing the agent in the field.

The great thing about the *Bikasha* *collaris* is that the adults feed on the leaves and the larvae feed on the roots. Here they’re having two different stressors on the plant and in turn reducing the population of the Chinese tallow. In bio-control there’s many things that they do. Before the release they want to measure and get some baseline data such as how the population of tallow is doing in the field before releasing the agent. This will give them an idea so that whenever they release the agent they can make comparisons of the before and after to see if the bio-control agent is working in the field.

As she said, this is a collaboration between Southern University and LSU and she has two graduate students working on this project. These students are Charles Omoyele and Dora Sevor and they’re very good students. Dr. Manrique then mentioned the objectives and talked about them. First they wanted to establish long-term plots of Chinese tallow in Louisiana. This will help them in the future when they have the beetle to start doing the releases. The next objective is to measure the performance of the Chinese tallow in Louisiana before introducing the beetle. With that we want to quantify plant demographics in south and central Louisiana and determine plant growth and impact of the local herbivores in field plots. With bio-control you need to predict what will happen and it’s difficult to predict how the beetle will affect the plant and the population level. They use artificial herbivory to help them predict what will happen when they use the agent. For the first study they established two field sites in October 2018. One was in Pineville, LA which is in central Louisiana. This plot is a field of just Chinese tallow. Its private property, is a cattle and horse ranch, has no management and after taking soil samples they realized that there were lower soil nutrients. The other site is south to New Orleans. This site is a Parc des Familles and a recreation park and has a disc golf course. There is frequent management of the lawn which means they fertilize it often so the soil nutrients were 3-4 fold higher than the other site. At the site they marked a 20 x 20 meter area for the experiment and marked every tree they found in the area. They measured the stem diameter, plant height of the smaller plants, and overtime will measure the plant survival. Another thing they want to measure is the seed rains so they’re using a trap. They will be checking these plots every three months.

Veronica then showed a bar graph of some of the results. The plants were separated by age so there were seedlings, saplings, and mature plants. The seedling difference between the two plots were astounding because the one in Pineville had around 35 and the one in New Orleans had about 90. There was a 30% reduction in seedlings at both sites in January 2019. The seed rain traps had 14 seeds per trap in New Orleans and 1.5 seeds per trap in Pineville. So there was a much higher number of seeds in New Orleans and this could possibly be because of the higher amount of nutrients in the soil. Another study they’re doing is on how local insects already in Louisiana are impacting the Chinese tallow. They actually planted 80 Chinese tallow in June 2018 at a garden in LSU. The two treatments are insecticide so that they can see what the plants do without the insects and water as the controlled treatment. They take plant measurements so the number of leaves, number of branches, basal stem diameter, plant height, and the percent of insect damage. She then pointed out the pictures of the plants and the students taking measurements. What they found was the leaf miner that was found feeding on the Chinese tallow and this insect has been found feeding on the range of tallow all over the United States. She then showed the images of the damage done on the leaf. The damage done isn’t real damage because it doesn’t seriously affect the plants. Unfortunately, the leaf miner was present in both treatments so we were not really able to exclude the insects in our treatments this first year.

She then explained the line graphs made from the data. In one of the graphs the red line is the treatment of insecticides and the blue is the control. This just allows you to see the change in number of leaves and if there are any significant differences. They saw some differences in the plant height at the end of the study of last year. Some of the differences in the number of branches but they can’t say that it is related to the insects. Another study they’re doing is that they’re trying to study the effects of herbivory and soil fertility in plant growth. They’ve learned a lot from the previous studies such as how tallow grown in high nutrient soil as well as low nutrient soil. They have another plot of Chinse tallow at Southern University and this is also a two-year study. They’ll be using the fertilizer as well as the artificial herbivory as the treatments. She then showed an image of what the plot would look like with half of the plot being fertilized and the other not. They then randomly selected what plants to do the artificial damage on. For the artificial herbivory, the *Bikasha collaris* adults will feed on the leaves and the larvae feed on the roots. They are pretending to be the beetle with the artificial herbivory and this has been done for many other studies where they’ve done physical interactions and bio-control. What they did for the leaf removal was remove 20% of the leaf and this was based off of another study that showed how much the *Bikasha collaris* would damage. They also did root damage using the root assassin shovel with an estimated 10% of damage. Three artificial damage events were conducted, one in July, August, and September of 2018. This is going to have several generations and they will be feeding over and over again on the plants so this will be stressing them for a really long time.

Dr. Manrique then explains another line graph with data on the plant growth in 2018. The plants represented by the blue and grey lines are all plants that receive fertilizer and will grow without effects from the herbivory at least during the first year. There is a huge difference in the number of leaves when there’s no fertility or no fertilizer. Those that are under low fertility are being stressed by the herbivory and the differences can be seen in September of 2018. The main insect they found in the plot was the leaf miner. Another interesting result they weren’t expecting was such a high amount of leaf miners found on those plants with higher nutrients compared to those with low nutrients. They took the leaf samples and analyzed the nutrients in it and concluded that the plants being fertilized had a higher percentage of nitrogen. The plants with more fertilizer grew much taller and the leaf miners weren’t really affecting the plant. The local insects aren’t really working to reduce the growth so that’s why they’re trying to introduce another agent. This is why they’re trying to release a new bio-control agent to stress the tallow and reduce the growth. She then spoke about the significance of the studies.

Since they started in October, they’ll be continuing their demography studies throughout this year and next year, going check in every three months. They’ll be doing the experiment again at LSU and will be removing the insects and will be spraying for these insects very early on. The studies done on the artificial herbivory will be repeated at Southern University and what they learned is that the Chinese tallow plants are growing under high nutrient levels, possibly being the reason why they’re able to compensate for herbivory. That’ll give them an idea of what to recommend so whenever they’re ready to start a bio-control program they can do a map, look at sites with low nutrients and decide if the Chinese tallow will be able to compensate for herbivory. However, when they release an agent they’re going to be feeding over many years. They do these studies so that it’s easier to predict what’ll happen in the future with the agent and whether or not the Chinese tallow will be affected by the agent. They’re also doing a study in Florida so it’s going to be very interesting to do these with people from Florida and from Louisiana. All of the field plots will be used for the initial field releases of the bio-control agents. All of this data will be used as a comparison of before and after to evaluate the efficacy of the bio-control agent on Chinese tallow. They will have to continue doing these tests in order to monitor the agent over the years. She then takes questions.

1. “Community Resilience Learning Collaborative and Research Network – C-Learn Update including New Products” – Ashley Everette, Project Coordinator, LSU Health Sciences Center

Ashley Everette thanked everyone for being there. She is the project coordinator for C-Learn, stands for Community Resilience Learning Collaborative and Research Network. This project is under the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. They also have community partners on the ground that do the work every day that they consult and work with because they have the expertise that C-Learn is lacking such as academics.

Last year the partners went to New Orleans and got an overview of the project. They started this in October of 2017 so they’re in their relatively second year but in general it is a project that will work with their community partners to determine the best way to enhance resilience. As we all know we are in a very vulnerable location, especially when it comes to climate change and weather events. The experiences we’re having with flash floods and tornados are only going to increase the duration of superiority over time. In order to prepare or anticipate recovery for those events, as a team they’ve decided what the best characteristics are for resiliency. The project is basically trying to figure out the best ways to use resilience in communities with individuals who are in areas that are impacted by natural disasters.

There are two levels in this trial as well so the interventions that are offered will be compared to one another across the communities to see which program is more effective in the end.

Ashley then got into the background of mental health and disasters. Some people believe they’re a bit unrelated but they’re not. Most people can account for that especially since we’re in Louisiana. People who encounter and deal with natural disasters often suffer from PTSD, anxiety, and depression because of their experiences from recovering from these disasters. What they found is that generally people who are experiencing these types of issues are also dealing with issues such as financial concerns, financial planning, housing assistance, housing stability and their current accessibility to mental health resources and services.

Their team basically tries to figure out what the best ways to incorporate these resources are in order to address mental health issues to decrease the impact of climate change and natural disasters. One of the things that they’ve found from their research is that one of the best ways to combat these issues, especially on a community level, is to do community research. They have many partners to do a community coalition; that’s one of the main focuses there. They operate as a community partnered participatory research program or approach. With that they have Leadership Council so that those community partners that she mentioned earlier can get together to design plan implements for all phases of their research study. Nothing is passed through without a consultation with the council to make sure that the materials and implementations that we plan are safe for the communities. She mentioned how she believes everyone is very aware of populations being over researched and are uncomfortable participating in research because of the ways they’re manipulated and creating more vulnerability in the future. With our community research council, we operate under the principles of CPPR. This approach is the foundation and framework around transparency in research, especially working with community partners they make sure that they’re all on the same page when writing the process. They also make sure they do a lot of two-way knowledge. The idea is generally that they have active people at the table who have the most information. There is an opportunity for both partners to learn from one another so they make sure that the communication channel is always present. They also operate through a process that we want to make sure that the voices and the traditions and cultures, other communities that are being impacted by research are also reflected throughout the research approach. That’s really the framework that they work with. It’s becoming more popular but it’s a bit more time consuming because there’s a lot of people to educate with and a lot of channels to navigate but it’s one of the best ways to do this type of research.

Some of the research questions they came up with, with their council and programs pertains to which ways would work best so that they can compare the effectiveness of this approach. The first one is will CEP or TA be more effective at enhancing client mental health, quality of life, and ability to cope with stressors and other resilience outcomes. CEP for this purpose is the abbreviation that reviews for our coalition that we’re planning. TA stands for technical assistance which is the webinar portion that she’ll explain a little bit more later on. The second question is will CEP or TA be more effective in engaging programs and providers in trainings to improve services for depression, social risks and disaster concerns, and in increasing the use of such services by programs and providers. The third is will CR or CR+eCBT mobile app be more effective in improving client mental health, quality of life, and ability to cope with stressors and other resilience outcomes. Ashley then moved on to the C-LEARN phases. Last year they talked a lot about phase one because that’s where they currently were at that time. For phase one they did 47 interviews across Baton Rouge, Coastal Louisiana, and New Orleans to figure out what organizations were experiencing when it came to natural disasters, what they experienced in the recovery, what things they could do better, what things should they never do again. They also collected some demographic information to figure out who they’re talking about, what does it look like, and maybe some differences across the board. Within those interviews we used the part that was last year so we collected all of this information from places expressed throughout our communities. Just so people can see the coaches that have dedicated their time towards within our research. She then explained the slide and how it outlines most of the key things that came out of these interviews for the baseline.

Phase two is what they’re currently in. She then expressed her excitement about this. Two of the things that they’re offering is a coalition level and an individual level. At a coalition level or a community level, they’re looking to offer webinars and educational resources and information around disaster preparedness and recovery, mental health and collaborative care services, financial planning and housing. They chose those social requirements because in our areas from phase one a lot of service providers of the organizations mentioned that communities that were already burdened with financial issues were having more severe problems after recovery. They figured it may be useful to offer these services and information up front that would give them time to build up their resilience. That portion is one arm that organizations can recognize and then the other pushes the coalition. Their coalition went on for 3 months with our community agencies that are helping with this project. With that coalition meeting, the people at the table would basically create action plans of what they see to be problems in their communities and what ways they can help solve those issues. They’re going to implement their action plans within a standard 3 months.

That action plan is something created by the organizations at the table and document, take interview notes, and they figure out how to facilitate the conversations that the organizations are bringing up. They are very much in the background as they plan what services and things they could offer would be best for our communities. The other level that they have is an individual level. They’re offering a local app to assist users through these resources so that the organizations will receive automated text messages that will go through tips, strategies, and coaches to navigate financial issues, disaster preparedness and recovery, and tips and strategies. What that looks like is someone who’s been signed up to get text messages from our disaster preparedness may be asked if they’ve prepared a disaster box, if they know when hurricane season starts, what days they need to watch out, what cities are in evacuation, things of that nature. They’d also be sent similar things such as what resources are around, health and care, things for anxiety and depression treatment. It basically would ask them to chop down those problems they have into small little pieces while having conversations through text message. Since we’re on the brink of technology, they’re trying to create something that will enhance over time but with technology comes technological issues.

People can see the resource guide or just the directory of services around mental health issues, social issues and disaster preparedness within the areas that they’re serving. Ashley then spoke about the outcomes that they’re looking for with the community. These include resiliency, more preparedness around disaster, and more preparedness around being able to recover from disasters. Another one is sector collaboration which is a big one. They have a very big issue with people communicating with one another across different sectors so what they’re realizing is that their recruitment strategies are that those in housing stick with housing and those in finance stick with finance. They’re missing a lot of opportunities to solve problems when they’re all sticking to their areas of comfort. They want to see if a collaboration will help to bridge that gap between all of the different sectors. They’re also looking for the program use of services and toolkits, training participation, and use of strategies. With the individuals they’re looking to see enhanced resilience, a decrease in depression symptoms, increase in health and quality of life, mental wellness, unmet needs, homelessness risk factors, use of services, and the use of disaster recovery or preparedness resources. They’re still looking for organizations to partner with, particularly in the coastal communities. Due to the fact that they’re located in New Orleans, it’s very convenient for them to find organizations in New Orleans to partner with but they’re lacking significantly with coastal participation and would love to have then community represented. Organizations who partnered with us were offered educational materials and resources around mental health, housing, finance, and disaster preparedness and recovery. The participants of the study were offered the text message base approach and a community stress guide. As of today they’re in phase two and are approximately 30% through our recruitment efforts. They want to have about 60 programs participating within our interventions. Currently they have CSED, Evacuteer, HandsOn NOLA, Krewe du Lose, New Orleans Musician’s Clinic Foundation, NAMI, Ozanam Inn, Women with a Vision, St. Roch Neighborhood Association, St. Anna’s Church, The Rebuild Center, Operation Restoration, 504HealthNet, and Habitat for Humanity who are all among their organizations that they’ll be working with to provide educational materials and to recruit people from those organizations. She then takes questions.

* **NEW BUSINESS** 
  + CAMO has an interest in becoming a management conference member and we have a membership committee. There’s an open chair so we’re open to new members.
* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  + No Announcements
* **ADJOURNED**
  + Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
  + A motion was made by Kristina Peterson.
  + Seconded by Ivy Mathieu.
  + Motion was approved by consensus. The meeting was adjourned.