Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
MC Meeting # 55 Minutes
9:30AM-March 23, 2011
Nicholls State University
Ellender Memorial Library, Multipurpose Room
Thibodaux, LA

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present:
Steven Peyronnin-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Jerome Zeringue-Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Nancy Woodlock-Jefferson Parish
Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education
Chasity Cheramie-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Vince Guillory-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Dwayne Bourgeois-LA Assoc. of Levee Boards
Mike Lyons-LA Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Jean May-Brett-LSTA
John Conover-LUMCON
Alan Matherne-LSU Ag Center
Gary LaFleur-Nicholls State University
P.J. Hahn-Plaquemines Parish
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Susan Hennington-US Army Corp of Engineers
Susan Testroet-Bergeron-USGS
Rachel Sweeney-US National Marine Fisheries Service

Organizations Not Represented:
American Sugarcane League
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Coastal Conservation Assoc of LA
Commercial Fisheries
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Iberville Parish
LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Economic Development
LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Lafourche Parish
Louisiana Forestry Assoc.
Louisiana Landowner's Assoc.
LA Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
National Park Service
Pointe Coupee Parish
South Central Planning & Development Commission
South Louisiana Economic Council
US Coast Guard
US EPA
US Fish & Wildlife Service
USDA/NRCS

February 4, 2011

Gambit (New Orleans)

- *"SP**OIL**ED:In Louisiana, Fewer than One In 100 Oil Spills Result in Fines…So What Reason Does the Industry Have to Clean Up Its Act?"* -March 8, 2011

Houmatoday.com

- *"Get up close and personal with our area's eagles"*-February 7, 2011
- *"'Hands*-on' science featured at World Wetlands Day"- February 3, 2011

NOLA.com

- *"Eagle Expo offers wildlife tours, lectures in Morgan City"*- February 7, 2011
- *"Gretna No.* 2 students raise money for oil spill relief"- February 20, 2011

On Earth Magazine

- *"If Ya Can't Beat 'Em, Wear 'Em"*- February 23, 2011
- *"Saving Louisiana: What Can We Do?"* January 7, 2011

Opelousas Daily World (Opelousas, LA)

- *"Morgan City Eagle expo offers wildlife tours, lectures"*- February 8, 2011

The Assumption Pioneer (Napoleonville, LA)

- "*Nicholls 'Tresors Du Bayou' Free and Open To Public"*-February 24, 2011

The Banner-Tribune (Franklin, LA)

- *"'Saving our Raptors' part of Eagle Expo lineup"*-January 31, 2011

The Courier (Houma, LA)

- *"Expo Experiment: Annual Trip gives locals, out-of-towners a close look at majestic bird"*- February 4, 2011
- *"'Local Control' Oil-waste law was meant to shield communities"*- February 20, 2011

The Daily Review (Morgan City, LA)

- *"Eagle Expo offers tours, lectures*- February 7, 2011
- *"With Wings As Eagles*:Eagle Expo starts today"- February 10, 2011

The Donaldsonville Chief (Donaldsonville, LA)

- *"Speakers, live raptors, workshops and boat tours to highlight 6th Annual Eagle Expo"*- February 3, 2011
- *"3rd annual Swamp Stomp Festival to promote Cajun culture, feature regional bands"*-February 24, 2011

The Gumbo Entertainment (Houma, LA)

- *"St. Mary Expo goes on the hunt for eagles"*- February 2011

The News-Start (Monroe, LA)

- *"Eagle Expo offers wildlife tours, lectures"*-February 8, 2011

The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA)

- *"Outdoors again stands to suffer"*-February 27, 2011

The Tri-Parish Times (Houma, LA)

- *"St. Mary Expo goes on hunt for eagles"*-February 9, 2011

C.Meetings

Alex Naquin, South Lafourche High School
FDT-River Use Sub-Group Meeting
John Hankinson-Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force
Davis Pond Modification Web Meeting
Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force Meeting
Oil Spill Commission Final Report & Recommendations
Billy Guste-Plaquemine Parish
Davis Pond PDT
CWPPRA Task Force
Clint Guidry, LA Shrimp Association
Paul Johnson, TPSD and John Dunkhase, Univ. of Iowa-NOAA Grant for "Carpe Diem"
Terrebonne Parish CZM
Bayou Grace Partnership meeting
Lafourche CZM
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Master Plan FDT

the coast. Project specific monitoring tended to focus on topography and vegetative components.

Monitoring over long periods of time became an issue because of funding. Total monitoring of what was happening under water was not monitored in the past. Also process data was not monitored; this includes data on winds, waves, and currents. An effort was started to gather data all along the coast, including the Barrier Islands, so the CRMS program was started.

Data from the 1880's was collected from NOAA to compare it to today's data on the barrier islands.

Darin stated the goal of this program is to provide long term monitoring data and to provide it to people to use, whether to plan CWPPRA projects, to assess ongoing projects, to provide to scientists for their use, etc.

Darin showed the MC maps of where and what types of monitoring took place. Data is being compiled by area.

Darin stated that currently that all the monitoring has been done, the sediment characterization is being completed and the final report and workshop should be completed by June. A program assessment will also take place. Post storm assessment is completed. This was a series of photography and aerial video surveys comparing the islands before and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Shoreline change data is also available, along with reports. An average was taken to get a historic shoreline change rate. On Raccoon Island, the rate is -27.9 ft. per year. Comparing long term shoreline change rates to short term shoreline change rates, erosion is decreasing.

Darin stated that volume changes in the sediment are also being monitored. He stated we are in need of sediment 10 times more than we thought based on modeled sediment budgets.

Darin stated the products of this project are currently being used for the Terrebonne Shoreline Feasibility Study, Pointe Au Fer, Caillou, LCA, the Chenier Plain Feasibility Study, and CWPPRA. It was also used for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

He stated that all of this data is on the website. There is a ftp site where all the reports can be downloaded.

Rachel Sweeney asked Darin what was the annual program cost. Darin stated the state put up approximately $3 million. UNO and USGS cost shared about 50%. So the program costs about $6 million every 5 years. He stated the cost will probably go up to $8-$10 million depending on how much USGS and UNO want to stay involved.

C. **Recent Geological Changes in the Mississippi River Delta**-Dr. Alex Kolker, LUMCON
Alex stated the work that he is presenting is a result of several projects in collaboration with LUMCON, UNO, Tulane and University of Texas. The funding comes largely from CREST and LEAD.

He stated he would talk about recent geological changes in the delta in terms of subsidence and land creation.

He first talked about the formation of the Mississippi Delta and how sediment travels down the delta. He stated the problem with the system today growth processes are cut off and decay processes accelerate. There are numerous causes of land loss, the biggest being subsidence. And subsidence is not being balanced by new sediment deposition. Sea level rise is also a cause of land loss.

Alex stated that the community action projects will take place in 3 phases. The first phase is the informative series. The group is planning a series of 10 public forums highlighting BTNEP's 7 priority problems. Phase 2 will include hands-on events such as vegetative plantings. Phase 3 is advocating Louisiana's best interest. This will include working with local and state government to secure funding.

Alex asked the MC for their support, knowledge and resources to get these projects off the ground. The group will also provide support to the MC by bringing in the youth, bringing in the back bone to actually get some programs/projects under way and make a difference.

Carolyn stated that the name Sassafras was chosen because filé is made from sassafras. And just as filé brings together foods such as gumbo, the group wants to bring together the youth in our state.

Susan Testroet-Bergeron proposed that the MC have a youth member represented. Sandra Helmuth stated it may be a problem taking that person out of school. Rachel Sweeney stated maybe having several students so they could attend on a rotating basis. Susan suggested that it be a youth position that does not go to one particular school but the representatives could come from different youth organizations.

E. **BTNEP Website Update**-Mel Landry, BTNEP
Mel reminded the MC that at the last meeting he talked about the pending changes to the BTNEP website. As of today, the new website is up and running. He stated some of the sub sites are still being worked on. He stated navigation through the site is easier than it used to be. He stated you can still find the old resources on the new site. There are still some things that have not been updated, such as the volunteer page, but the information is still there.

There are few new tools, one being a project fact sheet list. A subcontractor will be hired to have fact sheets made on all projects since the programs start.

VI. New Business

Kerry informed the MC that the owner of Spahr's Restaurant, Donald Spahr, came to BTNEP and offered to raise funds for the Foundation. On September 16, 2011, BTNEP and Spahr's will have a Golf Tournament at Sugarland Country Club in Raceland. Shelley Sparks stated there will also be a silent auction.

Shelley announced that the Paddle Bayou Lafourche will be held April 7-10, 2011. She stated this will be the 10 year anniversary of the paddle trip. She stated that this year you can register and pay online.

Michael Massimi informed the MC that he will be announcing the application period for the Invasive Species mini grants within the next few days.

Richard DeMay announced that the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration will be held April 15-17, 2011.

Gary LaFleur announced that the Chauvin Folk Art Festival will be held on April 10, 2011. He stated that BTNEP supports this event through the Jubilee contract.

Alan Matherne, LSU Ag Center, introduced himself. He will representing LSU Ag Center on the MC.

VII. Adjourn