

**Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**

MC Meeting #58 Minutes

9:30AM-December 7, 2011

Nicholls State University

Plantation Room, NSU Student Union

Thibodaux, LA

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Roll-Call**

**Management Conference Members Present:**

Archie Chaisson, Jr. – Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District

John Tesvich – Commercial Fisheries

John Clark – Iberville Parish

Susan Nakyanzi - Jefferson Parish

Ann Wilson – LA Dept. of Education

Emelise Cormier – LA Dept. of Environmental Quality

Paul Landry – LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals

Linda Pace – LA Dept. of Natural Resources

Vince Guillory – LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Archie Chaisson, III – Lafourche Parish

Jennifer Roberts – Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts

Tim Allen – LA Landowners Association

Ed Landgraf – LA Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association

Randall McGimsey – LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office

Shannon Lafont – LA Science Teachers Association

John Conover - LUMCON

Randy Lanctot – Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Alan Matherne – LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant

Gary LaFleur – Nicholls State University

Albertine – Plaquemines Parish

J.A. Rummler – Point Coupee Parish

Martha Cauzabon – South Central Planning & Development Commission

Nick Matherne - Terrebonne Parish

Jean Landry – The Nature Conservancy

Susan Hennington – US Corps of Engineers

Sarah Brennan – US Coast Guard

Susan Testroet-Bergeron - USGS

Rick Hartman – US Fisheries Service

John Boatman - USDA

Organizations not present:

Herman Waguespack – American Sugarcane League

Jerome Zeringue – Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities

Chet Chaisson – Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Joey Breaux – LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry

Debra Cradeur – LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Ann Perry - LA Dept. of Economic Development  
Dwayne Bourgeois – LA Association of Levee Boards  
Buck Vandersteen – LA Forestry Association

**Guests:**

Derrick Adams – Nicholls State University graduate student  
Leslie Suazo – Brown & Caldwell  
John Duplantis – So. LA Wetlands Discovery Center  
Kimar Elouvay – Nicholls State University graduate student  
Michelle S. Lennon – LSU grad  
Rex Caffey – LSU Ag Center/LA Sea Grant  
    Derrick Gilmore - Shell Oil  
    Mary Grace Anderson - Shell Oil  
Amanda – Nicholls State University graduate student  
Lisa Breaux - Nicholls State University graduate student  
Katrina – Nicholls State University graduate student  
    Elizabeth - Nicholls State University graduate student  
Kent - Nicholls State University graduate student  
    Chris Pulaski – National Wildlife Federation  
Alan Breaux– SASSAFRAS Louisiana  
Tony Collins– SASSAFRAS Louisiana  
Erin Guidry– SASSAFRAS Louisiana  
Alex Naquin – SASSAFRAS Louisiana

**BTNEP Staff:**

Kerry St.Pé  
Richard DeMay  
Dean Blanchard  
Matt Benoit  
Sandra Helmuth  
Alma Robichaux  
Shelley Sparks  
Andrew Barron  
Matt Benoit  
Michael Massimi

**B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the Date meeting**

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the March 23, 2011 minutes and to accept them as submitted. The motion was seconded and the motion carried.

**II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES – Kerry St.Pé**

**Personnel Changes**

Shelley Sparks resigned as Media Relations Coordinator  
Kerry announced that Shelley is now employed by Ocean Conservancy

## A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

W.S. LaFargue 6<sup>th</sup> Graders-presentation on hurricanes  
Shell Oil  
Grand Isle Avian Survey  
Maritime Forest Ridge Planting w/LDAF and B. Grace  
Planting and sand fencing on Grand Isle w/Tommy Michot  
Food and local 4-H groups  
Air boat tour of Shell Property w/Ed Landgraf

Vegetative sampling on Forest Ridge  
Fletcher Community College  
West Thibodaux Middle School-oil spill presentation  
Tour of Lake Verret Watershed and NSU Farm w/NRCS  
"Marsh Dog" photo shoot in Lake Boeuf  
Presentation to Caris Reid's Plant Class @ LSU

Spahr's/BTEF "Gulf" Tournament  
La Fete d'Ecologie  
Bayou Blue Elementary presentation  
From H-2-O: Water Quality Workshop  
NSU Foundation A+ Scholar Wine &  
Extravaganza  
Presentation to CPRA/Field Trip to NSU  
Yellow Rails & Rice Trails Festival  
Louisiana Geneology Society  
Ocean Commotion  
Righteous Fur Nutriapalooza Event  
Tall Timbers Garden Club presentation

## B. Media Interviews (As of November 21, 2011)

### **Bastrop Enterprise (Bastrop, LA)**

"Tropical Storm Lee exposes oil from BP spill"- September 15, 2011

### **Bayou Journal** (Pierre Part, LA)

"15<sup>th</sup> Annual La Fete d'Ecologie at Lake End Park"- October 4, 2011

### **Daily Comet** (Thibodaux, LA)

"Group hopes to clean Bayou Terrebonne"-September 8, 2011

"Dog treats, fur coats could help spell nutria's doom"-September 9, 2011

"BP oil washes up on Fourchon"-September 13, 2011

"Festival marries education, fun"-September 23, 2011

"Cheers and Jeers: Fun for a good cause"-September 24, 2011

"Locals plan for bayou's future"-October 11, 2011

### **Jennings Daily News** (Jennings, LA)

"Bacteria levels high in parts of Bayou Terrebonne"-September 9, 2011

"Tropical Storm Lee exposes old oil from BP spill"-September 13, 2011

### **Opelousas Daily World** (Opelousas, LA)

"Lee exposes oil from spill"-September 14, 2011

### **St. Charles Herald-Guide** (Boutte, LA)

"Eye on the wetlands"- October 13, 2011

### **The Advocate** (Baton Rouge, LA)

"Group: Bayou badly contaminated"-September 11, 2011

"Lee uncovers tar on beach; BP responds"- September 14, 2011

### **The Banner-Tribune** (Franklin, LA)

"High bacteria levels found in parts of Bayou Terrebonne"-September 9, 2011

"La Fete d'Ecologie environmental fest debuts at Morgan City's Lake End Park"-September 23, 2011

**The Courier** (Houma, LA)

"Bayou tests show alarming pollution levels"-September 8, 2011

"Dog treats, fur coats could help spell nutria's doom"-September 12, 2011

"Community Events:15<sup>th</sup> Annual La Fete d'Ecologie"-September 15, 18, & 23, 2011

"Annual event celebrates culture, history"-September 16, 2011

"Festival marries education, fun"-September 23, 2011

"Cheers and Jeers: Fun for a good cause"-September 24, 2011

"Fete d'Ecologie"-September 25, 2011

"Locals begin planning future of Bayou Lafourche"-October 11, 2011

**The Daily Review** (Morgan City, LA)

"La Fete issues artist call"-September 8, 2011

"Tropical Storm Lee exposes old oil from BP spill"-September 14, 2011

"La Fete d'Ecologie at Lake End Park Sat."-September 22, 2011

"Hand of Fete"-September 26, 2011

**The Gumbo Entertainment** (Houma, LA)

"La Fete d'Ecologie moves to Morgan City"-September 2011

**The Independent** (Lafayette, LA)

"Fur Your Consideration"- November 2, 2011

**The Lafourche Gazette** (Larose, LA)

"Volunteers assist in coastal restoration effort"- September 28, 2011

**The La Gardner** (Ruston, LA)

"Louisiana Tidbits: Native Plant Project"- September 2011

**The L'Observateur** (Laplace, LA)

"Wetland Watchers present at La Fete d'Ecologie Festival"- October 8, 2011

**The News-Star** (Monroe, LA)

"Tropical Storm Lee exposes oil from last year's BP spill"-September 14, 2011

**The Time-Picayune** (New Orleans, LA)

"Notes: Estuaries taking losses"- October 16, 2011

**The Tri-Parish Times** (Houma, LA)

"La Fete d'Ecologie moves to Morgan City"-September 21, 2011

"Waterway causes big stink"- September 21, 2011

"Houma on Acadien Reveil"-October 7, 2011

[www.marketwatch.com](http://www.marketwatch.com)

"Entergy Charitable Foundation Issues \$1.25 Million in Grants"-November 23, 2011

### Other Interviews:

Tika Laudun-LPB, land loss issues for Bicentennial of statehood documentary

### C. Meetings

Jonathan Foret- S.Louisiana Wetland Discovery Center	Donald Spahr's-"Gulf" Tournament
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District	Kevin Belanger-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Shana Walton-oral history contract	Angela DeGravelles-bird and tidal graph calendars
Myrtle Grove monthly meeting	
Terrebonne CZM	Ed Landgraf-Shell, uses of property on Savanne Rd.
Sassafras Louisiana-State Master Plan	State Master Plan FDT working Group
Davis Pond	Woodland Conservancy 10-year anniversary gala
Bayou Terrebonne Task Force Mtg.	Gulf Saver Meeting, Venice, LA
Bayou Lafourche Summit	Sarah Brennan-USCG
Fall ANEP meeting	Bobby Jindal Press Conference
Modification of Davis Pond PDT	David Cain-Exxon
BTNEP staff performance evaluation meetings	LA Seagrant Advisory Comm. Mtg.
Davis Pond WVA Meeting	
Robert Obier-"The Rig" proposed restoration center	
Lafourche CZM	

### D. Projects Initiated

"Support for Wetlands Cultural Day in Conjunction with other Jubilee Festivities-2012 (S. Helmuth)  
"CWPPRA Personal Reflections: Environmental Portraits and Oral Histories of Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands Stakeholders" (A. Robichaux)

III. **Schedule Next Meeting Date:** Date suggested is Wednesday, March 7, 2012

### IV. Discussion Items

#### A. Update of La Fete d'Ecologie 2011 – Shelley Sparks, BTNEP

Shelley stated that La Fete was moved to a new location in Morgan City at Lake End Park after 14 years in Thibodaux. There was some concern about attendance, crowd control, resources.

The audience was estimated to be slightly larger, but many in attendance stayed the entire day. Lake End Park staff helped coordinate parking and Shelley stated they did a fantastic job and while it was encouraging to see the number of cars, a transportation shuttle may be needed in the future.

Traditional aspects of the festival were included in the 2011 festival, including folk life artists, music, educational booths. Folk life artists gave souvenirs to children and actively passed on traditional craft techniques.

She stated the adults were actively engaged in the booths and learning information about environmental issues. Youth were able to learn from their peers and seemed to be more engaged when conversing with

She stated there are a few issues that should be resolved for the following years including having an actual dance floor and more water/drink booths.

Musical entertainment was provided by The Moss Pickers, the Pine Leaf Boys, Tommy G & Stormy Weather, Jeffery Broussard & the Creole Cowboys. Glen Ghirardi Magic, and storyteller, Jennifer Turner, provided entertainment as well.

Shelley stated that it is difficult to get sponsors for the festival because it was in a new town and hopes it will be easier to get more sponsorships the next year.

**B. Update of Spahr's "Gulf" tournament benefitting the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program – Shelley Sparks, BTNEP.**

Shelley stated the golf tournament was deemed a success. A sponsor recognition party was held the day before the tournament and music was provided by Luther Kent & Trick Bag. The event also had a silent auction. The tournament was held at Sugarland in Raceland, LA.

Shelley showed pictures of the event.

Spahr's raised over \$10,000 for BTEF. BTEF and BTNEP were exposed to a crowd that is not typically involved with coastal restoration.

**C. Pelican Island Restoration Project and Shell Oil sponsorship presentation – Richard DeMay, Kerry St. Pe, Mary Grace Anderson (From Shell).**

Richard stated the goal of the Pelican Islands project is to restore a series of small islands in Barataria Bay for nesting colonial seabirds and wading birds.

Since 2005, BTNEP conducted birding surveys along Louisiana's coast and noticed the diminishing size of the islands year after year. Richard stated he islands will be lost without restoration, so BTNEP decided to develop a proposal to restore the islands.

BTNEP compared data with a Wildlife and Fisheries database to identify the history of wildlife at the sites, including the different species and breeding pairs using the island. BTNEP partnered with the National Wetlands Research Center to develop historical maps, based on the data, to show historical acreage data of the islands from 1956 - 2008. BTNEP partnered with Darrin Lee at OCPR to figure out what resources would be needed to make the project possible. Together, they determined the number of cubic yards of material and tonnage of rock to restore the islands. Lee also provided ancillary information about similar coastal restoration project budgets. Diane Baker created a series of illustrations to graphically depict the restoration process. BTNEP worked with Plaquemines and Jefferson Parish to identify Apache Corporation as the landowner.

Richard approached Apache with the project and Apache was supportive of the concept. Apache sent BTNEP a letter of support and gave permission to move forward.

Kerry stated the background relationship between Shell and BTNEP.

Ms. Anderson stated Shell was looking to invest in projects that help to sustain and enhance the community they work in. Shell announced an investment of \$1 million to the Foundation for the Pelican Islands project.

Richard also stated the following investments in the project have been received:

Apache donated \$50,000 seed investment

Entergy donated \$100,000 investment

McGill foundation donated \$50,000

Richard stated OCPR may complete the engineering and design/permitting and could strip 600,000 off of the cost of the project.

#### **D. Comparative Economic of assessment of land building methods for coastal restoration –**

Dr. Rex Caffery presented research that he and Hua Wang recently completed. The research is entitled, **“A Comparative Economic Assessment of Land-building Methods for Coastal Restoration in Louisiana”**

The overall goal of this study was to develop a comprehensive comparison of rapid land building techniques like marsh creation and fresh water and sediment diversion methods for coastal land building. Specific objectives included: 1) estimating generic models of costs and benefits by technology; 2) conducting sensitivity analyses with varying degrees of risk, and, 3) performing case-studies to illustrate economic tradeoffs between and within technologies.

Twenty years of federal restoration program data were collected for more than 146 projects and bids submitted to the Coastal Wetland Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), the coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), and the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Comprehensive Ecosystem Study. Models were constructed based on data for marsh creation projects (MC n=69), barrier islands (BI, n=52), and freshwater diversions (DIV1, n=25). Additionally, and exogenous model of diversion benefits (DIV2) was utilized to capture a wider suite of nutrient and sediment contributions at specific flow rates (Boustany 2010)

Marsh Creation projects were found to have consistently lower per unit costs only exceeding diversion costs at time periods of 25 and 35 years, pumping distances of 0 and 20 miles and project scales of 4000 and 10000 acres compared to each of the diversion models used in this study.

Even with social constraints set at half of historic levels, the 50-year benefit trajectory of diversions remains well below that of marsh creation projects of similar target scale. Benefit to cost ratios and ecosystem service flows (net present benefits) were found to be higher in all cases for marsh creation projects, ranging from 9 to 27 times greater than diversion projects for the same target scale and period (1000-5000 acres, 20-50 years)

According to Dr. Caffery, the primary finding was that relatively slow rate of restoration was a major negative factor on the economic feasibility of diversion projects.

Although this analysis looked at marsh creation and diversions independently for the purposes of economic analysis, these two techniques are usually used in tandem. This study suggests the need for a reevaluation of restoration spending to ensure the most cost-effective combination of project techniques are being used in the current effort to restore coastal Louisiana.

#### **SASSAFRAS Louisiana update - Alex Naquin**

Alex stated the mission of SASSAFRAS is to bring together the youth in the restoration and preservation of Louisiana to better themselves and their community. Alex updated the MC on the activities of SASSAFRAS: (1) Partnered with America’s Wetlands on a floating marsh vegetation project, (2) participated in La Fete d’Ecologie, (3) listened to a presentation about the state’s master plan, and (3) held the first annual Nutria Rodeo. 350 people attended the Nutria Rodeo.

SASSAFRAS plans to submit comments on the state’s master plan. SASSAFRAS is now a nonprofit.

Nick Matherne motioned to establish a permanent seat on the Management Conference for SASSAFRASS as a group representing the voice of the youth. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Bayou Country Children's Museum update** – Tina Wong, Cathleen Gros

The Bayou Country Children's Museum will break ground on Monday, after 13 years. Cathleen Gros described the exhibits planned to be in the museum. By the beginning of 2012, they will be able to have fieldtrips and will officially open in the fall of 2012.

The museum is designed for children 2 – 12 years of age, and all of the exhibits are tied to grade level expectations. Exhibits in the Bayou gallery include: (1) steel oil derrick with fish, (2) a duck blind with eye spy game, (3) a shrimp boat that rocks and allow harvest of crabs to bring to the farmer's market and prepare recipes, and (4) a sugarcane combine harvester.

Cathleen stated some exhibit sponsorships are available.

**V. New Business**

- Dean Blanchard announced BTNEP 2012 tidal graph calendar and the 2012 birding calendar is available for distribution.
- John Tesvich motioned that the Management Conference of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program pass resolution expressing thanks for her dedicated service. The motion was seconded and carried.
- February 4<sup>th</sup>, the wetlands discovery center will have wetlands youth summit