

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
Management Conference Meeting #64 Minutes
Ellender Memorial Library – Multipurpose Room
9:30 a.m. – Thursday, August 22, 2013

BTNEP Staff			
Andrew Barron	Richard DeMay (Absent)	Alma Robichaux	
Matt Benoit	Delaina LeBlanc	Kerry St. Pé	
Dean Blanchard	Michael Massimi	Jenny Schexnayder	
Joe Dantin	Kristy Monier		
Management Conference Member		Member	Alternate
American Sugarcane League		Flattery McCollum	Herman Waguespack
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District		Hugh Caffery	X Benjamin Malbrough
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana	X	Steven Peyronnin	
Coastal Conservation Association of LA		John Walther	
Coastal Protection Restoration Authority		Jerome Zeringue	X Kyle Graham X Robert Routon Natalie Peyronnin Karim Belhadjali Darin Lee
Commercial Fisheries		John Tesvich	Peter Vujnovicch
Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission		Chett Chaisson	Davie Breaux
Iberville Parish		John Clark	
Jefferson Parish		Marnie Winter	X Jason Smith X Lily Zhou
LA Association of Levee Boards	X	Dwayne Bourgeois	
LA Department of Ag & Forestry		Joey Breaux	Carrie Castille
La Department of Education	X	Ann Wilson	
LA Department of Environmental Quality		Christy Rogers	Gregory Waldron
LA Department of Health and Hospitals		Chasity Cheramie	
LA Department of Natural Resources	X	Charles Reulet	Don Haydel
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	X	Marty Bourgeois	X Brady Carter
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism		Debra Credeur	Karen Leathem
LA Dept. of Economic Development		Paul Sawyer	Anne Perry
LA Forestry Association		Deleted Buck	
LA Independent Oil & Gas Association		Randy Robichaux	
LA Landowners Association		Tim Allen	
LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association		Mike Lyons	Ed Landgraf
LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office		Brian Wynne	X David Gisclair
LA Science Teachers Association	X	Shannon Lafont	Tera LaPrarie Nathan Cotten
LA Wildlife Federation		B.J. Barney Callahan	Rebecca Triche
Lafourche Parish		Archie Chaisson, III	X Charlotte Randolph Amanda Penick
Louisiana Association of Conservation District		Brad Spicer	Jennifer Roberts
LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant		Rex Caffey	X Alan Matherne
LUMCON		Nancy Rabalais	X John Conover

				Murt Conover
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	X	Rick Hartman		Rachel Sweeney
Nicholls State University	X	Gary LaFleur	X X	Quenton Fontenot Zack Darnell
Plaquemines Parish		P.J. Hahn		Albertine Kimble Krista Clark
Point Coupee Parish		J.A. Rummler		
Sassafras LA		Alex Naquin		
South Central Planning and Development Commission		Kevin Belanger		Martha Cazaubon
South Louisiana Economic Council		Vic Lafont	X	Simone Maloz
St. Charles Parish		Earl Matherne		Kim Marousek
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government		Al Levron		Nic Matherne James Miller
The Nature Conservancy		Jean Landry	X	Nicole Love Karen Gautreaux
U.S. National Park Service	X	Angela Rathle		Allyn Rodriguez
US Coast Guard		Mark McManus		Sarah Brennan
US Corps of Engineers	X	Susan Hennington		Cheri Price
US Environmental Protection Agency	X	Doug Jacobson		John Ettinger
US Fish & Wildlife Service		Ronnie Paille		Bill Vermillion
USDA/NRCS		Quin Kinler	X X	John Boatman Ryan Johnson Alton James Andrea Moore
USGS	T	Scott Wilson	X	Susan Testroet-Bergeron
Organization				
Bayou Grace Community Services	X	Diane Huhn		Rebecca Templeton
Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation	X	Earl Melancon	X	Michele Beary
Corporate Planning Resources, LLC – Guest Speaker	X	John J. Driscoll		
CPRA – Guest Speaker	X	Bren Haase		
Cry You One Production – Guest Speaker	X	Kathy Randels		
Environmental Defense Fund	X	Elizabeth Weiner		
Grand Isle Port Commission	X	Wayne Keller		
Mississippi State – Guest Speaker	X	Pat Fitzpatrick		
Nicholls State University Biology Students	X X X X X	Paige O'Malley John Grosch Katrina Hashagan Nicole Lundberg Seth Moncrief		
The Courier/Daily Comet	X	Jean Paul Arguello		
UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology)		Kristina Peterson		

Kerry welcomed everyone to Meeting #64 of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program's Management Conference and roll call was completed by Jenny Schexnayder. Kerry announced that Diane Huhn and Rebecca Templeton were leaving Bayou Grace Community Services. The Board of Directors would be looking for another director. Kerry stated that he hoped to continue the great relationship between Bayou Grace and BTNEP. Both ladies would be greatly missed. He thanked Diane for everything that they have done.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS DATE MEETING

A motion was made by Nick Matherne and second by Susan Testroet-Bergeron to dispense with the reading of the May 8, 2013 minutes and to accept them as submitted.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Kerry summarized the program's events. He noted that 10 volunteer events occurred since the last meeting, 12 formal education events, 17 public education events and 5 bird banding or breeding bird surveys over the last three months. Regarding media events, Kerry explained that the program did evaluate options for providing links to the articles mentioned in the agenda. Links could be provided but at additional cost and many of these links could not be used unless the reader had a subscription. Kristy provided a binder of all media clippings for those who wanted to review. The program will continue to research options. The program had over 63 media interviews on different subjects. He highlighted the meeting with the Rio Grande Cichlid contractors and asked Michael to elaborate. Michael explained that the study is looking at a few things with one being DNA work. The data isn't in but they are trying to determine if the population is related to the tilapia problem a few years back or if they are connected to the same Rio Grande Cichlids that are in Metairie and parts of the west bank found after Katrina in New Orleans. They are also looking at diets, morphologies, and if we actually have Texas Cichlids or some related hybrid species. Kerry referenced a Tilapia outbreak in Plaquemines Parish a few years ago. Michael explained what was done to eradicate the population successfully. Rick Hartman asked about Silver Carp in Lake Salvadore and Lac DesAllemands. Discussion followed.

Marty Bourgeois informed the group about the importance of reporting Asian Tiger Prawns. Most reports have been adults but they are now seeing 40-50-60 count shrimp that may indicate spawning population. Michael explained that they are very large shrimp grown in aquaculture. Tiger Prawns escaped on east the coast and got into the Gulf in 1997. They are competing with brown and white shrimp for resources. They are edible. They are around and here to stay. Earl added that their reproductive cycle in the wild is very close to that of the brown shrimp.

Kerry announced that BTNEP will be producing both Tidal Graph and Bird calendars for 2014. The program received confirmation of support in the amount of 10,000 from Terrebonne Parish and a verbal for the same from Lafourche Parish. He explained that budget cuts were affecting the program's ability to produce publications as in the past. If any agency or organization is interested in contributing to these publications, they should contact the foundation.

The deadline for La Fete is August 30th for a booth.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

Al asked everyone to mark their calendars for November 5, 2013.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. An Examination of Fisheries and Water Level Impact from Diversion Models – Dr. Pat Fitzpatrick

Dr. Fitzpatrick showed examples of CPRA simulations of Mid-Barataria (Myrtle Grove) and Upper Breton (Braithwaite) diversions from 2010-2060. He thanked Natalie Peyronnin of CPRA for providing habitat suitability indices. Mr. Fitzpatrick reviewed his background and explained that he was invited to present based on his expertise in meteorology to give feedback on inundation concerns from diversion during weather events. He gave an outline of his presentation which included inundation issues, background habitat suitability indices, simulations of diversions and results and suggestions for future study.

Diversions will not be running during a hurricane event; however, there are other high water situations that water can be two to three feet above normal and he explained the physics of this. He showed images of possible wetland evolution from 2010-2060 from East and West Banks, Upper Breton Sound, and Mid-Barataria indicating significant land loss by 2060 with no restoration projects. He discussed salinity time series simulation slides comparing the months of April and October. He moved to Habitat Suitability Indices based on Geometric mean and explained the concept of this. He talked about oyster habitat and explained oyster habitat suitability index equation with one thing not being considered; that being three years of supportable salinity for oysters to reach marketable size. He talked

about white shrimp, brown shrimp, and speckled trout. He looked at coverage of marsh area, salinity levels and mean water temperature. He explained the four types of data shown with the impact of the diversions. He completed his presentation with his assessment and suggestions stating that this should not be seen as a final result, but as a starting point for fishery impact discussions. This is for one diversion on each bank, and does not include the combination of multiple diversions or levee openings.

Kerry called for questions. He referred to inundation model feedback from the agricultural community in the upper part of Barataria north of Bayou Des Allemands. He explained that as we lose land mass in lower Barataria, the southeasterly winds are stacking up water, keeping Bayou Des Allemands from draining and flooding fields so we are quite interested in the diversions impacting Ag fields in upper Barataria system because it could be overlooked or not even considered when reviewing the impacts of a diversion at Myrtle grove.

Earl Melancon asked if retention time (time taken to exit the marshes) of water in the marshes was taken into account when shutting down diversions. Natalie confirmed that with each of the models retention time under different conditions was considered.

Earl asked if CPRA and the State are looking at addressing fisheries with more sophisticated models that are out there for use that go well beyond the basic geometric mean type models. Kyle responded that CPRA is required by law to update the Master Plan every five years. So they have to rule out with the best knowledge that they have at that date. They have already begun working towards 2017. They have multiple kinds of efforts going on right now. They have the Mid-Barataria basin diversion moving into engineering design, looking at the feasibility of the other 4 sediment diversions on the lower river, and also advancing the master plan models. Natalie added that they are working with the Water Institute of the Gulf and LSU to develop the path for what model they will be using. There may be a combination of more ecologically based models or species where they can get population instead of just habitat. Those will be used for key species such as shrimp, oysters, and fish. They may continue to use HSIs for other wildlife such as ducks and other species where they won't be able to do the more ecological model. They have begun meeting with LDWF and will continue to have meetings in the upcoming months.

2. Oil Spill Restoration Planning – Kyle Graham

There have been many oil spill restoration discussions at the CPRA Forums since November. There are many potential funding sources and some of them are currently being advanced. Kyle noted that it is hard to speak about where we are headed without talking about where we are today. He talked about dredging projects in the Central and Southeast Coast that have been in the works since 2008 to present day totaling \$1.4 billion that are under construction, have been constructed, out to bid, or in engineering and design and have funding for construction. He mentioned that today is the largest construction period in the history of the restoration program and reviewed the projects going on around us. In regards to the Barataria Basin from 2008 – present, the State is almost finished with the Barataria basin Barataria shoreline project. He stressed that CPRA is trying to look at everything collectively. With that in mind he reviewed and explained funding sources with emphasis on the BP criminal settlement, civil penalties, and NRDA. CPRA's mission is to implement the Master Plan under executive order. They had to review possible pots of money and see what projects they could conceivably see being funded with projects being laid out from the west to the east. Almost all of these funding sources are tied to some sort of nexus to the spill. He reviewed the projects that have been broken down by barrier island, diversion, hydrologic modifications, marsh creation, bank stabilization, ridge restoration, and oyster reef projects indicating which projects could be conceivably done with the various pots with frontrunners asterisked in red on the chart. He also provided a listing of possible/probable NRDA Restoration, NFWF, and Restore Restoration Projects.

Most of CPRA's focus as of late has been on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Proposals. He reviewed the proposal conditions. There is about 70 million dollars that is available for barrier islands and/or river diversion projects in Louisiana. NFWF would like to see the flow of those dollars sometime in September. They have five years of funding with funding coming through in February. NFWF will consider both the State's Coastal Master Plan as well as the Louisiana Coastal Area Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study. They were asked to consult with both State and Federal Resource managers to come up with a proposal everyone agrees to, take to board or governor, and go back to NFWF. They have done that and it is currently being formally submitted to NFWF. The proposal contains about 68 million dollars' worth of work for the advancement of barrier island and diversion projects. He broke those projects down into phases. Those phases are available on the attached

presentation. He noted that the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion known to most as Myrtle Grove is in the engineering and design phase. With the other diversions, they are asking for money to push them into planning. He referred to the earlier discussion of impacts on fisheries. How do we move away from the HSIs and some of the gross scale things in addition to water surface elevations, talking about storm surge modeling, sediment and where it would go? They have done the hydro study on the riverine side, but how do they link that model to the basin side? Finally, he addressed nutrients and what they are doing to get a better understanding of where nutrients go. With that information, they are hoping to see in the spring 2015 timeframe what additional diversions if any would go into engineering and design phase.

Earl Melancon asked if this presentation was available on the CPRA website? Kyle confirmed that all of the presentations from the CPRA meetings are located on <http://coastal.la.gov/>, Calendar, and Archived Meetings.

Rick Hartman questioned the Bayou Chene Structure that is out on public notice now. He questioned how it is consistent with the project that is being funded through NFWF to convey the Atchafalaya River water eastward. He felt that that structure is going to restrict the flow of water eastward. Kyle explained that the Convey Atchafalaya Project has changed names and is not well defined. They have hired an engineer and design firm to help define it. CPRA believes that it is a series of projects to try to get the Atchafalaya into the Terrebonne and it is absolutely something that they are going to need to look at. The Bayou Chene structure is largely a result of some flooding events that occurred in that area and there needs to be a suite of analysis where areas of influence overlap and what modifications need to be done to ensure that we are getting the benefits that are desired or how they are going to work in concert. That team has been set up. Kerry pointed out that the people don't understand the hydrology of the Atchafalaya. Every year when the Atchafalaya gets high, Bayou Chene, which is connected to the Atchafalaya, rises because water is back flowing into Bayou Chene. This causes flood issues in Stevensville, Morgan City and even in Terrebonne. During the last serious flood event when we opened the Morganza, the people of Morgan City were frantically trying to sink a barge in Bayou Chene to stop the water from coming into the Intracoastal. Kerry said that it would seem that a project that would increase the Atchafalaya flow into the Intracoastal would conflict with sinking barges or having a control structure on Bayou Chene.

Rick Hartman noted that the State is a regulatory agency and the State has a roll at decision making at the Corps. He would like to see the State ask St. Mary Parish to not build that structure until they are finished with their evaluation. Kyle felt that it will be a matter of timing and it is definitely on CPRAs radar.

Kerry questioned where they were with Myrtle Grove permitting. Kyle replied that they have submitted a permit to start the deeper process. They want to get out the notice of intent to start the public discussion which they anticipate will take one and half to two years to do the things necessary to make the public comfortable with how that project is being scoped. Kerry asked if they were planning on using some of the data collected by the Corps. Kyle responded that they would.

Michael Massimi asked whether criminal settlement money will be limited to barrier island and diversion projects and not have the flexibility to be used on other Master Plan projects. Kyle stated that it was in the plea agreement from the Department of Justice with BP that they gave these dollars to the NFWF for these purposes. Rick Hartman stated that this was unique to Louisiana. Kerry asked who started that discussion and Kyle confirmed it was NOAA.

Kerry asked what portion of these dollars would the parishes receive and who would oversee this money. Kyle replied that treasury regulations govern how the money will flow. He believed that this will be available to the public really soon. They have to submit land use plan but the plan doesn't have to be approved. They just certify that they got it. The money will flow directly from treasury to parishes and will not pass through the state. The treasury will be responsible to ensure that they are being spent accordingly. Some parishes have done a great job of coming up with mapped plans. Kerry stated that the parishes don't have to spend restore act money on the master plan. Kyle stated that they did not but there would be issues if they conflict with the Master Plan but they were very much encouraged.

Kerry called for additional questions and thanked Kyle for his presentation.

Kathy started with several questions: How many there considered listening as a big part of their job? How many listen to the land and the flora as part of their job? She explained that they have been trying to ask that in St. Bernard. They shared their work with a short interactive performance. The group encouraged the audience to imagine that the models ran wrong, the dredging didn't work, nor did the diversions and everyone was forced to leave. Individuals were asked to think about what one item they would take with them that is important to the State of Louisiana if they were forced to leave not including iPhone or computer. Answers ranged from children, crawfish boiler, oysters, passion flower, food, guitar, family, the history, dog, memories, music, boats and culture.

Nick Slie, collaborator on the project since 2006, talked about a number of projects regarding land loss. The 1st of which was *Beneath the Strata, then Loup Garou*, and finally *Cry You One*. Their metric is story telling with staged outdoor performances journeying the audience to many places on the landscape premiering in October. He invited everyone to be a part of that performance. *Cry You One* is part of long term vision. On September 18th, there will be the release of recorded stories of people, land and culture on the website. Storytelling holds a lot of insight by including voices of the people who have lived here. He referenced St. James Parish, a people that saw water for the first time with the last hurricane. *Cry You One* is a collaboration of two New Orleans based companies ArtSpot Productions and Mondo Bizarro. More information is available at the website <http://cryyouone.com/> or by phone at 504-826-7783 or 1-866-ARTSPOT.

The following performers listed below were introduced.

Sean LaRocca, Music Director
Hannah Pepper-Cunningham, Performer and Digital Media Team
Monique Verdin, Design, Community Engagement and Performer
Rebecca Mwase, Performer and Community Engagement
Lisa Shattuck, Performer
Kathy Randels, Director and Producer
Rebecca McLaughlin, Stage Manager
Alysia Savoy, Production Manager, Media and Outreach
Nick Slie, Collaborator and Performer

Susan Testroet-Bergeron introduced herself and talked about the recent oral history project and stated that she would like to connect with them after the meeting.

Kerry stated that he listened to this introduction with great interest because it is all about the people! We are different ecologically and culturally. People come here for the culture – it is a great place to live. Everything that we are is disappearing around us and he thanked them for fostering that idea.

Kathy informed everyone that this is an online visual platform that will also tour. One big part invested in this project is having these conversations in both big and small ways. Those present today are experts and talk about this everyday but many along the coast have blinders on and talk about this only when they have to. She hopes to see others having conversations outside of the performance. Kerry built on that and reminded everyone that it is not always about the science even though it is very important and thanked them for coming.

4. The Need for Funding PPT - John Driscoll –

John Driscoll stated that he is a CPA by training and financial analyst by profession and reviewed his employment background. He joked that Kerry was right in saying it isn't all about the science – it's about the money. The funding for the Master Plan is a lot more than \$50 billion and that existing funding streams will only be a down payment. He stated that he read the 2012 Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan and noted that it is a tremendous body of work; however, just two pages are devoted to funding. He stated that Louisiana has some very tough choices to make. He identified eight potential sources of funding identified in the Master Plan but also noted that those funds are not guaranteed. John informed the group that he has done a few plans for fortune 500 companies. A plan usually has a project start/completion date, a schedule of project costs, and a schedule of identified funding sources which match or exceed project expenditures. The 2012 Master Plan is a simply a cost estimate. He explained that the \$50

billion is in 2010 dollars. It is actually closer to 95 billion dollars and with three percent inflation; it increases to \$113 billion.

One of his slides covered the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. GOMESA is split into two phases and took effect in 2007 and it was covering an undeveloped area with no production. Louisiana received less than \$10 million from this area. In the Phase II area, revenue sharing begins in 2017. Four gulf coast states excluding Florida will share those funds. The funds were capped at 500 million dollars. According to the bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Louisiana should start to see close to 200 million dollars a year starting in 2017 with 80% going to the coastal restoration fund, 20% to 19 coastal parishes and 6 billion over the Master Plan implementation period.

He reviewed Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Fines. Under the Clean Water Act, penalties based on 4.1 million barrels spilled are expected to be a minimum of \$4.5 billion and a maximum of \$17.6 billion if gross negligence or willful misconduct is found. Restore Act allocations are a minimum of \$3.6 billion and a maximum of \$14.1 billion. He took those pots of money and explained what he felt it meant for Louisiana. All amounts are highly speculative in regards to amount and timing of funding.

He looked at State finances. The State has had operating deficits over the last five years ending in June, 2012. Many states have similar problems; however, Louisiana is the only state with such a large environmental need. He felt one option would be to raise taxes and have those dollars allocated to Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund. However, Louisiana has the 3rd highest sales tax, 2nd highest homeowner's insurance, 48th in median household income, and 2nd highest poverty rate in the country. Another option would be to impose tariffs on all oil and gas volumes transported through Louisiana's coastal wetlands with all proceeds dedicated to Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund. He estimated that the total revenue would be around \$85 billion dollars. If Louisiana had posed a tariff of 1%, total revenue would be about 4 million dollars for a five year period or 8 million at 2%. He concluded that Louisiana's coastal restoration revenue model has been to rely on federal funding and he feels that is doomed to failure. Louisiana has tough choices to make.

Kerry questioned the last time a tariff was proposed. John replied that it had been proposed four times. In 1978, under the Edwards administration, with the help of State Rep Billy Tauzin, there was a 1st use tax on oil and gas and was contested in 1981 and declared unconstitutional for violating the commerce clause. In 1982 or 1983 Governor Treen instituted an effort to pass a law known as CWEL or Coastal Wetlands Environmental Levy pipeline tariff. The latest when Foster Campbell ran for governor on a hydrocarbon processing tax platform. The last attempt was by a former state senator who brought it up and was defeated. It has always been a controversial issue because it is perceived as a way to punish the oil companies rather than targeting the largest funding source. Another question is will it cause companies to leave. John stated that minerals are where you find them and companies have to go to where they are.

Kyle Graham thanked John for his presentation and commented that he is dead on. There were however, a few things that needed to be considered. The Master Plan is both protection and restoration. When you are looking at coastal land, there is \$22-24 billion for proposed restoration. When you look at the GOMASA and oil spill, those are mostly restoration. If you go through the projects, there is a good amount of restoration that can be done for that 7 – 10 billion dollars but it is not enough. One of the goals of the Master Plan was to have that defined plan bucket so that we can have those real discussions. Another goal of CPRA is to show that you can implement projects in Louisiana so that not only is there a need for funding but also the ability to get that funding on the ground. One of the harsh realities at looking at sediment diversions is that they don't think it is practical to look at billions of dollars every year. If you are looking at the billions needed for coastal protection and then are looking to offset with the annual loss with billions of dollars for annual dredging, it doesn't add up. If there is a way to capture riverine sediment and try to get it into the marshes or cost benefit. When you look at some of the things that CPRA is pushing, there is a lot of that reasoning behind it. He noted that they have run a lot of those numbers and it is difficult to look at.

Kerry asked if the State would be in favor of getting additional tariffs on the movement of oil through the state. Kyle responded that he could not answer that, but they were working on spending the money on hand. He didn't feel that they were able to get more money until they were better able to define what those dollars are and show a pathway in getting those dollars implemented. The goal is to have a defined plan carved out so that you can say here is the need and this is what we can do with the dollars that fill that need.

Doug Jacobson asked if the state tried to tax oil and gas through an interstate pipeline, wouldn't it violate a commerce clause again. John felt that it would not as Texas does it very well. Kerry felt that if we exclude Louisiana Corporations, then there would be a violation but if they were included then there would be none.

Kathy Randals asked how much of the project expense is labor and has anyone reviewed the notion of volunteer labor to offset some of the cost.

Earl asked if there were any other states with tariffs on oil passing through their state and if any had tried. John was not aware of any.

There was discussion on the Eastern Levee Boards Lawsuit. John explained that the state does not fund local levee districts for operations and maintenance or any money dedicated for navigation bank maintenance so the flood protection district looked out to the future and came up with the only solution within their power to pursue which was a lawsuit.

Kerry called for additional questions. There were none. Kerry thanked John for his presentation. He also noted that he had hoped that the oil and gas representatives from Management Conference had been attendance.

5. New Business

- Kerry announced that applications are for La Fete d'Ecologie were available.
- Susan Testroet-Bergeron made the following announcements:

September 11th CWPPRA Tech Committee Meeting in Baton Rouge at the Library

October 17th CWPPRA Task Force Meeting in New Orleans at the Corps

October 18th CWPPRA Projects Dedication at the Conoco Phillips Building

An email will be sent with opening date of next Oral History Projects. Dates considered are September 14th or October 1st in Houma at the Waterlife Museum.

- Rick Hartman informed Kerry that a recent long distance sediment project was having difficulties with State Purchasing over bids. Kyle confirmed that there were concerns with the bids and that the State had been sued twice; once by each company that bid on it in the last two days. He felt that it was fine but it would mean a 30 day laps. Kerry asked if it was Shell Island. Shell Island unfortunately is tied to the early restoration plan for NRDA.

Kerry asked if they have made a decision on the Tri-Parish pipeline in place. Rick Hartman didn't think so. Kyle guessed that same company working is the same low bidder on long distance sediment pipeline and that pipe is spent. Booster pumps are worthwhile. His guess was that the company with the lowest bid is looking at transitioning equipment and bringing it back to Shell Island. There will be a need to change out pipe and move out booster pumps.

- Historic day on August 13th because all five parish presidents and the Mayor of Morgan City signed a Geographic Response Plan to deal with Oil Spills.

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

