

BARATARIA-TERREBONNE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
JANUARY 28, 1997 MINUTES

IA Roll Call

Mr. Windell Curole, Chair, called the meeting to order. The roll was called and the following members were present.

Management Conference Members Present:

Phil Boydston, Louisiana Landowners Association
Kirk Cheramie, Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation
Paul Coreil for H. Rouse Caffey, LSU Agricultural Center
Vince Cottone for Beau Weber, Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers
Cullen Curole, Lafourche Parish
Windell Curole, Louisiana Association of Levee Boards
Michael Dagg, LUMCON
Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Dennis Demcheck, U.S. Geological Survey
Wallace Ellender, American Sugar Cane League
Sue Hawes for Colonel Conner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
John Hils, U.S. Coast Guard
Pete Jones for Clyde Giordano, Plaquemines Parish
Barbara Keeler for Jane Saginaw, U.S. EPA Region 6
Leslie Kent, LA Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Jane Ledwin for David Fruge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Linda Levy for Dale Givens, LA Department of Environmental Quality
Paul Long, LA Department of Education
Mike Lyons, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Catherine Mitias for Len Bahr, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Britt Paul for Donald Gohmert, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jim Rives for Jack Caldwell, LA Department of Natural Resources
Rickey Ruebsamen, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
Brad Spicer, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts
Butch Stegall, LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry
John Trowbridge, Louisiana Science Teachers Association
Gulser Wood for Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish

January 28, 1997 BTMC MINUTES

Management Conference Members Absent:

Jimmy Antoon, LA Department of Health & Hospitals
Don Briggs, Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association
Paul Cancienne, Assumption Parish
Ted Falgout, Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Roland Guidry, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Ron Harrell, Louisiana Farm Bureau
Vic Lafont, South Louisiana Economic Council
Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Al Levron, Terrebonne Parish
Steve Loga, Commercial Fisheries
Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish
Earl Melancon, Nicholls State University
Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Kevin Reilly, LA Department of Economic Development
Craig Roussel, South Central Planning & Development Commission
Doug Svendson, Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
M.B. Watson, LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Ken Wells, American Waterways Operators

Guests:

Brent Ache, Battelle
Robert Bascle, St. Charles Parish President
Charlie Caplinger, CCA of Louisiana
Dave Cvitanovich, Plaquemines Parish Government
Rod Emmer, Rodney E. Emmer & Associates
Allen Ensminger, Landowners Association
Dan Farrow, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Roy Francis, LA 1 Coalition
Steve Herbert, LA Aquaculture Association
Louis Johnson, LA Department of Environmental Quality
Quin Kinler, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Fred Kopfler, Gulf of Mexico Program
David Moore, LA Environmental Education & Resource Program, UNO
Loulan Pitre, Lafourche Bayou Chamber
Kay Radlauer, Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation
Kerry St. Pé, LA Department of Environmental Quality
Oray Savoie, Jr., concerned citizen
Judy Jones, concerned citizen

PAGE 3

January 28, 1997 BTMC MINUTES

I.B Reading and Approval of September 27, 1996 BTMC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rives made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Management Conference approved the September 27, 1996 BTMC meeting minutes.

II.A Draft Operational Procedures

A subcommittee was formed during the September 27, 1996 Management Conference meeting to review and revise the proposed operational procedures. Their comments were incorporated into the latest draft version which was on the agenda for discussion and approval at this meeting. Mr. Cheramie made a motion to approve Operational Procedures with recommended changes. Mr. Rives seconded the motion. The Management Conference approved the Operational Procedures with recommended changes, with the exception of the section on Conflict of Interest. The Program Office was directed to contact attorneys from various agencies such as DEQ, DNR, Sea Grant, Attorney General, and Board of Ethics regarding the legality of Management Conference members benefiting financially from projects awarded by the BTNEP. Program staff will report its findings along with a brief presentation given by one of the attorneys during the next meeting.

II.B 1997 Action Plans

The 1997 Workplan includes action plans prioritized by the original Management Conference during their April, 1996 meeting. Since then, additional action plans have been added because of an increase in funding from EPA. Due to deadlines, the original Management Conference was not able to approve the inclusion of these action plans within the 1997 Workplan. At this last meeting, the Management Conference approved the inclusion of the action plans with regards to the additional \$200,000. Approval was contingent that there will be no duplication of efforts.

With regards to public meetings, the Management Conference directed the Program Office to develop a Scope of Service with an educational slant. The Scope of Service will then will be distributed to the Management Conference for review and approval at the next meeting.

II.C 1997 Educational Programs

The Program Office has been focusing on several prioritized action plans and projects by developing Request for Proposals (RFP) and Scopes of Services (SOS). Review Teams or Lead and Co-Lead Implementors were invited to review and comment on the RFPs and SOSs . For this meeting, the Management Conference was directed to review, discuss and approve the following RFPs and SOSs. With regards to “Nature Based Tourism and Recreation”, the Program Office developed a Request for Proposals (RFP). The Management Conference approved the RFP with a recommendation that the date be corrected and directed the Program Office to distribute it to potential contractors.

Due to the cancellation of the newsbulletin project, \$33,500 is available to fund various educational programs. However, this amount is not sufficient to cover the total cost of the programs. Therefore the project “Demonstration of Various Action Plans” will be reduced by \$14,500 in order to fund all of the following programs: Marsh Maneuvers, Assumption Parish Bayou Camps, Lafitte Wetlands Workshop, Cocodrie Wetlands Workshop, Terrebonne Cultural Museum, Vegetative Plantings, and Teachers Estuarine Workshops.

PAGE 4

January 28, 1997 BTMC MINUTES

II.D Discussion of Projects Initiated During the Planning Phase of the Estuary Program

A few projects initiated during the planning phase of the BTNEP were not completed in time to be reviewed and approved by the original Management Conference. Therefore, the new Management Conference was directed to review and approve the following projects. The "Estuarine and Wetlands Ecology Teachers Workshops" final deliverable will be forwarded to Management Conference members for review and approval. With regards to "Self-Guided Tours of the B-T Estuary for Classroom and Citizen Groups" and "1996 BTNEP Vegetative Planting Report", Management Conference members were requested to review and submit comments to the Program Office by February 21, 1997 for approval at the next meeting.

II.E General Fund Monies for State's 25% Cost Share

The Estuary Program will be included as a line item under the State budget for Fiscal Year 1998 (July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998). Ms. Gautreaux informed Management Conference members that LDEQ would need to request General Fund monies to finance the administrative portion of BTNEP. Management Conference members agreed that the general public and appropriate people should be contacted for support. In the future, LDEQ will forward to the Program Office an itinerary for budget hearings.

II.F Shellfish Challenge Project Presentation

A presentation on the Shellfish Challenge Project was presented to members by Gulf of Mexico Program representative, Mr. Fred Kopfler, and by National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) representative, Mr. Dan Farrow. The Oyster Restoration Review Panel (ORRP) of the Management Conference met to discuss the project in depth after the Management Conference meeting adjourned.

III. New Business

Mr. Curole informed members that due to budget constraints, hiring of a full-time BTNEP Director is temporarily postponed.

Mr. DeMay gave a CCMP update by stating that several action plans had been initiated. The Section 319 Non-point Source Program of DEQ submitted three action plans to EPA - EM-8, EM-10, and EM-11. Also, action plan SR-8 has been initiated by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. The Coalition is in the process of developing a report which targets the legislature.

Mr. Cheramie and Ms. Radlauer, board members of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, presented a proposed CCMP Implementation Strategy. Management Conference members were requested to review the strategy and be prepared to make comments at the next meeting.

Ms. Schonberg stated that the Estuary Festival has been scheduled for May 31, 1997. Volunteers are needed for planning and production. If anyone is interested, a planning meeting is scheduled for February 6, 1997, 9:00 AM at the Program Office.

Ms. Matherne stated that the Environmental Technology Exposition and the Small Business Seminar will be held in conjunction on April 11 - 12, 1997. Applications for exhibits are still being accepted. If you or anyone else is interested, please contact Ms. Matherne at the Program Office (800-259-0869) or Ms. Ann Burruss at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (504-344-6555).

Ms. Gautreaux explained that the Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers (LACA) had formally requested that their organization be removed from the Management Conference. LACA recommended Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana (CCAL) with Mr. Charles Caplinger as the organization's representative. The Management Conference approved CCAL with Mr. Caplinger as the representative.

Ms. Gautreaux stated that Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, with Mr. Kirk Cheramie as the representative, formally requested a position on the Management Conference Committee. This request was approved by the Management Conference.

Mr. David Moore informed members that the CCMP had been awarded the President's Award by the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). Recently, the CCMP was the recipient of the 1997 APA national award for outstanding planning in the Comprehensive Planning-Large Jurisdiction category. This award will be presented to the BTNEP in San Diego, California during the award ceremony held April 5 - 9, 1997.

Dr. Paul Kemp gave a preview of the modeling effort which began in 1992. Mr. DeMay stated that a working group had been formed and would review the scenarios at a later date.

Mr. Cheramie stated that the Coalition and the Estuary Foundation will host a 6K Walk to be held on the beach at Grand Isle, LA. There will also be a children's fishing tournament during the Walk. Proceeds will go to both the Coalition and the Estuary Foundation.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM.