

BARATARIA-TERREBONNE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
APRIL 16, 1997 MINUTES

**LA 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:**

Jimmy Antoon, LA Department of Health & Hospitals  
Len Bahr, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities  
Ann Burruss for Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Paul Cancienne, Assumption Parish  
Charles Caplinger, Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana  
Paul Coreil for Bill Richardson, LSU Agricultural Center  
Cullen Curole, Lafourche Parish  
Windell Curole, Louisiana Association of Levee Boards  
Dennis Demcheck, U.S. Geological Survey  
Wallace Ellender, American Sugar Cane League  
Ted Falgout, Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Sue Hawes for Colonel Conner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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  
Quin Kinler for Donald Gohmert, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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  
Denise Reed for Michael Dagg, LUMCON  
Jim Rives, LA Department of Natural Resources  
Rickey Ruebsamen, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service  
Butch Stegall, LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry  
John Trowbridge, Louisiana Science Teachers Association  
M.B. Watson, LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish

**BTNEP Staff Present:**

Karen Gautreaux  
Richard DeMay  
Lynn Schonberg  
Tanya Matherne

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### **Management Conference Members Absent:**

Phil Boydston, Louisiana Landowners Association  
Don Briggs, Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association  
Kirk Cheramie, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District  
Roland Guidry, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office  
Ron Harrell, Louisiana Farm Bureau  
John Hils, U.S. Coast Guard  
Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Al Levron, Terrebonne Parish  
Steve Loga, Commercial Fisheries  
Mike Lyons, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
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  
Brad Spicer, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts  
Doug Svendsen, Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association  
Ken Wells, American Waterways Operators

### **Guests:**

Brent Ache, Battelle  
Chuck Boutwell, Nicholls State University  
Michael Capello, Morris P. Hebert, Inc.  
Wendi Couvillion, U.S. Geological Survey-National Wetlands Research Center  
Dave Cvitanovich, Plaquemines Parish  
Amy Daigle, Ethics Commission  
Pat Douglas, Ethics Commission  
Rod Emmer, Rodney E. Emmer & Associates  
Dan Farrow, NOAA  
Jim Fields, Nicholls State University  
Roy Francis, LA1 Coalition  
Woody Gagliano, Coastal Environments, Inc.  
Steve Gammill, LA Department of Natural Resources  
Louis Johnson, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Jimmy Johnston, U.S. Geological Survey-National Wetlands Research Center  
Fred Kopfler, GOMP  
Sharon Martin, Office of the Governor  
Cathy Mitias, Office of the Governor  
Glenn Perrin, City of Baton Rouge

### **I.B Reading and Approval of January 28, 1997 BTMC Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the January 28, 1997 BTMC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded. There were no objections and the minutes were approved.

### **II.A Presentation Regarding Freshwater and Sediment Diversions**

In the context of hydrologic modification as a priority problem in the coastal zone, Dr. Denise Reed summarized the findings from BTNEP reports and other agencies' research regarding freshwater and sediment diversions as important tools for addressing coastal land loss issues. Dr. Woody Gagliano provided information regarding the theory of using major river diversion to rebuild land.

### **II.B CCMP Implementation Strategy**

Mr. DeMay briefly explained the recommendations for a CCMP Implementation Strategy. The Management Conference agreed with the recommendations and requested in addition that a very simple form be developed for reporting/tracking purposes. Lead and co-lead agencies will report to the Program Office the status of their action plans as implementation progresses. The reporting period was not determined at this time.

### **II.C Operational Procedures**

At the January 28<sup>th</sup> Management Conference meeting, the Program Office was directed to contact attorneys from various agencies regarding the legality of Management Conference members benefiting financially from projects awarded by BTNEP. At this April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ms. Amy Daigle and Ms. Pat Douglas, of the Ethics Commission, provided conference members a handout entitled "The Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics". Ms. Daigle gave an overview of the Ethics Code. In summary, the Ethics Board would have to make an individual determination upon request as to whether or not a particular conference member is in a situation of ethical conflict. A formal request to receive a final determination as to whether the Management Conference is an appointed board and commission or is considered a group of "generic" public employees, was not made. However, Ms. Daigle unofficially suggested that based on the description of operation and structure of the conference that the Management Conference is likely to be considered "generic" public employees. The Ethics Board's determination would enable the Management Conference to decide if there is a "participation problem" for conference members.

### **II.D Public Workshop Series Project**

At the January 28<sup>th</sup> Management Conference meeting, the Program Office was directed to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Public Workshops Series project with an educational slant and then present it to conference members. At this April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, conference members had no changes to make to the Public Workshop Series RFP. They felt it was very good and was ready to be distributed to potential contractors.

### **II.E Citizen Involvement and Education Scopes of Service**

During the January 28<sup>th</sup> Management Conference meeting, the following projects were approved for funding: Terrebonne Waterlife Museum, Marsh Maneuvers, Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Workshop in Lafitte, LA, Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Workshop in Cocodrie, LA, Assumption Parish Bayou Camps, and Volunteer Vegetative Plantings Project. Scopes of Service (SOS) were distributed to members for review and comment.

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At this April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, conference members had no revisions to the SOS for the above referenced projects, and directed the Program Office staff to move forward.

#### **II.F Review of Final Draft - Priority Problems Video**

Management Conference members viewed the final draft of the priority problems video. There were a few minor revisions and the final draft was approved.

#### **II.G Final Draft Reports for Approval**

Final draft deliverables for several projects were distributed to conference members for review and comments at the January 28, 1997 meeting. At this April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the following final drafts were approved: "A Survey of Vegetative Damage Caused by Nutria Herbivory in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins" -approved with no changes; "Self Guided Tours of the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary: for Classroom and Citizen Groups" - recommended changes from the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were incorporated and these amended pages were approved with a few minor changes; "Teachers Guide for the Video "Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands Oh What Tales to Tell" - approved with no changes.

#### **II.H FY 98 Budget for BTNEP Administration and for FY 98 BTNEP Action Plans**

Mr. DeMay proposed to extend the DIMS project (Data and Information Management System) from July 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997. This extension would include development of maps for the Recreational Handbook. The extension of this contract would cost approximately \$15,000 and the money would be transferred from the nutria study component listed within "Demonstration of Various Action Plans". There were no objections to Mr. DeMay's recommendation.

Mr. DeMay informed members that BTNEP's FY 98 project assessments budget will equal approximately \$333,333. The DIMS project, which is listed as EM-18 (Centralized Data Sets), was budgeted for \$60,333 for the continuation of building the information system on the Internet including newly derived information from BTNEP studies and other efforts, and maintenance for FY 98. In addition to the DIMS project, other projects to be funded from the FY 98 budget are EM-4 (Beneficial Use of Dredged and Non-Indigenous Material) \$150,000; SR-1 (Community Sectors and Leader Teams), SR-10 (Speakers Bureau), SR-11 (Written, Audio, and Visual Materials), SR-12 (Distribution of Informational Materials) \$65,000; SR-8 (Legislative Education) \$25,000; and SR-3 (Citizen Involvement Programs and Activities) \$33,000.

Ms. Keeler proposed that BTNEP set aside funding to design an implementation tracking system/report. This document would serve as an informative, educational, tracking system for BTNEP's progress during implementation. It would also be beneficial in competing nationally with all NEPs for additional EPA money after post-CCMP. After some discussion, the consensus of the Management Conference was to take \$50,000 from EM-4 and put it towards developing the implementation report, the Environmental Technology Exposition, the State of the Estuary Symposium, and the Estuary Festival. By doing this, EM-4 would then have an FY 98 budget of \$100,000.

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#### **II.I Shellfish Challenge**

A one-page description of the results from the February Shellfish Challenge workshop held at Nicholls State University was distributed to conference members prior to this meeting. A presentation on these results was given by Mr. Dan Farrow, Dr. Fred Kopfler, and Mr. Brent Ache. The presentation included a brief discussion of the Shellfish Challenge projects as related to specific CCMP action plans.

### **II.J Nature Based Tourism and Recreation**

Ms. Matherne explained that the Program Office had received five responses and one alternative proposal to the "Nature Based Tourism and Recreation" RFP. The project review team reviewed the proposals and selected SFN as the contractor. Management Conference members made no objections and approved SFN to receive the contract.

### **III. New Business**

Mr. DeMay announced that BTNEP had received the "1997 Outstanding Planning Award" from the American Planning Association for "Comprehensive planning in a large jurisdiction to the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, Part 1-4" at the national level.

Ms. Schonberg informed members that Wetlands May Day would be held on May 1, 1997 at the old State Capitol beginning at 10:00 am. Management Conference members would be receiving invitations to attend the Governor's Press Conference.

Ms. Ann Burruss informed members of the results from the river diversion workshop. A declaration had been put together by the Governor's office and others in support of river diversions. She stated that if anyone wishes to support river diversions sign-up forms are available through her.

Ms. Schonberg announced the upcoming Coastwalk to be held at Peltier Park on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1997. Registration will begin at 7:30 am. In addition, the State of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Festival will begin at 10:00 am., also to be held at Peltier Park the same day.

Ms. Schonberg announced that the LA Coastal Wetlands Workshop would be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Lafitte, LA.

Ms. Matherne informed members of a plan to have an initiative exchange program which would bring together BTNEP's initiative with the Tensas Basin Initiative and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Initiative. Each program will host a 1-day event with morning seminars and afternoon field trips. Core groups are to be formed from each of the areas. Ms. Matherne asked if anyone was interested in participating and welcomed recommendations for possible participants. Planning meetings will be held some time in June or July and the field trips will begin in November.

Mr. Windell Curole announced that Mr. Richard DeMay, BTNEP's Scientific-Technical Coordinator, would begin working for U.S. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife through an IPA 2-year contract. Mr. Curole thanked Mr. DeMay on behalf of the Management Conference for his outstanding efforts over the past six years.

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The Program Office was directed to find out Jean Lafitte's available dates as a possible location for the State of the Estuary Symposium. The Staff is to report its findings at the next meeting.

After some discussion, the Management Conference members agreed that future meetings should begin early in the morning and be as brief as possible (4 hours), presentations should be at the end of the meeting agenda, and that there should not be lengthy discussion for agenda items which need only a vote for approval.

The next Management Conference meeting was tentatively scheduled for the last week of June, 1997.

#### **IV. Adjourn**