

BARATARIA-TERREBONNE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 4, 1997 MINUTES

I.A. 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:

Bruce Baird for Colonel Conner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Len Bahr, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Martha Cazaubon for Craig Roussel, South Central Planning & Development Commission
Dr. Paul Coreil for Bill Richardson, LSU Agricultural Center
Windell Curole, Louisiana Association of Levee Boards
Dave Cvitanovich for Clyde Giordano, Plaquemines Parish
Dr. Michael Dagg, LUMCON
Hamilton Dantin, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District
Richard DeMay for David Fruge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Dennis Demcheck, US Geological Survey
Roy Francis for Ted Falgout, Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Grady Galliano, Lafourche Parish
Barbara Keeler for Jerry Clifford, U.S. EPA Region 6
Quin Kinler for Donald Gohmert, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Linda Levy for Dale Givens, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Mike Lyons, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish
Earl Melancon, Nicholls State University
Jim Rives, LA Department of Natural Resources
Rick Ruebsamen, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
Butch Stegall, LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Doug Svendson, Jr., Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Molly Wike, U.S. Coast Guard
Gulsar Woods for Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish

BTNEP Staff Present:

Dean Blanchard
Sandra Kendrick
Lynn Schonberg
Deborah Schultz
Kerry St. Pé

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Management Conference Members Absent:

Jimmy Antoon, LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals
Phil Boydston, Louisiana Landowners Association
Don Briggs, Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association
Paul Cancienne, Assumption Parish
Charles Caplinger, Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana
Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Wallace Ellender, American Sugar Cane League
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
Leslie Kent, LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Cecil Picard, LA Department of Education
Kevin Reilly, LA Dept. of Economic Development
Brad Spicer, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts
John Trowbridge, Louisiana Science Teachers Association
B. Watson, LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Ken Wells, American Waterways Operators

Guests:

Michele Abington-Cooper, LA Cooperative Extension Service
Wendi Couvillion, JCNS/USGS/DEQ
Cullen Curole, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Rod E. Emmer, Rodney E. Emmer & Assoc.
Dan Farrow, NOAA
Tom Herrington, Gulf of Mexico Program
Louis R. Johnson, DEQ/WQM
Penny M. Johnson, USGS
Fred Kopfler, Gulf of Mexico Program
Jean Landry, Chamber of Lafourche & Bayou Region
Steve Mathies, DNR
Gregory Miller, NMFS

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I.B Reading and Approval of Minutes of the July 2, 1997 Minutes

A motion was made to dispense of reading of the minutes of the July 2, 1997 meeting. The motion was seconded. There were no objections and the minutes were approved.

I.C Introduction of New Program Staff

Kerry St. Pé introduced Sandra Kendrick, Deborah Schultz and Dean Blanchard to the Management Conference as new members of BTNEP staff.

II.A FY 1998 Proposed Workplan Budget Changes

Lynn Schonberg went over budget change hand out that was included in packet. There is \$15,220 dollars remaining in two projects from previous fiscal years that the program proposes to put towards a new BTNEP brochure and the Mississippi River Water Quality Conference Proceedings. The budget for these two projects will be approximately \$9,500 and \$2,000, respectively, leaving \$3,720 left over. The program also proposed to decrease the FY97 project budget for "Demonstration of Various Action Plans" by \$54,796 and reallocate this amount, and the \$3,720 mentioned previously,(totaling \$58,516) to the FY98 "Demonstration of Various Action Plans" budget. If approved, this addition of funds will allocate a total of \$121,850 for the FY98 project, which will include The Symposium & Technology Exp, Culture/Ecology Festival and CCMP Implementation Progress Report. Barbara Keeler brought up concern that the \$9,500 for the brochure is high and does not include printing. Kerry St. Pé stated that some preliminary checking was done and found that this figure covers the design and printing of a similar brochure. Lynn stated also that 25% of this figure is what will be matched by the contractor. Dennis Demcheck asked if \$2,000 for the Miss. River Water Quality Conference Proceedings falls under this proposed budget changes.

Kerry stated that yes, the program proposes to put this money towards the proceedings of this conference since it is in the programs action plans to educate people about the Mississippi River water quality. It was decided to tentatively commit pending approval from the Management Conference. There was no further discussion and no objections to the budget changes. A motion was made to approve these changes and seconded.

II.B Request for Proposals (RFP) for New BTNEP Brochure

Kerry stated that we need to update the programs existing brochure since it refers to the programs 5-year planning period. The program is now in the implementation period. The program feels that the Characterization Report, that is expensive to print, does not fill the niche that a brochure does. It was asked if the \$9,500 includes printing. Kerry stated that it could if we wanted it to. It was recommended that the RFP be changed to reflect that printing be included in the cost. Richard DeMay stated that he preferred the program take over the responsibility of printing because it could reduce the cost. It was asked if the contract for this brochure would be brought back to the MC for approval. Windell Curole stated he would like to give staff the authority to move forward once contractor is selected. It was agreed that brochure is necessary. Roy Francis gave motion that budget of \$9,500 for the brochure be approved and was seconded. There was no further discussion or objections.

II.C Scope of Services (SOS) for "BTNEP Participation in the Mississippi River Water Quality Conference Proceedings"

Rod Emmer asked if the program would have final say as to what goes into the document. He also stated this should not be a propaganda document about fresh water diversion. Kerry stated that the program was asked by Mark Davis of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana to sponsor proceedings for the conference. Kerry and Windell agreed to provide funds for the proceedings since it fell under one of the programs action plans to educate the public about the about water quality. Rick Ruebsamen asked if it would be appropriate to request a disclaimer in the document

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indicating that the findings of each individual paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Management Conference. Windell stated that the decision to sponsor these proceedings was based on the fact that this document was to show the public all aspects of water quality. Dennis Demcheck stated that since the program has basically committed to participate in the proceedings, this should not be considered a project. Windell stated that because of the time issue that the program should go ahead and commit but at the same time that the approval of the Management Conference should be sought. Louis Johnson recommended that we review the proceedings before it goes to print. Quin Kinler suggested that in the future, if the program is to sponsor a conference such as this, that the program be involved in the planning and well as the proceedings. Lynn Schonberg stated that is normal procedure and that all planning for this particular conference had already taken place when the program was asked to participate in proceedings. Earl Matherne motioned that MC approve the programs participation in the proceedings. It was seconded and there was no further discussion and no objections.

II.D Analysis of Freshwater Drinking Resources Report

Dean Blanchard introduced Dennis Demcheck, with USGS, who was the contractor for this project. Dennis and Penny Johnson gave presentation identifying the areas where freshwater intakes are located, historical use of water resources, and predictions of future trends in use. After the presentation, Dean asked that if anyone had any major editorial changes to the document, they should hand them in; and if anyone had any major content changes, they should be brought up at the meeting. Jane Ledwin, who was not present at the meeting, had some changes; Richard DeMay, representative for Ms. Ledwin, was to present these changes but had to leave the meeting during this presentation. Kerry St. Pé asked for approval of this document pending the implementation of these changes. Hamilton Dantin motioned the approval and Earl Matherne seconded it. There was no further discussion and no objections.

II.E. Statewide Education Assistance

1) Deborah Schultz presented the three lesson plans, that were included in packet, "Coastal Land Loss", "Wetlands Functions and Values", "Non-Point Source Pollution". These lesson plans were developed for 4-H field educators to take into the schools through an informal process. Deborah stated that she received favorable comments about the lesson plans. One comment, given by some one with the Louisiana Science Teacher Association, was that the format of these lesson plans is different from what is currently being used to teach science in public schools. Deborah stated that although these lesson plans were designed for informal educators, the program feels that the opportunity is there to bring them in line with the state standards so that in the future, as another project, make them available

to educators in the classroom for formal education. Deborah stated that she will be sending copies of these lesson plans to the Terrebonne Parish Course Content Committee, who has agreed to, as a part of a "Learn for the 21st Century Grant", review these lesson plans and give suggestions on how to get these lesson plans into the format that formal educators will be able to use. Paul Coriel brought a "Wetlands = Fisheries" exhibit, which is another component of this contract, and Deborah stated that this exhibit is being displayed around the state, through the Cooperative Extension Service Agents, where there are conventions and other events. Approval was sought for the lessons plans. Len Bahr put forward the motion and Earl Matherne seconded. Barbara Keeler stated that she did not understand how an egg beater symbolizes a function or value of a wetland. Kerry St. Pé stated that the egg beater was not a function or value of the wetlands, but the wetlands to reduce the impact from the storm(simulated by the egg beater) was a value. Michele Abington-Cooper stated that these lesson plans were designed to be 1) economically feasible and understood by volunteers educators. Another comment was that under the table of functions and values of wetland, farming should be moved from commercial to function and values. There was no other discussion and approved with changes mentioned.

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2) Kerry informed the MC that another part of this contract was for Paul Coriel to provide a leader list, which was intended to be included in packet pending receipt of information from 5 parishes. That information was not received. Therefore, this list is not available. Paul stated that this list was intended only as a source of names of the movers and shakers in the parishes that the program could give presentation on the estuary. Some of the lists that were submitted by Cooperative Extension Agents were not quite as extensive as Paul would have liked, therefore, he will go back and capture some of the civic organizations that were missed. A copy of this list will be given to the MC after all information is received. The MC will be asked to make changes, additions and deletion they see necessary. Louis Johnson stated that the MC is viable source of information for this list. Windell Curole stated that this will be a very successful program for getting the public aware of BTNEP. It was also stated this should be updated every year since public officials change that frequently. Michele Abington-Cooper stated that the speakers bureau should

not be just staff. The members of the MC were chosen for a reason, each member is a spokesman. The responsibility of making the public aware of the program should be shared amongst the staff and the MC.

II. F. Storyboard for CD ROM/Wetlands Education Program

Deborah told the MC that this was another last minute agenda item. There are several components to this project: 1) to create lesson plans on the Internet and make them available to teachers, 2) workshops and a program called MAP X made available to teachers. The lesson plans were not complete at the time the agenda and packet were mailed, but are complete at this time. This project was tabled for this meeting. The program staff decided to have Sharon Lantz, from USL, come give one presentation on the entire project, instead of coming down twice. There fore, no action is requested on this project.

III. A. Shellfish Challenge Status Report

Kerry St. Pé introduced Dan Farrow, with NOAA Strategic Environmental Assessments Division, Brent Achee, Tom Harrington and Fred Kopfler, with the Gulf of Mexico Program. Mr. Farrow gave presentation on results and recommendations from the WET and Project Team. The Project Team, which includes BTNEP staff, recommends the implementation of 4 projects as being feasible for implementation. These projects are: 1) BT-31: Install new and improve the use of pumpouts and dump stations; 2) BT-38: Connect poorly operating individual wastewater treatments systems along Bayou Petit Caillou to a community level treatment system; 3) BT-35: Reroute storm water runoff from Larose to Golden Meadow to suitable wetlands; 4) BT-32: Revise the shellfish relay system. Kerry St. Pé explained that all four of these project fit in some way into the implementation of the CCMP. Kerry explained, in a conversation with Jim Giattina, the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program, he was asked if he thought it was feasible for BTNEP to be the umbrella organization to implement the projects. Kerry stated that he told Mr. Giattina that he thought it fits very nicely with our overall management plan. Mr. Farrow proposed that the Gulf of Mexico Program would give BTNEP a \$250,000 grant to begin implementing these four projects. Some of this money will be used to finance a Implementation Coordinator because it is going to take a lot of work to implement these projects, along with the efforts of BTNEP staff. Kerry stated that BTNEP views this as a partnership between the estuary program and the Gulf of Mexico Program. Kerry asked for the endorsement of the MC for these four projects. Earl Melancon made motion for BTNEP to participate in this project as described by Kerry and Earl Matherne seconded the motion. Earl Melancon stated that he has been involved with this project for a couple of years and he sees nothing but positive aspects in this. He sees that the Shellfish Challenge parallels with the estuary programs goals almost one to one. Louis Johnson stated that the estuary program is getting the best of both worlds, the program is getting additional funds to keep things going. He also stated that this coordinator position would not be a civil service position. There was no further discussion and no objections to approving BTNEP participation in this project. Kerry St. Pé asked the MC to spend some time thinking about who or where we could find someone to fill the position of Implementation coordinator. Ideally, the program is looking for someone who is well familiar with the issues of oyster harvesting, oyster closures, wetlands ecology, water quality and knows and worked with **BTMC MINUTES**

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people in the estuarine basin. It asked if this would be a one year position. Kerry stated that this will most probably be a two-year non-Civil Service position. Louis Johnson stated that since this would be an unclassified position, the pay level can be varied; therefore, this position would attract a more highly skilled individual.

III. B. Coast 2050 Status Report

Steve Mathies explained that Coast 2050 initiative is what we want our coast to look like in the year 2050. He sees this initiative as an extension of what the estuary program did. Those who are involved with Coast 2050 are the same people that involved with the estuary program. Coast 2050 has two parts: 1) technical approach 2) user groups and public officials. Coast 2050 will involve local governments and get their input on how they want their coastlines to look in year 2050. The technical support will develop strategies to meet those goals. Roy Francis commented that some feedback he's received is that the general public does not get involved unless the plan affects them directly. His concern is that there are too many plans and not enough action. Steve stated that he understood Roy's frustration and he explains that this type of frustration is partly how Coast 2050 came to be. Steve explained that this plan is expected to be complete in the next 15-20 months because in the next year and a half the State Legislature will be asked to approve this plan for coastal Louisiana.

III. C. BTNEP Internet Web Site - www.btnep.org

Wendi Couvillion gave presentation on the program's website. She explained the purpose of the website is for data collection and distribution for the program. All project information can be called upon on the website. The layout of the website follows that of a restaurant menu with a seafood theme. Wendi went over several pages of the site giving details what is found on each page.

III. D. CCMP Implementation Strategy

Kerry St. Pé informed the MC that, as requested at the last MC meeting, an implementation strategy committee, which consists of BTNEP staff and MC members, was selected and an initial meeting was held in August. Kerry explained to the MC, that this committee feels that the people who gave countless hours to the program in the past, need to be reinvented. A consensus was made that several alliances, consisting of these people, need to be formed to assist in the implementation strategy. Kerry stated that the committee decided that a review team needs to be formed to come up with a scope of services for an implementation workshop. Kerry asked that anyone wanting to be on this committee to please call the program office. He stated that the next meeting will be November 14, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. in the Century Room at NSU.

III. E. Barrier Island Feasibility Study Status Report

Steve Smith, with T. Baker Smith, the primary contractor for this study, explained that the purpose of the study was to determine the best barrier shore line configuration that protects Louisiana's coastal resources. The study was divided into three phases: 1) Barataria-Terrebonne area, 2) Cheniere area and 3) Chandelier area. Steve presented two alternatives to the project. Alternative one will restore the coast line to historical proportions. This alternative will include wave absorbers, a rebuilt Isle Dernière chain, a rebuilt Timbalier Island, a rebuilt east Timbalier Island, rebuilt Plaquemines shoreline. In alternative two, the shoreline construction is planned to be six foot in dune height and 1200 feet of island width. The idea was to get the majority of the benefits of alternative one without expending as much energy to get those benefits. Steve stated that these alternatives are now being analyzed in greater detail.

IV. New Business

Gulsar Woods provided the MC members with an agenda to a public forum for freshwater diversion, sponsored by the Jefferson Parish President Tim Coulon and the Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board.

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Kerry informed the MC that the program was asked by the Corps of Engineers to participate in a discussion with the Times-Picayune editorial staff, on Mississippi River water quality and its role as a tool for diversions. Kerry stated he reread the programs action plans for diversion and he thought this is something the program should do and stated that he did agree. He attended a meeting with Jack Ferdine, of the Corps of Engineers, where it was agreed that certain issues needed to be addressed, such as, flood control, oyster relocation and the adverse impacts of freshwater diversion.

Kerry stated that there is still one section of the Monitoring Strategy Project that needs to be completed, the Environmental Indicator Section. Kerry stated that a meeting was held with the contractor at LUMCON, and completion should be around the first of the year.

Kerry thanked the National Park Service for giving us the meeting space at the last meeting. Kerry stated that as a new staff, the program has learned the steps in planning a MC meeting. One step we will take in the future is to fax all members a memo informing them of the date, immediately after the date is set. The program staff was concerned on whether or not a quorum would be met. Kerry stated that there are several people on the MC that do not have the time to attend these meetings and he asked the MC to think about how they want to deal with that problem.

Windell asked the MC to keep in touch with the program office to comment on the direction that the program is going with certain things. The program is going to start taking action on things in the CCMP, and everyone need involved and help to guide how these actions should be dealt with.

Roy Francis informed the MC that he was asked to head up an organization called the LA 1 Coalition, a non-profit organization in Lafourche parish, to try to get infrastructure improvements. These improvements are needed as a result of the expanding oil and gas industry. The Coalition is lobbying for a four lane highway from Port Fourchon to US Hwy. 90. Roy stated that this will not only help the LA 1 Coalition, but also the estuary program, because this could bring in restoration projects. He asked the MC for their support in the future if its needed, and asked for any comments the MC may have. Kerry St. Pé stated that this would be beneficial to the environment because in the past he has dealt with oil spills along HWY. 308 caused by substandard conditions of that highway. He sees this elevated highway as a solution to the problem of oil spills. He stated that this project is environmentally compatible to the program.

V. Adjourn

At 12:45 p.m., it was motioned to adjourn and seconded.