

BARATARIA-TERREBONNE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 19, 1998 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:**

Len Bahr, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities  
Charlene Borne for Jean May-Brett, Louisiana Science Teachers Association  
Dr. Paul Coreil for Bill Richardson, LSU Agricultural Center  
Windell Curole, Louisiana Association of Levee Boards  
Hamilton Dantin, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District  
Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Richard DeMay for David Fruge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Wallace Ellender, III, American Sugar Cane League  
Stan Fulcher, Dept. Of Economic Development  
Roger Jingles for Dale Givens, Dept. Of Environmental Quality  
Sue Hawes for Colonel William Conner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Pete Jones for Clyde Giordano, Plaquemines Parish Government  
Barbara Keeler for Jerry Clifford, U.S. EPA Region 6  
Quin Kinler for Donald Gohmert, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Al Levron, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government  
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  
Dr. Sidney Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management  
Ken Wells, American Waterways Operators  
Molly Wike, U.S. Coast Guard  
Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept.

**BTNEP Staff Present:**

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  
Michael Dagg, LUMCON  
Dennis Demcheck, US Geological Survey  
Ted Falgout, Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Donald Gohmert, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Roland Guidry, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office  
Ron Harrell, Louisiana Farm Bureau  
Vic LaFont, South Louisiana Economic Council  
Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Steve Loga, Commercial Fisheries  
Leslie Kent, LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network  
Cecil Picard, LA Department of Education  
Craig Roussel, South Central Planning & Development Commission  
Brad Spicer, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts  
Doug Svendson, Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association  
M.B. Watson, LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

**Guests:**

Michele Abbington-Cooper, LA Cooperative Extension Service  
Sandi Castille, Ehrhardt Group  
Kirk Cheramie, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District  
Cullen Curole, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities  
Rod E. Emmer, Rodney E. Emmer & Assoc.  
Malcolm Ehrhardt, Ehrhardt Group  
Enrique Reyes, LSU  
Mary LaCour, USL  
Jeff Seigel, American Way Magazine  
Jason Staggs, LA Dept. Of Economic Development

**I.B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the November 4, 1997 Minutes**

A motion was made to dispense of reading of the minutes of the November 4, 1997 meeting. The motion was seconded. There were no objections and the minutes were approved.

**II.A. Statewide Education Assistance Project**

**II.A.1. Mississippi River Water Quality Slide Presentation**

The Management Conference was provided with a draft script with suggested slides in their packet for the Water Quality Slide Presentation. Hamilton Dantin motioned to approve the script and Sue Hawes seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

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**II.A.2. BTNEP Coastal Erosion Video Project**

The MC was given a script outline and video interview list in the packet. Mark Davis motioned to approve the script and interview list and Quin Kinler seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

**II.B. Wetlands Education Program (Lesson Plans)**

Mary LaCour, a graduate student from USL, gave presentation on a wetlands education homepage, which was developed by USL in conjunction with the National Wetlands Research Center, which provides lesson plans, resources and information on workshops that were held to instruct teachers on the use of Map-X software. Earl Melancon suggested someone survey the lesson plans that are already available. Wendi Couvillion stated that she could compile a list and put it on the BTNEP website. A two-week deadline was set for any comments on the lesson plans. Mark Davis motioned to give final approval of lesson plans to the staff and it was seconded.

**II.C. Wetlands CD-ROM "Knee-Deep in Louisiana Wetlands"**

Mary LaCour, also presented "Knee-Deep in Louisiana Wetlands" CD-ROM. Deborah Schultz informed the MC that an expenditure of \$7,000 was needed to complete the CD. The Program would also receive a master and 1,000 copies for distribution. Deborah stated that the \$7,000 would come from funds that were previously designated for a new BTNEP brochure, which was estimated to cost \$9,000. The brochure will be produced by Wendi Couvillion with DEQ through the DIMS Project and is estimated to cost \$2,000. Earl Matherne motioned to approve the CD-ROM and the expenditure needed for completion, depending on legality of sole source and Rick Ruebsamen seconded that motion. A review team was assembled to review the final CD. This team consists of: Earl Matherne, Earl Melancon, Richard DeMay, Barbara Keeler, Mike Lyons, Sue Hawes, Len Bahr, Jean May-Brett and Charlene Borne. There was no further discussion.

**II.D. Estuary Recreational Handbook**

A motion was made by Len Bahr to approve the Recreational Handbook and Hamilton Dantin seconded that motion. Hamilton Dantin stated that he had some minor changes that he wanted the staff to discuss with him. There was no discussion.

**II.E. La Fête d'Ecologie Scope of Services**

Rick Ruebsamen made a motion to approve the scope of services for the La Fête d'Ecologie that will be held on October 3, 1998, National Estuaries Day. Paul Coreil seconded that motion. There was some discussion in that the staff gave a little history on the first festival and who the contractor would be for the next festival. There was no discussion.

**II.F. SR-3 Citizen Involvement Programs and Activities**

Deborah Schultz explained to the MC that currently there is \$33,000.00 budgeted for this action plan. Twenty-two thousand is needed for the Assumption Parish Bayou Camps, Marsh Maneuvers and Wetlands Workshop, leaving \$11,000.00. The MC was asked to allow the program staff to use this \$11,000.00 for other projects that come up, such as the Mississippi River Water Quality Conference. Mark Davis motioned to accept this budget change and Earl Melancon seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

**II.G. Proposal for New Project Review/Approval Process**

Kerry St.Pé explained that in order to reduce time and paperwork for Management Conference members, the Program Office is proposing a new project review/approval process. This process will allow the Program Staff more latitude to make progress on projects between meetings. It was discussed, motioned to approve and seconded.

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### **III.A. Community Leaders Meetings and Public Workshops**

Rod Emmer, the project consultant, gave short presentation summarizing the status of the project. He explained that the Program would conduct seven community leader meetings and seven public workshops throughout the basin. He explained that during the public workshops held in 1995, economic interests were high and that that is no longer the case in 1998. He also stated that the contract had been extended, at no extra cost to the program, in order that the report could be produced.

### **III.B. Estuary Education Campaign Status Report**

Kerry St.Pé introduced Malcolm Ehrhardt, president of the Ehrhardt Group. Mr. Ehrhardt summarized the development of the BTNEP message strategy, media relations activities, and public survey results. The survey results indicated that people responded to scientific community more readily than bureaucrats in getting the environmental message out. He also stated that the message needed to be simplified, because terms such as hydrological modification do not have meaning to the general public.

### **III.C. Landscape Simulation Model Update**

Enrique Reyes, of LSU, presented a summary of five scenarios that were approved by the Scientific Technical Committee. He stated that these models could be viewed on the Internet at [www.lsu.edu/guests/wwwcei](http://www.lsu.edu/guests/wwwcei). Dr. Reyes stated that this is the best available in nature as far as predicting changes in wetlands; however, there is the limitation that it is not sensitive to smaller projects. It does not account for shoreline erosion or floating marshes.

### **III.D. Basin Exchange Program**

Kerry St. Pé informed the MC that, in conjunction with Paul Coreil and the LSU Agricultural Center, the Program participated in a Basin Exchange with staff from the Tensas and the Lake Pontchartrain Basins. After each basin tour, participants were asked to fill out evaluation forms. Michelle Abbington-Cooper presented the results from the evaluations. Kerry and Paul both stated the program was a huge success and anticipates future contact with each basin.

### **IV. New Business**

Kerry St. Pé solicited individuals from the MC to sit on workgroup to discuss FY 1999 Workplan development. He stated the workplan would be proposed at the next MC meeting. The workgroup will consist of: Barbara Keeler, Earl Melancon, Cullen Curole and Mark Davis.

Kerry also stated that volunteers were needed to help distribute BTNEP information at Earth Fest '98, which will be March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Audobon Zoo in New Orleans. He asked that anyone interested please contact the Program Office.

### **V. Adjourn**

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