

BARATARIA-TERREBONNE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
MAY 28, 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:

Kenneth Hemphill for Jimmy Antoon, LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Paul Coreil for Bill Richardson, LSU Agricultural Center
Jim Rives, LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Sue Hawes for Col. William Conner, US Army Corps of Engineers
Sidney Thibodeaux, Lafourche Parish
Windell Curole, LA Association of Levee Boards
Kay Radlauer for Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Richard DeMay for David Fruge, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Louis Johnson for Dale Givens, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Quin Kinler for Donald Gohmert, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ron Harrell, Louisiana Farm Bureau
John Hils, US Coast Guard
Roy Francis for Vic Lafont, South Louisiana Economic Council
Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Al Levron, Terrebonne Parish
Mike Lyons, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Earl Melancon, Nicholls State University
Alberta Hastens for Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Stan Fulcher, LA Dept. of Economic Development
Greg Miller for Rick Ruebsamen, US National Marine Fisheries Service
Barbara Keeler for Jerry Clifford, US EPA
Jean May-Brett, Louisiana Science Teachers Association
Ken Wells, American Waterways Operators

BTNEP Staff Present:

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

BTMC MINUTES

May 28, 1998

PAGE 2

Management Conference Members Absent:

Len Bahr, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
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
Hamilton Dantin, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Dennis Demcheck, US Geological Survey
Wallace Ellender, American Sugar Cane League
Ted Falgout, Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Clyde Giordano, Plaquemines Parish
Roland Guidry, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Leslie Kent, LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Steve Loga, Commercial Fisheries
Todd Pellegrin, South Central Planning & Development Commission
Brad Spicer, Louisiana Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Butch Stegall, LA Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry
Doug Svendsen, Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
M.B. Watson, LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Marnie Winters, Jefferson Parish

Guests:

David Bourgeois, LA Cooperative Extension
Bill Branch, LA Cooperative Extension
Rod E. Emmer, Rodney E. Emmer & Assoc.
Brian Kendrick, LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Darin Lee, LA Dept. of Natural Resources

I.B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the February 19, 1998 Minutes

Louis Johnson motioned dispense of reading and approval of the minutes of the February 19, 1998 meeting and Earl Melancon seconded the motion. There were no objections.

II. ACTION ITEMS

II.A. Scope of Services for DIMS Project

Richard DeMay stated this is a continuation of an existing Data Information Management System, representing Action Plan EM-18. Task A on the SOS is the BTNEP Brochure, which was approved at the November 4, 1997 MC Meeting. Richard stated that Wendi Couvillion, the contractor for the DIMS Project, has developed several other brochures, maps and a web page for the Program Office and has done an outstanding job. To cut costs, the staff has decided to give the task of developing a new program brochure to Wendi. Task B is the continued development of the BTNEP Web Page. Richard stated that one of our goals under this task is to develop mini web pages attached to the main web page for each Action Plan that talks about what is being done by other state and federal agencies within the estuary to complete the Action Plan. Under this task a WEB form for the calendar will be developed to allow program staff to update the web calendar remotely. Also, the web site will focus on cultural events and opportunities that occur throughout the basin. Lastly, under Task B, the contractor will develop a section

BTMC MINUTES

May 28, 1998

PAGE 3

for sharing educational information. Task C will consist of developing a photo index of scanned slides and photographs that can be used in various ways. There will also be a database developed to inventory these digital images. Task D will capture information of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative and will be put on the web site. Task E will archive technical information gathered as a result of implementing action plans, specifically the Chabreck-Linscombe Vegetative Update, 1998 Nutria Damage Survey, Parish Soil Maps and Coast 2050 Maps. Albertha Hastens asked if the program was targeting the youth in the parish communities, through churches and schools, to educate and involve them in our plan. Richard stated yes, in other areas of the program, as well as through the web site. Windell stated that anyone can contact the program office and will be provided with information on how to get involved. Louis Johnson motioned to approve this SOS and Earl Melancon seconded. No further discussion.

II.B. Public Workshops Project Final Draft Report

Lynn Schonberg presented this report. The program had a series of seven Community Leader Meetings and seven Public Workshops in the months of January, February, March and April. This report documented the discussions from the workshops and the actions of what the public is doing in their communities to implement the CCMP. Dr. Rod Emmer, project consultant, stated that at the leader meetings, three issues were addressed. First, what are the problems seen today relative to what the problems were in 1995, when the program held its initial set of public workshops. Second, what are the solutions to these problems that the public would help the program to support and finally, identify the vehicles that are available to get information to the general public, as well as the community. At the workshops, two issues were addressed. First, what is important to families in the area and how individuals are active today and what a person is doing as far as addressing problems in the estuary. The report records the participants' responses to these issues. Participants of the workshops were asked to sign up to help the program in various capacities. Dr. Emmer stated that the report indicates that many people are interested in what is going on and are already involved with educating others. Some recommendations are also documented in the report, such as, creating a Leadership Council to spread the word about the program; following through with the people who signed up to be involved with program; continuing the festival; sponsoring activities that involve the community in addressing problems in the estuary; issuing news releases about the program; getting information out using brochures, newsletters, etc.; getting information to educators; using internet to get information out and giving presentations in northern part of estuary. Kerry St. Pé stated that the program staff felt that the workshops were very successful. One of the goals was to teach people who did not know about the program, and that was succeeded. Kerry stated that there were exhibits from organizations showing their contribution to implementing the 51 action plans. Kerry also stated that there were nutria tastings as each workshop. Lynn asked that if anyone had any revisions to submit them within a week's time. Louis Johnson asked if Rod had a list of how many attended each meeting. Rod stated that the attendance numbers are in the report, but for a list with names and location, contact the program office. It was motioned and seconded to approve the report pending changes. No further discussion.

II.C. FY 1999 Annual Workplan

Kerry stated that each year the program office is required to develop an annual workplan that informs EPA how the program will spend funds the program receives as well as the 25% match that comes from the state. Louis Johnson asked if each project would be voted on individually or the plan as a whole. Windell Curole stated that this is a preliminary plan, each project will be discussed and comments will be taken. This plan is the program staff's suggestions at this time. The MC will be asked to approve plan as a whole. Lynn Schonberg stated that the CCMP Task Force reviewed this plan.

Clean Water Initiative: \$36,500(Description in FY 1999 Work Plan Hand Out)-Dean Blanchard stated that if the program does not initiate this project, it will not receive these funds from EPA. Dean asked for volunteers for a workgroup. Kerry stated that the program staff would do a RFP and let the contractors who respond to come up with project ideas since the guidelines are so broad. Louis Johnson stated he did not like the idea of leaving this open, **BTMC MINUTES**

May 28, 1998

PAGE 4

that the staff needs to look at the specific issues and try to spend the money in the area of water quality. Windell stated that the MC could give their recommendations and let the review team develop the contract. Quin Kinler stated that the RFP should be limited to the water quality areas in the CCMP. No further discussion.

CCMP Projects: Clotile's for True or What?: \$10,000-No discussion.

Data and Information Management System: \$67,000- Richard DeMay stated this is funding for Item I. A. of agenda. No further discussion.

Estuarine Curriculum Workshops: \$25,000- Deborah Schultz stated that what teachers have indicated is that they need to be instructed on how to use the educational materials that are already available, not develop new material. Albertha Hastens stated that students in Iberville Parish have a weakness in reading, therefore, hands on projects are really effective. She also volunteered for this work group. Louis Johnson stated that he thought this is a great project and that it needs to be expanded statewide; therefore, he would like to see the \$10,000 designated for the Clotile's for True or What? Project be moved to this project. Jean May- Brett agreed that the workshop project is important; however, that these two projects go hand-in-hand. She stated that the Clotile drawings could also be used in a poster series for schools and would like the cards to be ready for LSTA to give out at the annual meeting. Windell asked if anyone knew of any other educational funds that could be used in conjunction with these funds. Jean stated that Gwen Emick, the Coordinator for the Governor's Environmental Education Commission, may have grants available in the future. Albertha Hastens suggested that the program go before the school boards around the estuary and present this idea. Jean stated that the Regional Service Centers in the area might also be willing to collaborate with the program in implementing this project. Quin Kinler stated that maybe the other items in the workplan should be looked at as far as trimming back to give more monies to this project. Randy Lanctot asked for clarification of the discussion. He hears the conference talking about moving monies around but not why. Louis Johnson stated that the entire state needs to know about the program and that this project as currently funded cannot get the word out. Randy also stated that now is the time to be working with Ms. Emick on this initiative. Windell asked the conference their opinion on the Clotile project. Sue Hawes stated that the conference should look at the other projects and their funding to see if monies could be trimmed and added to this project. Deborah stated that this project can expand over several years and more money can be budgeted in future workplans.

Technology Exposition and Estuary Symposium: \$49,000- Lynn stated that this is a continuation of the program's biannual events. Al Levron asked if this dollar amount was a needed that has been identified. Lynn stated that this is based on what was spent last year. Kerry stated that this figure came as guidance from the review team. Quin Kinler stated that maybe the conference needs to look at the number of people that will be reached through these two events as compared to the educational programs. Kerry stated that the workgroup decided that another expo should be planned in order to get accurate numbers because on the day of the first expo the weather was bad. He also stated that there is a possibility of a third expo, therefore, the funds need to be allotted. Louis Johnson stated that this should be an event where the program makes money, not loses money. Richard DeMay stated that because this event is a year behind schedule, this event for 1999 would be funded with FY98 money. Therefore, this event does not need to be funded in this workplan. If the conference agrees, \$49,000 will be freed from the workplan. Louis stated that he would like to see this event become a self-generated event. Lynn stated that it may be proved that holding these two events at the same time may not work; therefore, would it be possible to set aside \$2,500 for the symposium and hold it before the next the fiscal year. Louis motioned that \$10,000 be held and move the other \$39,000 to other programs. Sue Hawes asked, what does the money go to, staff time or what? Lynn stated that last year the Coalition was the contractor and that 99% went to staff and promotions. The exhibitors fees went towards production costs and the reception. The motion was seconded and no further discussion.

Estuary Festival "La Fête d'Ecologie: Barataria-Terrebonne: \$48,000- Lynn stated that this year's event will be held on October 3, 1998, because that date is National Estuary Day. This budget reflects what was spent last year for this event. Jean May-Brett asked if that dollar amount included salaries and Lynn said yes. The contractor for this year's event will be the Estuary Foundation so hopefully in the future our sponsorship of this event will decrease. **BTMC MINUTES**

May 28, 1998

PAGE 5

Kerry indicated that a Time Capsule Ceremony may be incorporated with the festival. The idea being that a time capsule is buried somewhere in Peltier Park and each year measure the coastline from the time capsule to gauge how much land we're losing.

Project Native: \$5,000-Sidney Thibodeaux stated that he felt that Thibodaux High was a limited biosphere. Nicholls' Campus was more diverse in species. Deborah stated that an undeveloped area of the Thibodaux High campus would be used for a pond and native plants. She also stated that a nursery in Carencro has volunteered landscaping services. Also, a landscape architect from Thibodaux has donated her time to help create a garden. Mr. Thibodeaux stated that there is an ecologically diverse area already in place on NSU campus. Dr. Earl Melancon stated he agreed with Dr. Thibodeaux, but feels that teachers want to develop something that students can be vested in and see grow and develop. He recommended that the site be left at Thibodaux High because students will be the caretakers and see that change, growth and development first hand. He also asked if the \$5,000 budget is for construction of the project or for water quality equipment. Deborah stated that it was for construction. Dr. Melancon stated he would like to see more money added to this because equipment would be needed. Randy Lanctot stated not too much more should be added because it will become something too elaborate for other schools to be able to do on their own. He thought that it sounded as though Dr. Thibodeaux volunteered the NSU Campus for the main project and that high schools could be satellite sites. Louis Johnson stated that another demonstration site should be added to the Westbank. Albertha Hastens suggested that a workgroup be formed to hash this project idea and bring it back to the Management Conference. Jean May-Brett would like to amend project to \$10,000.

Migratory Bird Video: \$45,000-Richard DeMay stated that this project would produce a video on Barataria-Terrebonne's habitat and migratory birds for a national audience. Randy Lanctot gave a few suggestions as to who should be consulted from other agencies. Kay Radlauer stated that bird watching is the second largest economic growth activity, under tourism, nationwide.

Leadership Council Training Program: \$15,000- Deborah stated the program is looking for people who can speak for the program, give presentations. This project will be modeled after programs like Leadership Terrebonne and Leadership Lafourche, which involve extensive training. A nine-month program is the idea for training. Albertha Hastens volunteered for this program. Paul Coreil stated the program might want to charge a fee so the person would be more committed. Louis Johnson asked if more monies could be allocated to this project.

Citizen Involvement Programs: \$42,000-Albertha Hastens volunteered LEAN for these projects. Jean May-Brett asked what happened to the Project STEPS, where students and teachers are taken out into the field, that the program once participated in. Kerry stated he did not know but would find out. Louis Johnson stated he thought more money should be added to participate in the Wildwoods Wondering Camp which takes place in North Louisiana. Paul Coreil stated that not much coastal education is included in Wildwood Camp; it consists of mainly information about Mississippi River Watershed.

After extensive discussion of funding for the FY99 Workplan Projects, it was decided that the \$39,000 that was originally allocated for the Estuary Technology Expo would be distributed as follows:

\$10,000 to Estuarine Curriculum and Development, making total \$35,000

\$5,000 to Project Native, making total \$10,000

\$10,000 to Leadership Council, making total \$25,000

\$14,000 to Citizen Involvement Programs, making total \$56,000

Roy Francis motioned to accept the new workplan and Albertha Hastens seconded. No further discussion.

BTMC MINUTES

May 28, 1998

PAGE 6

II.D. Nature Based Tourism

Lynn Schonberg introduced Kim Orr of SFN, Inc., the contractor for this project. Lynn stated that Kim has been working with all of the tourism commissions and economic development offices in the estuary to create a tourism plan that markets Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary as a destination for eco-tourism. The attempt was to help develop recognition of the estuary as a destination for eco-tourism as well as to develop some eco-tourism business opportunities such as swamp tours and birding. Kim stated that this plan would supplement tourism plans that are being used on the parish level. She stated that the scope of the work included compiling information that is already available. Some revisions that have already been made were a result of what was found to be already being done by parish tourist commissions, such as maps and brochures already in existence. Kim explained the steps that will be taken to implement this plan. Albertha Hastens asked if SFN, Inc. was working with the Governor's Task Force on Tourism. Kim stated that most of the people on that task force are affiliated with their local or parish tourist commission or from New Orleans so they were reached through that avenue. Randy Lanctot stated that maybe larger tour groups should be included, as well as convention trade. Kim stated that the convention trade market is mainly interested in what the convention facilities are like. The receptive operators are the ones to target, who provide the package tours for convention facilities and this is in the plan. Kim also stated that large tour groups do not go out into the countryside because of time constraints. Kim stated that a day long workshop is being planned for entrepreneurs to meet with other entrepreneurs, and tourism leaders. Also at this workshop the names of those companies, magazines, travel writers and places that entrepreneurs need to start promoting to get business will be discussed. Lynn asked that if anyone had any revisions to the draft plan, to please submit them within a few weeks time. It was motioned to accept the plan and was seconded. No further discussion.

II.E. Mississippi River Water Quality Slide Script

Deborah Schultz stated this was a project with LSU Cooperative Extension Service. This was part of an effort to bring information to parish officials who are interested in water quality issues. Deborah stated this is the final script.

Louis Johnson motioned for approval and Albertha Hastens seconded. No further discussion.

II.F. Coastal Louisiana Water Quality Agency Contact Directory

Deborah stated that this directory would provide contact names and phone numbers for those who can provide water quality information. Paul Coreil stated this would go to five parishes as a pilot program. Paul Coreil stated that he tried to focus on key state people that can help connect people to who ever they need to get to. Louis Johnson stated that there are so many changes that occur in these positions that he advises that names not be included. Windell Curole stated that at least the phone numbers would stay the same, that we should not be concerned with the names. Albertha Hastens suggested putting the 800 number for the agencies listed. She also stated that the local numbers for federal agencies need to be listed. Lynn Schonberg suggested that web site addresses be included also. Louis suggested that this directory be put on the BTNEP web page. Louis Johnson motioned for approval and Albertha Hastens seconded. No further discussion.

II.G. Scope of Services to Continue "Public Awareness Campaign"

This agenda item was tabled until the next Management Conference meeting.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

III.A. Scope of Services for CCMP Implementation Support: Implementation Strategy Workshop, Stakeholder Progress Report and EPA Biennial Review

Lynn Schonberg stated that our program's future funding would be based on this biennial review. This will be a documentation of the program's successes. A pass-fail grade is issued; however, funding targets go towards how well the program is doing in CCMP implementation. This is required by the EPA. The biennial review will be used to produce a stakeholder progress report, for the general public, that will highlight the progress the program has made on CCMP implementation. Lynn also stated that a workshop would be held to reinvolve past management conference members and anyone else who has been involved with the program. An implementation strategy will be developed at this workshop. Four alliances will be developed to work on specific action plans. Kerry St. Pé stated that the Program specifically chose Brent Ache, with Battelle, because he is so familiar with the Program. Brent also did the work for the Shellfish Challenge. Albertha Hastens volunteered LEAN to help with this project. Louis Johnson motioned to accept this contract and it was seconded. No further discussion.

III.B. Community Leader Contact Directory

Paul Coreil explained this document provides key community leader names and phone numbers from every parish in the state. Louis Johnson recommended that this also be put on the BTNEP website. It was motioned and seconded to approve this directory.

III.C. Reduction of Sewage Pollution Work Group

Deborah Schultz stated that this a FY 1998 project. There is \$203,000 of Non-Point Source funds available for this project. The goal of this project is to reduce fecal coliform counts in the BTE. The elements of the project are to host educational workshops on home sewage, to implement demonstration projects of innovative technologies, and transfer of information learned from demonstration projects, and to implement and educate about urban non-point source pollution, tracking results and reporting to EPA. Deborah stated that she would like to use some of the funds for new Enviroscape models. She stated that this model is effective at showing children, as well as adults, how pollutants end up in the water. She stated that she would like to see one in every parish as part of the educational workshops that she intends to implement. Albertha Hastens and Al Levron volunteered for the workgroup.

(Kerry St. Pé informed the MC that Paul Coreil was leaving LSU Cooperative Extension to work for Burlington Resources. He acknowledged Paul and thanked him for his involvement with the Program and stated that the program hopes to work with him in the future while at Burlington.)

III.D. Sustainable Development Training for Public Officials Work Group

Deborah stated that this action would produce a manual entitled, "Sustainable Development in the BTES" for distribution to all planning officials within the estuary. This manual will be a primer detailing the whats, hows, and whys of comprehensive planning. Kerry St. Pé stated that Terrebonne Parish was awarded \$15,000 from NOAA for sustainable development and the Program was asked to develop a workshop. Albertha Hastens, Mike Lyons, Dr. Earl Melancon, Jim Rives and Earl Eues volunteered to sit on this workgroup.

III.E. Reduction of Impacts of Exotic Vegetation Work Group

Kerry St. Pé stated that this is a FY97 project. Kerry suggested that representatives from LA Wildlife & Fisheries and LA Dept. of Agriculture sit on this workgroup. Barbara Keeler and Albertha Hastens volunteered for this workgroup.

May 28, 1998

PAGE 8

III.F. Oil & Produced Water Spill Prevention and Early Detection Work Group

Dean Blanchard stated that this is a FY97 project and needs a workgroup. One of the goals of this project is to develop a more advanced database. Louis Johnson stated that DEQ is already working on this on a small scale. Other goals are to latch on to programs that are already showing that spill prevention is less costly and less environmentally damaging than spill clean up and restoration. Kerry stated that this action plan put an emphasis on preventing spills as a cost saving mechanism. The following individuals were suggested as members of this work group: Pat Bergeron, from Denbury Management, Linda Pace-DNR, Doug Svendson, Gus Stacy, Paul Fredericks-Esson, Mike Lyons, Roger Hortange and Ken Wells.

III.G. Migratory Bird Action Plan Work Group

Richard DeMay stated this is a FY97 project. One of the ideas for this project is to develop a habitat map, using a classification system to come up with acreage statistics for the entire estuary. Sue Hawes, Barbara Keeler and Louis Johnson volunteered to be on this review team.

III.H. Update on Operation Save Our Soil

An insert to the Houma Courier was handed out to the MC. Kerry St. Pé stated this was an effort that the Program became aware of at one of the Community Leader meetings. Mr. Frank Streva, a member of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, thought the Program could provide assistance to their effort of a letter writing campaign. These letters would be written by school children and sent to President Clinton and Governor Foster underscoring how important this area is to the citizens of Terrebonne Parish. Over 15,000 letters were collected. The Program produced a video using clips from the existing videos and school children from Terrebonne Parish, Houma-Thibodaux Diocese and other schools around the area.

III.I. Update on Isle Dernière Restoration Project

Kerry St. Pé introduced Brian Kendrick, of LA Dept. of Natural Resources, the Project Manager for this project. Brian had a handout that depicted what Isle Dernieres will look like in the year 2040. He stated the project consists of putting in hydraulic fill from the bay side of the island and filling them to a height of 4-8 feet above sea level. It was asked if New Cut would be filled in. Brian indicated that this was not likely because it is such a substantial project, well over \$3-4 million. Brian also stated that vegetative plantings would begin next year. Brian then showed the MC a 10-minute aerial video of the project.

IV. New Business

Kerry St. Pé informed the MC that LIOGA and Commercial Fisheries have not been represented at the meetings. Therefore, he asked the MC for suggestions on getting representation from these groups at future meetings. Kay Radlauer and Roy Frances suggested that Pat Bergeron, of Denbury Management, would be a good representative for LIOGA. A motion was made to ask Denbury Management to request appointment of Pat as alternate. It was suggested that the program contact the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries for a suggestion on representation from the Commercial Fisheries sector. Kerry also stated that Hamilton Dantin has resigned from the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District Board of Commissioners, but would like to remain on the MC as a Citizen Representative. Consensus was that there was no need to create an additional position for a citizen. However, Mr. Dantin is encouraged to attend any of the meetings.

V. Adjourn

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