

Management Conference  
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

*MC Meeting # 9  
9:30 AM January 21, 1999  
Ellender Memorial Library  
Nicholls State University Campus  
Multipurpose Room  
Thibodaux, LA*

**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:**

Patrick Bergeron for Don Briggs, Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association  
Rex Caffey for Bill Richardson, LSU Agricultural Center  
Carrie Schmidt-de la Fuente for Jim Rives, LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
Bob Bosenberg for Col. William Conner, US Army Corp of Engineers  
Alvin Hebert, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District  
Grady Galliano, Lafourche Parish  
Windell Curole, LA Association of Levee Boards  
Michael Dagg, LUMCON  
Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Wallace Ellender, American Sugar Cane League  
Loulan Pitre, Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Richard DeMay for David Fruge, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ed Theriot for Benny Roussell, Plaquemines Parish  
Tim Landreneau for Donald Gohmert, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Molly Wike, US Coast Guard  
Matt Sevier for Al Levron, Terrebonne Parish  
Earl Melancon, NSU  
Kevin Belanger, South Central Planning & Development commission  
Doug Svendsen, Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association  
Jean May-Brett, Louisiana Science Teacher Association  
Glenn Thomas, LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Charles Caplinger, Coastal Conservation Association of LA  
Vickie Duffoure for Marnie Winters, Jefferson Parish

**BTNEP Staff**

Dean Blanchard  
Sandra Kendrick  
Deborah Schultz  
Lynn Schonberg  
Kerry St. Pe'

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

Jimmy Antoon, LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals  
Len Bahr, governor's Office of Coastal Activities  
Phil Boydston, Louisiana Landowners Association  
Paul Cancienne, Assumption Parish  
Dennis Demcheck, US Geological Survey  
Dale Givens, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Roland Guidry, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office  
Vic Lafont, South Louisiana Economic Council  
Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Peter Vujnovich, Commercial Fisheries  
Cecil Picard, LA Dept. Of Education  
Mike Lyons, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish  
Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action network  
Johnnie Dikes, LA Dept. of Economic Development  
Rick Ruebsamen, US national Marine Fisheries Service  
Monica Young, US EPA  
Brad Spicer, LA Association of Conservation Districts  
Butch Stegall, LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry  
Ken Wells, American Waterways Operators

### **Guests:**

Craig Conzelman, Johnson Controls  
Gloria Carr-Gulf of Mexico Program  
Dina Bouchere, formerly of Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Kirk Cheramie, volunteer  
Rod Emmer, Rodney E. Emmer & Assoc.  
Amy Cooper, LDNR

### **I.B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the September 10, 1998 Meeting**

Mark Davis motioned to dispense of the reading of the September 10, 1998 Management Conference Meeting and accept as written, the motion was seconded. There was no discussion.

### **I.C. Program Activity Update**

Kerry St. Pé gave update on the following program activities:

- Shellfish Challenge Update
- Bayou Lafourche Project Open Houses
- EPA/NEP Director's Meeting-Santa Monica, CA
- Various Presentations
- Ameritrek
- Bayou Petit Caillou Workshop
- Swedish Film Crew

### **I.D. Set Date for 10<sup>th</sup> Management Conference Meeting**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Management Conference meeting will be held on April 29, 1999.

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### **II. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **II.A. 1998 La Fete d'Ecologie Draft Final Report**

Lynn Schonberg introduced this report to the MC. Lynn stated that for the second year in a row this festival was extremely successful. She also stated that the festival was expanded to include a kid's activity tent. Lynn then introduced Ms. Dina Bouchere, the event coordinator for the consultants for this project, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. Dina gave brief overview of summary report. Kerry St. Pé also mentioned that there was a time capsule ceremony that was a success. Kevin Belanger made motion to approve the Draft Final Report, Mark Davis seconded. Richard DeMay asked how the \$20,000 was made that is mentioned in the report. Dina stated that was made from corporate sponsorships, which went into the production of the festival. Bob Bosenberg stated that he did not see in the report any sort of assessment from the participants as to their perception of the benefits of the event to the estuary; the point being would they be willing to come back next year. Dina Bouchere stated that a follow up letter was sent to the exhibitors asking for recommendations and whether or not they would return next year. Kirk Cheramie stated that the 1999 festival will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was no further discussion and the final report was accepted by acclamation.

#### **II.B. Technology Expo Final Report**

Lynn Schonberg presented this report to the MC. Lynn stated that the recommendations made by the MC at the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were put into place; as a result the expo was very successful even though it was scaled down from last year. There were over 20 exhibitors. This expo was held on October 2 in conjunction with Representative Tauzin's Coastal Wetlands Summit. Jean May-Brett motioned to accept this report and seconded by Molly Wike. Dr. Melancon asked if the expo will be an annual event. Kerry stated that there has been some discussion but he has not heard anything definite. There was no further discussion. The report was accepted by acclamation.

#### **II.C. "Vanishing Wetlands, Vanishing Future" Draft Web Guide**

Deborah Schultz introduced this Web Guide. She reminded the MC that this is a project the Dr. Erik Stilling of NSU is working on for the program. She stated that this is a teaching accompaniment to the "Vanishing Wetlands, Vanishing Future" video, and will be served on the BTNEP website. Deborah stated that a draft of the Web Guide has been received by the Program Office and distributed to Review Team members. Significant changes need to be made before the guide is ready for final approval. Deborah requested from the MC that the review team be given the authority to give final approval on this web guide. Kerry stated that the reason for this request is that the Program Office does not want to wait for the next MC meeting to have the final draft approved. Jean May-Brett motioned to approve this request and Pat Bergeron seconded. There was no further discussion. This request was accepted by acclamation.

#### **II.D. Scope of Services for 1999 La Fete d'Ecologie**

Lynn Schonberg stated that the purpose of this project is to produce the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual education event. The project will be conducted by the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. Richard DeMay asked if there was any discussion as to holding it at any other time than in October. He stated he did not receive any positive feedback from various individuals he spoke to regarding the time period it was held. Kirk Cheramie stated that there was not much discussion about the date because they did not see any conflict with any other events going on in the area. He also stated that it would be difficult to put on festival in May when the contract will not be signed until maybe April. Jean May Brett stated that last years festival contract was for \$36,000; she then asked why is next years contract for \$48,000. Kirk Cheramie stated that the contract was for \$48,000 last year but DEQ was requiring a 25% match from the contractor. He then stated that DEQ is no longer requiring that match from

contractors. Richard DeMay motioned to accept this scope of services and Mark Davis seconded. There was no further discussion. The scope of services was accepted by acclamation.

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### **II.E. Scope of Services for Coastal Wetlands Workshops**

Deborah Schultz stated that this SOS is for BTNEP participation in the two annual Coastal Wetlands Workshops in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins which are produced by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Deborah stated that the program is looking to reach out to different areas of the estuary with these workshops. One area is Plaquemines Parish at the Woodland Plantation. Loulan Pitre motioned to approve this scope of services and Tim Landreneau seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. This scope of service was approved by acclamation.

### **II.F. Scope of Services for Les Racines de la Chenière**

Lynn Schonberg presented this SOS to the MC. This is for BTNEP's participation in the upcoming cultural heritage event, "Les Racines de la Chenière." This event is part of the Congrès Mondial Acadian or "Franco Fête" 1999 international celebration. It will be a three-day event held in three areas of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary. Windell Curole stated that this is part two of the Cheniere Caminada Centennial that took in 1993. Loulan Pitre motioned to accept this scope of services and Matt Sevier seconded. Jean May-Brett asked if \$3,000 was enough for the Program to do its part. She asked the MC to consider providing more, possibly \$5,000. Windell suggested that the MC approve the scope of services as is, but should more funds be needed and if the budget would allow it, the MC agree to allow the Program to use additional funds. Loulan Pitre motioned to amend the scope of services to provide \$5,000; Jean May-Brett seconded.

### **II.G. Draft Proposal for Researching Alternative Technologies for Sewage Treatment**

Deborah Schultz explained that this draft proposal, submitted by Brent Ache, of Battelle, is for preliminary research

for one component of the DEQ Non Point Source grant for Reduction of Sewage Pollution, adapted from BTNEP Action Plan EM-10. This component is the Demonstration of Alternative Technologies for Sewage Treatment.

Deborah stated that there are three elements to this proposal: 1) researching alternative technologies as well as recycling of gray water; 2) preparing a report based on the findings; 3) conducting a workshop for high level DHH and DEQ officials, at this workshop a selection would be made for projects for waterfront camps and for residents where demonstrations would be made of the alternative technologies. The Program is asking the MC to approve this

draft proposal based on the recommendation of the review team. Mark Davis motioned to approve this request and Richard DeMay seconded. There was no further discussion. This proposal was accepted by acclamation.

### **II.H. Gulf of Mexico Program/National Estuary Program Compact**

Kerry St. Pé stated that this Guidance Document establishes an agreement between the seven Gulf NEPs, the GOMP and EPA to cooperate on matters of mutual environmental interest; to share applicable technologies and data as related to the Gulf; to coordinate outreach, research and demonstrations projects; and to encourage broad support for the mutual efforts of the GOMP and the Gulf NEPs. Kerry stated that the objectives of this compact are as follows: 1) to support actions to reduce bacterial contamination to safe levels for recreational use and shellfish harvesting; 2) to ensure preservation of habitats of all types by supporting projects that would preserve existing habitats, create new habitats and restore degraded habitats; 3) to develop outreach products that would educate the general public on preserving and protecting the Gulf of Mexico and its connecting estuaries; 4) to inventory and coordinate monitoring and assessment activities in order to provide information needed to manage for environmental results through the Gulf NEPs and the GOMP; 5) to support actions to minimize the introductions and impact from non-native species; 6) to support projects that would improve water and sediment quality; 7) and others to capture the NEP goals. Earl Melancon motioned to approve the GOMP/NEP compact and Mark Davis seconded that motion.

### **III. Stakeholders Report Outline**

Lynn Schonberg gave presentation and explained that this document will serve as the third component to the Characterization Report and the Estuary Compact, which will be produced every two years to coincide with the

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Biennial Review Reporting process. Loulan Pitre made motion to accept the request that an ad hoc committee be formed to approve the final report, Kevin Belanger seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. Windell Curole asked for volunteers to sit on this review team. Quin Kinler volunteered.

### **II.J. Implementation Strategy Workshop Update**

Lynn Schonberg explained to the MC that the Program Office held an Implementation Strategy Workshop on December 11, 1998 with the purpose of the following: 1) to re-galvanize the multitude stakeholders that constitute the BTNEP; 2) to present a clear picture of what implementation is; 3) to present BTNEP's first Biennial Review Report; 4) to propose and organizational structure for BTNEP and its partners to involve all interested parties in implementation; 5) to propose a process to develop indicators to track environmental results of implementation efforts and 6) to propose to track implementation successes for future Biennial Review reporting requirements. Kerry St. Pé then gave a Power Point presentation on the workshop. He stated it was a success, however, attendance was not as good as he had hoped. Kerry explained to the MC that the foundation of the proposed structure is the formation of Action Plan Teams (APT) for each CCMP Action Plan. The Apt will serve as the "pool of resources" from which BTNEP will form groups to guide and review implementation projects related to that Action Plan. The APT is intended to provide targeted opportunities for all stakeholders, including the general public, to be officially allied with BTNEP. The members of all APTs associated with each major section of the CCMP will collectively be grouped together in an Alliance. Kerry requested that anyone interested in being on an Action Plan Team to please fill out the sign up form that is available and to return it to Sandra Kendrick. It was asked what if an individual on the APT was interested in bidding on a project. Kerry stated that that person would need to recuse himself or herself from the APT for that particular project. Kerry explained that at this workshop BTNEP also proposed a process to develop and select indicators to track environmental results. The steps in this process are as follows: 1) BTNEP forms and ad-hoc Indicator Development Team to guide the Program in developing and selecting indicators to track and report environmental results; 2) BTNEP proposed an RFP to select a contractor to collect necessary background information for the indicator development and selection process; 3) Based on this background information, the Indicator Development Team creates a list of potential indicators; 4) the Indicator Development Team brings proposed indicators to the four Program Alliances for final selection; 5) the Program Office seeks acceptance of the final indicators from the MC. Kerry asked the MC to approve this proposed structure, he also stated that the Program Office receives many calls from the general public asking how they can help. Kerry explained that these Action Plans Teams will be a way for the public to help. The callers can indicate to the Program Office what they are interested, what they specialize in, and the Program Office can assign them to the appropriate Action Plan Team. Kerry also stated that is the Program Office's hope that other agencies and businesses will come to the Program Office whenever they are in need of a group of individuals to help with specific projects. A motion was made to accept this structure and that motion was seconded

### **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **III.A. BTNEP Website Update Presentation**

Craig Conzelman gave presentation on what has been done and where the Program is going with the website. He stated that recently a search engine was placed on the website. He also stated that the latest push has been on the educational front and mini-webs. Craig explained that the Field Trip Guide and the Web Guide to the "Vanishing Wetlands, Vanishing Future" video will be served on the website soon. He stated that several citizen's monitoring databases will also be put online, one for data collected by students, and another for data collected by the general

public. Craig explained that an action plan database is currently online for individuals and organizations to put information as to who did what and where. This information will be used in the next biennial review to promote all the different action plans. More details on how to use this database will be discussed at the next MC meeting.

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### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Deborah Schultz asked for volunteers to sit on the review team for the Teacher Workshop project, which will utilize various curriculum materials that are already existing. Jean May-Brett stated that half of the school year has passed and a quarter of the fiscal year has also passed. She stated that if this project is not approved until April, then there are only 6 months left to put on these workshops, and teachers already have their summer and fall schedules set. Her concern is time. Mark Davis and Earl Melancon volunteered to be on this review team.

Dean Blanchard stated that at the Implementation Workshop, he told everyone that Bob Bosenberg, representing the GOMP, had called the Program Office looking at having contact with the National Guard. The National Guard is looking to partner doing physical aspects of projects. Bob came to the Program Office and asked what projects were being implemented but were lacking physical labor. Dean stated that the only project in the works was the Golden Meadow Handicap Fishing Wharf that is being built by the Lafourche CZM. Dean stated that the National Guard went to take a look and it looks as though the wharf will get built. Dean stated that the Program Office is looking for other projects such as this that the National Guard can be a part of.

Kerry St. Pé stated that Gus Stacy, formerly with the Oil Spill coordinators office, asked him to announce that there will be an Oil Spill Response Management that will be held February 10-11<sup>th</sup>, at Fourchon. There are registration forms at the back of the room.

Kerry St. Pé stated that the NSU yearbook has a spread on the Estuary Program. Copies are available at the back of the room.

Vickie Duffour, representing Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept., stated that the Corp of Engineers is not monitoring chlorophyll A at Davis Pond. There is also a move to stop funding the monitors in the Mississippi River, particularly in Luling. The citizens of Jefferson Parish feel that this is something vitally important because it gives the water quality in the river prior to it exiting into the Barataria Basin. She stated that the Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept. would like BTNEP to submit a resolution asking the Corp of Engineers to continue this monitoring. Windell Curole asked if anyone had a reason not to support the interests of the Environmental Dept. Mark Davis motioned to support this issue and Jean May-Brett seconded that motion. Windell stated that instead of a resolution, which the Program usually does not do, and with the permission of the MC, a letter will be sent to the Corp.

Kerry St. Pé stated that on January 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a workshop on Davis Pond. He stated that it is meant to be a presentation of Davis Pond, what it is expected to do and how it will be operated. This workshop was developed at the request of participants of the Public Workshops that were held last spring. Other agencies that are involved are Jefferson Parish, St. Charles Parish, Plaquemines Parish, Lafourche Parish, the Corp., Wildlife & Fisheries, DEQ, DNR, and Bayou Segnette Boaters Association.

### **V. ADJOURN**

Mark Davis motioned to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. and Alvin Hebert seconded that motion.