

**Management Conference
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**

*MC Meeting #13
9:30 AM February 17, 2000
Plantation Room
Student Union
Nicholls State University Campus
Thibodaux, LA*

MINUTES
(revised 5/26/00)

I. CALL TO ORDER

I.A. Roll Call

The roll was called and the following members were present:

Kenneth Hemphill, for Jimmy Antoon-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Randy Robichaux, for Don Briggs-Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Dr. Rex Caffey, for Dr. Paul Coreil-LSU Agricultural Center
Jim Rives-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Alvin Hebert-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Grady Galliano-Lafourche Parish
Windell Curole-Louisiana Association of Levee Boards
Donald Lirette-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Wallace Ellender-American Sugar Cane League
Loulan Pitre-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Jenness McBride for David Fruge, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ed Theriot-Plaquemines Parish
Ronnie Wascom-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Quin Kinler for Donald Gohmert, USDA
Rebecca Tedford for Roland Guidry-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Ron Harrell-Louisiana Farm Bureau
Molly Wike-US Coast Guard
Vic Lafont-South Louisiana Economic Council
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Dr. William Miller for Cecil Picard-LA Dept. of Education
Vince Cottone for Mike Lyons-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Donna Lombardo for Earl Matherne-St. Charles Parish
Dr. Earl Melancon- NSU
Pam Roussell for Kevin Belanger-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Marnie Winter-Jefferson Parish
Monica Young-US EPA
Doug Svendson-Gulf Intracoastal Canal Assoc.
Diane Lindstedt for Rick Hartman-National Marine Fisheries Service
Jean May-Brett-LSTA

Those absent were:

Len Bahr-Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Phil Boydston-Louisiana Landowner's Association
Paul Cancienne-Assumption Parish

Sue Hawes-US Army Corp of Engineers
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Michael Dagg-LUMCON
Randy Lanctot-Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Peter Vujnovich-Commercial Fisheries
Marylee Orr-Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Johnnie Dikes-LA Dept. of Economic Development
Brad Spicer-Louisiana Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Charles Caplinger-Coastal Conservation Assoc. of Louisiana

Program Staff present:

Kerry St. Pé
Sandra Kendrick
Dean Blanchard
Deborah Schultz
Eddie Landrum
Richard DeMay
Rachel Somers

Guests present:

Cullen Curole-BTE Foundation
Lynnette Cortez-BTE Foundation
Rod Emmer-BTE Foundation
Guy Stephanski-Albemarle-Pamlico NEP
Joan Giordano-Albemarle-Pamlico NEP
Amy Eliser-Coastal Engineering & Environmental
Paul McClain-Gulf of Mexico Program
Jean Westbrook-Gulf of Mexico Program
Herman Waguespack-American Sugarcane League
Atly Brasher-LDEQ
April Snellgrove-LDEQ
Dave Bourgeois-LCES
Katina Gaudet-The Daily Comet
Elaine Lear-LDWF
Kirk Cheramie-Americorps
Tiffany Williams-Americorps
Ellen Roussel-Americorps
Ian Richard-Americorps
Charles Odom-Americorps
Lindsay Marts-Americorps
Ginger Landry-Americorps
Lori Grammer-Americorps
Bryan Edwards-Americorps
Shelby Ducote-Americorps
Dawn Bagala-Americorps

I.B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 1999 meeting

Windell stated that if there were no corrections or comments to the minutes of the last meeting, he would like to

obtain a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes and to approve them as submitted. It was so moved and seconded.

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I.C. Program Activities

❖ **FY 2001 Budget Cuts-** The MC was handed out a copy of the FY 2001 proposed budget. Kerry stated that this is a spreadsheet that shows what the program thinks these budget cuts will mean. As Kerry understands, all state agencies were directed to cut their General Fund portions of their budget by 10% to offset the projected \$600 million deficit for FY 2001. To DEQ as a department, this means its budget needs to be cut by \$202,000. BTNEP will lose \$127,000; this is 60% of what the state budget office asked DEQ to cut. It is 30% of BTNEP's budget. The handout shows what the program staff has come up with on how to distribute its budget. Kerry stated that \$113,000 is needed just to match the EPA grant. Kerry stated that the Program is overmatched and that the program gets \$419,000 from the General Fund. However, there are other grants that the program office is trying to obtain, which will be discussed later on. The Shellfish Challenge Grant will require a \$10,000 match next year. Kerry also stated that the program had applied for money from the 319 Grant, which will require a 40% match, \$26,800. So, the total needed to match these grants is \$194,000, which is absolutely essential to continue the way the program has in the past. Kerry stated that with the proposed cuts, the program expects to receive \$292,000. The staff took this amount and divided it up among the various budget categories. Kerry stated that there is extra money under the salary category, which was previously used to pay Richard's salary; however, that amount has not been determined as of now. It will be divided among the other budget categories. Kerry stated that in-state travel will be reduced and federal money will be used for conference travel. Kerry informed that no monies would be budgeted for printing. Kerry then went over other proposed budget cuts. Donald Lirette asked if BTNEP would be able to take advantage of the Chaffey bill. Kerry said with cuts that we could not be able to come up with match for that grant. Kerry also stated that he received an email stating that monies NEP Programs receive from EPA may also be cut. Additionally, Kerry stated that \$28,000 was cut from this fiscal years budget. Roy Francis asked why DEQ took 60% from BTNEP, why didn't they take a 10% across the board. Roy then asked what other programs were cut. Kerry stated that the budget for the Mercury Program was also cut. Loulan Pitre stated that the Governor's budget office told each department a set amount to cut but left it up to each department secretary on how to proceed in meeting that dollar amount. Windell Curole asked Loulan and anyone else to approach governor and DEQ to look at a more balanced approach to this problem. Loulan asked for a one page description of printing, what was printed and how distributed over the last year. Donald Lirette suggested that a group of individuals from the MC meet with the legislative delegation to discuss this. Loulan stated that he and Warren Triche would be best to approach the legislative delegation. Roy Francis suggested that if 2-5% was taken from all sections of DEQ, then BTNEP could survive. Marnie Winter suggested that maybe the program should come up with a dollar amount that would keep the program rolling at a reasonable pace and present that to DEQ and the legislators. Marnie asked if it would be a good idea for MC to send letter to DEQ and governor's office. Loulan moves for resolution to DEQ to cut budget across the board, Donald Lirette seconded. No further discussion, no objections.

❖ **Guests were introduced.**

❖ **Personnel Changes-**Sandra Kendrick, Environmental Program Analyst I; Courtney Pitre, Student Worker; Matt Phillips-DIMS Contractor

❖ **Presentations/Exhibits:** LSTA Convention-Lafayette; Ducks Unlimited; Thibodaux Rotary Club; Americorps; Retired Teachers Assoc.; Mott Foundation; LEHA; BT Foundation Retreat; Caldwell Middle School

❖ **Media Interviews:** Courier-Oil Spill Prevention Document; KLRZ-BTNEP and the CWPPRA Priority Project List Selection Process; Shellfish Challenge Video Segment

❖ **Meetings:** Charlotte Bollinger; Impacts of Restoration Strategies and Effects of River-Borne Nutrients-Woodland Plantation; Lac Des Allemande River Basin; Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District; EPA

Environment Excellence Award Ceremony; Little Lake Vallisneria grass bed recon; Grants Workshop
❖ **Other:** Certificate of Merit from Jefferson Parish; Grand Isle Vegetative Planting

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❖ Windell Curole explained to the MC that the business community in the coastal area is starting to notice the effects of land loss and want action. Windell stated the MC needs to be aware of and support that and work with those groups.

I.D. Set Date for 14th Management Conference Meeting:

The MC voted to hold the next meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2000.

II. ACTION ITEMS

II.A. Scope of Services for “Production of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Migratory/Resident Bird Video”

Richard DeMay stated that although he is on an IPA with the NWRC and the Gulf of Mexico Program he will still be very involved in the Migratory Bird Action Plan, and with the DIMS project. He stated that the Migratory Bird APT has about 23 members, which has met 6 times. Those meetings have mostly been focused on the poster. The next project will be a migratory bird video. The scope of services recommends the use of Glen Pitre to produce the video. Glen produced the program’s first two videos, “Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands” and “Rescuing the Treasure”. Other opportunities the APT is looking at are to get funds from other sources in terms of looking at historical use of birds through the millinery trade back in the 1800’s and the market hunting that took place in the late 1800’s. Richard stated that he is seeking the MC’s approval of scope for the video. Richard stated that what he did was take existing scopes from the other videos and substituted titles, numbers and text where appropriate. Donald Lirette moved to accept scope. Grady seconded. Earl Melancon asked if the product developed as part of this project would be printed with monies from the printing budget. Richard said yes it would but would sit on shelf if budget is cut, and printing funds are reduced. Loulan Pitre abstained from voting due to his relation to Glen Pitre.

II.B. Scope of Services for Continuation of DIMS Project

Richard DeMay stated that the program office has been implementing this Action Plan since the beginning of the program’s existence. Richard stated that a big component of this project now is the website, which is a great way for the program office to get educational information out to the general public. Richard stated that the webpage has not been updated for some time because the program office has been trying to get that DIMS coordinator position here in the BTNEP office. He stated that the program office has had a difficult time finding someone to move down to this area. However, Matt Phillips, with Johnson Controls, will be moving to this area in about a month and will take over that position. Richard explained that this scope continues Action Plan EM-18 and is seeking approval of scope. Vince Cottone moved to accept and the motion was seconded by Al Levron. No further discussion and no objections.

II.C. Scope of Services for Implementation of Four Projects of the Bayou Lafourche Initiative

Deborah Schultz explained that this scope, written to the BTE Foundation, includes four projects: 1) create an alliance of groups along Bayou Lafourche that will be divided into two subgroups, one with an ecological focus and the other with a cultural heritage focus. This task will also have a symposium at which these two groups will get together and create a vision for Bayou Lafourche; 2) put on a Bayou Lafourche Heritage Day Celebration which will include an annual canoe/pirogue trip down the bayou with stops at heritage/ecological venues along the way; 3) research grant opportunities, and compile a list of those covering cultural heritage, ecological restoration, and education; 4) collect stories along Bayou Lafourche and to identify existing efforts. Deborah is asking for approval of scope. Vince Cottone suggested that these stories be put on CD-ROM. Donald Lirette

stated that could be a project for next year. Kerry added that if a cataloging system were to be devised, it would be useful also. Donald Lirette moved to accept the scope. Alvin Hebert seconded. Vince Cottone, Earl Melancon, Marnie Winters and Donna Lombardo abstained from vote due to the fact that they are on Board of BTEF, who is contractor for this project.

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II.D. Scope of Services for 1) Marsh Maneuvers, 2) Bayou Camps, and 3) Coastal Wetlands Workshops

Deborah stated that because these contracts are approved on a yearly basis, copies of scopes were not included in the packet. She gave brief description of each project. Deborah asked for approval of all three scopes. Al Levron moved to accept, then was seconded. Jean May-Brett asked if there were any changes to the dollar amounts being put towards these projects, Deborah state no, there were not. There was no further discussion, no objections. Donald Lirette abstained from voting, since he is on the Board of Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, the contractor for the Coastal Wetlands Workshop.

II.E. Scope of Services for Adult Marsh Maneuvers

Deborah Schultz stated this is a FY 1999 workplan project. She also stated that it is an extension of the kid's camp. It is for LCES agents and sea grant agents who are not familiar with coastal issues. It is also open to emerging leaders in communities to get them educated. Rex Caffey stated that this is for adults who are not aware of issues. Deborah stated that the Americorps team would be attending. Quin Kinler moved to accept the scope, Earl Melancon seconded. No discussion. No objections.

II.F. Scope of Services for "Booklet and Presentation on Oil and Produced Water Spill Prevention and Early Detection for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary"

Dean Blanchard stated that the APT accepted this proposal. However, the contractor pulled his proposal because he recalculated and felt he could not produce a quality product with the amount given to the project. Dean stated that because this is an important issue, a new RFP will be sent out with more money attached. Dean is asking that the MC allow the APT to review the proposals and accept the scope. Otherwise, approval would have to wait until next MC meeting, which will be in three months from now. Jim Rives asked Dean to clarify exactly what he is being asked to vote on. Dean explained that he is asking MC to allow APT to select contractor and approve scope once it is written. Marnie motioned to let program proceed, but to get Oil Spill Coordinators to assist with funding. Al Levron asked if \$10,000 is adequate, Kerry stated that amount is what the program office would like but if they would consider whatever the MC suggests. Dean stated that his suggestion of \$10,000 is based on the one proposal he received. Jim Rives moved to add 10,000 to the project, Al Levron seconded. Jim Rives asked if this \$10,000 will come from monies already budgeted in the program. Dean stated that that is correct. Earl Melancon stated that his understanding is that the program office will go out for RFP's with a new dollar amount. Dean stated yes because he feels there were other people out there who might have not submitted proposal because of the dollar amount. A new motion was made by Earl Melancon to not limit the added on dollar amount, Al Levron seconded. No further discussion, no objections.

II.G. Clawdette's For True or What? Final Draft

Dean Blanchard explained that he has been having trouble with the contractor to make the revisions from the last MC meeting. He is asking the MC to allow APT to approve the final drawings. Jim Rives moves to approve, Donna Lombardo seconded. No discussion. No objections.

II.H. Final Changes to the BTMC Operational Procedures

Kerry St. Pé reminded the MC that comments were made on the last draft that was sent out in packet for the last MC meeting. He stated that he incorporated those changes into this second draft. He stated that those changes are underlined in this draft. He stated that the substitute additions involved membership and attendance at meetings. He stated that the predominant comments were that the program office needed to notify those people

that they became probational because they missed two consecutive quarterly meetings. They will also be notified that if they do not attend one of the next two meetings, their membership will be forfeited. Jean May Brett asked that if a person is on probation, does his vote count. Kerry stated that that may not be explained clearly in the Operational Procedures, but yes, that is the intent. Kerry stated that it would be added that if a member is on probation, his/her vote is not counted. Diane Lindstedt stated that the wording on page 4 is

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cumbersome. Fifth line down “BTMC or alternate who fails to attend both...”; she suggested that Kerry take out “becoming”, and change it to “probational BTMC member or alternate failing to attend two consecutive quarterly meetings will lose...”. Quin Kinler motioned to accept changes, Marty Bourgeois seconded.

II.I. Scope of Services for Development of Online Publication

Deborah Schultz stated that this publication would address Mississippi River Watershed issues as they relate to coastal Louisiana. The dollar amount for this project is \$4,995. Deborah stated that the contractor would start out by doing an online publication, after which he will get more donors to produce the written copy. The contractor has a history of developing online magazines, then selling them later, quite successfully. She stated that he is currently writing for The Gambit in New Orleans. She stated that this will be an outdoors magazine and will be based in this area but will look at the entire Mississippi River watershed. Deborah stated that the contractor is asking that it be looked at as an in-flight magazine. The articles will be about problems we are facing and he will look at the entire watershed knowing that in his mind that all water flows down to this area and that every issue will relate back to this area. There will be stories about outdoor activities, editorials, feature stories, new products, etc. It will be marketed nationally and internationally. Deborah stated that the program sees this as an opportunity to make us known all over the world. Kerry stated that the monies are coming from a FY 98 project where not all monies were used. Deborah is asking for approval for this scope. Marnie Winter moved, Donna Lombardo seconded. Windell asked if there was a problem with this being a sole source, Deborah stated that the program handles many of its projects in this manner, with no problem. Al Levron asked if we were funding a commercial venture, Deborah said yes but then Kerry stated that this is to fund an initial online magazine, not what the contractor plans to do with it after. April Snellgrove, DEQ attorney, contract states that product will be owned by BTNEP. Quin asked if MC will approve what is put in this magazine, Kerry stated yes a review team will be formed. No further discussion, no objections.

II.J. Scope of Services for Production of “Pointe Coupee to the Gulf” –a Bi-Weekly Newspaper Column

Deborah Schultz stated that this is a FY 2000 workplan project, which will be awarded to BTEF. Rod Emmer will write a bi-weekly column. He will be targeting 14 newspapers in the estuary region. This will be a way of unifying the estuary. There will be news events, interviews with residents and historic photos with captions. The column will run every other week. The scope says twice weekly, it should say twice monthly. Donald Lirette suggested that the Bayou Catholic to be added to list of newspapers, and Donna Lombardo stated that the St. Charles Herald Guide should be contacted. Alvin Hebert asked who would be writing articles, Kerry stated that Rod Emmer would be. Rod stated that several BTEF Board members would be reviewing those articles before they were submitted to newspapers. Kerry stated that these articles could also submitted with the Clawdette drawings attached. Alvin Hebert moved to accept the scope, Al Levron seconded. Earl Melancon, Vince Cottone, Marnie Winter and Donna Lombardo, all BTEF Board members, abstained from voting. There was no further discussion and no objections. Approved by acclamation.

II.K. Solicit Review Team for WETMAAP for the Development of Golden Meadow Site

Deborah Schultz reminded the MC that WETMAAP is the abbreviation for Wetland Education through Maps and High Altitude Photography, a project that is contracted to Larry Handley and Jean May-Brett, as well as several other people. The person who is collecting the background information for this project, has taken a tour

of the Golden Meadow area. Windell Curole has been helpful in providing this person with historical information as well as everything she needs to know about hurricanes. Deborah stated that Jean May-Brett would be putting together the lesson plans for this project. This project will allow teachers to use maps from three different time periods to take a look at changes that have taken place. Earl Melancon, Dave Bourgeois, Diane Lindstedt, Windell Curole, and Grady Galliano volunteered to be on this review team.

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II.L. Solicitation of Review Team for Brochure on Oyster Closures

Eddie Landrum stated that, as part of Shellfish Challenge Initiative, this solicitation is for a review team to put together a brochure describing some of the socioeconomic impacts associated with oyster closures in the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary. Al Levron, Marty Bourgeois, Earl Melancon, and Kenneth Hemphill volunteered to be on this review team.

II.M. Solicitation of Review Team for GIS Modeling of Bayou Lafourche

Eddie Landrum stated that this is a FY 98 project. Kerry stated that this project would provide a model that would determine where the nutrients and coliform are coming from. He stated once that is determined, other existing models could be used to show that if a certain BMP is used, you could reduce coliform by content by 10%. The next step would be to try to get those BMP's implemented in this area. Herman Waguespack asked if there is any data available now to measure any improvements. Kerry stated that DEQ has water quality data that may show a trend, but that data does not show where the source of nutrients is. He stated that if the BMP's are instituted now, and if those were the sources of the nutrients or coliform in the first place, then there should be some overall reduction. The problem is that those stations are not collecting data on a routine basis. Al Levron asked if there was some work done on identifying the non-point sources along Bayou Lafourche. Kerry stated that very little has been done with non-point source inputs nationwide. Alvin Hebert, Butch Stegall, Herman Waguespack, and Wallace Ellender volunteered to be on this review team.

II.N. Solicitation of Review Team for Marina Environmental Measures Handbook

Eddie stated that this project is also a part of the Shellfish Challenge. He stated that one of the prioritized projects was to promote and increase the number of marina pumpouts and dump stations at marinas through the Barataria-Terrebonne Basins. Eddie showed a sample from the Florida Clean Marina Program. The topics covered in the handbook deal with water quality issues, hurricane preparedness, boat cleaning operations, and stormwater management. The review team would assist in producing a similar type handbook for Barataria-Terrebonne Basin. Kenneth Hemphill, Molly Wike, Ed Theriot, Marnie Winter, Al Levron all volunteered for the Review Team.

II.O. Solicitation of Review Team for Environmental Indicators

Dean Blanchard stated that a review team needed to be formed to develop some environmental indicators. He stated that EPA is pressuring BTNEP to come up with indicators to judge the health of the estuary. Jim Rives suggested that Greg Steyer, LDNR be contacted. Other suggested individuals were Darren Lee, of DNR; a LUMCON representative; Glenn Thomas, of LDWF; and Bruce Baird, of US Army Corp of Engineers. Monica Young, William Miller, Ken Hemphill, and Earl Melancon, Quin Kinler volunteered. It was asked if EPA is looking for a profile of what the environment is like or are they looking for benchmarks. Monica Young stated that EPA wants a broad based profile as well as specific.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

III.A. Update on Alternative Sewage Methods Contract

Deborah Schultz reminded the MC that BTNEP has money from the 319 Non-Point Source through DEQ to do a number of projects involving reduction of sewage pollution. She stated that awarding a contract to Battelle to do a survey of alternative sewage technologies began this aspect of the project. After that, a workshop was held at which a technology was selected to demonstrate and a potential site in which to demonstrate it. The technology selected is the Marsh Upwelling System, which was first demonstrated through the Gulf of Mexico Program at the LUMCON Fourchon Camp. This is a fairly low-tech method that involves PVC pipe and a pump. The first test was taking sewage that had already had secondary treatment and injecting it under the 13th

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marsh and the density difference between the freshwater and the saline water caused it to percolate up through the marsh to filter it. This was later tested for secondary treatment; fecal coliform counts were remarkable in the effectiveness of this system. Deborah stated that BTNEP is interested in taking that technology and testing it in a fresh marsh area. The site selected is on the Bayou Segnette waterway, which is between Marrero and Lafitte. She stated that there are approximately 200 camps on either side of this waterway that are built on the spoil banks. She stated that behind these camps, there is a marsh that has about 90 feet of effluent underneath the marsh. Deborah also stated that Jefferson Parish and the National Park Service are interested in providing funding for this project.

III.B. Update on Delta Service Corps Projects and Presentation of Americorps Group

Rachel Somers informed the MC that she has been giving a lot of presentations to different groups. She stated that she has not been able to do any storm draining markings as of yet. She has had interest however from local 4-H Clubs and the NSU Biology Society. So, she added, that hopefully a large-scale storm drain-marking program would take place later in the spring. Rachel stated that she has been working on a coloring/activity book. It will follow the state benchmarks and will have a teacher's guide to go along with it. She stated that this book would be geared towards K-4th grades. Rachel stated that the Americorps, who were present at the meeting, purpose is to get young people involved in community service, especially in the area of environmental protection. Chad Odom, team leader of Americorps, informed the MC of some of the group's activities.

III.C. Discussion of Proposal Submitted for Teacher Workshops

Deborah explained that this is a FY 99-workplan project, with \$35,000 designated for these estuarine curriculum workshops. She stated that educators indicated they wanted to see a gathering of existing curriculum materials that includes information that is specific to the upper part of the estuary, cultural heritage, and also ties in the state framework. Deborah stated that one week before the due date of proposals, one teacher from Hahnville High, in St. Charles parish, contacted the program office to state that she had a proposal to submit, but could not make the due date. Deborah stated that because she had not received any other proposals as of that date, she gave this teacher another two weeks. After the review team reviewed this proposal, the teacher was asked to make some revisions to her proposal and resubmit it. After the review team takes another look at it, and they accept it, Deborah will write a contract. If the review team rejects it, then Deborah will send out another RFP.

III.D. Update on Migratory Bird Poster

Richard DeMay reminded the MC that at the last meeting a recommendation was made to include a picture of a roseate spoonbill. Richard informed the MC that at that time, the poster had been laid out and there was no room to add another picture, so he was not able to put that picture in. He also stated that it was recommended that the information from the poster should be put in a book format, similar to the Characterization Report. The reason being that there is a concern that the poster is two-sided; once you hang the poster up, you can't get to the other side. Richard stated that the MC was given a scope of services, titled "GIS, Database, and Website Support for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Action Plan EM-15, "Protection of Habitat for both Migratory and Resident Birds", that involves the following: 1) the development of a mini-webpage that focuses on the 3rd Annual Migratory Bird Day Celebration. This would involve using the existing BTNEP web

site; and 2) the development of a database/matrix that identifies bird species and when they can be found in Southeast Louisiana. This matrix would be included in the document that will be developed using the Bird Poster information. Jean May Brett asked why were we spending money on a new aspect of this action plan when there is no money to print the poster. Richard stated that printing money usually comes from the General Fund, but there is a pot of federal money that we think can be used to print. Richard asked that the MC approve the scope of services. Quin Kinler moved to accept, Butch Stegall seconded. There were no objections and no further discussion.

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III.E. Update on Stormwater Workshop.

Eddie Landrum informed the MC that a Stormwater Workshop was held last week that covered the beneficial use of stormwater to enhance marshes adjacent to hurricane protection levees and to increase freshwater retention within those marshes versus dumping it directly into canals which can go into our bays and spoil the oyster harvest. He stated that there were about 45 people who attended. Eddie stated that a monitoring program was set up for the stormwater pump site at the Point aux Cheine Game Management Area. Eddie and Brent Ache, of Battelle, the contractor for this project, will be submitting a paper and presenting a poster session on this project at the Coastal Society's 17th International Conference that will be held in Portland, OR, in July. Windell asked if there were any negative comments about the project. Eddie stated that there were not negative comments but lengthy discussion on the different monitoring processes and the goals and objectives associated with monitoring.

III.F. Presentation of Hurricane Impacts of 1999 Season on Albamarle-Pamlico Estuary System

Kerry St. Pé informed the MC that the Albamarle-Pamlico NEP (APNEP) was one of the first national estuary programs. He then introduced Guy Stefanski, the program director, and Joan Giordano, the public participation coordinator for APNEP. Guy presented a slide show of the study area, talked briefly about APNEP's CCMP, and then introduced APNEP's implementation structure and how it engages it's stakeholders in the implementation of its CCMP. Guy then discussed how the 1999 Hurricane season impacted the APNEP study area.

III.G. Update on Priority Projects submitted to Gulf of Mexico Program

Kerry reminded the MC that BTNEP held a workshop to talk to the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMPO) about issues that were of concern to the program. He stated that the GMPO felt strongly about two of the ideas that were submitted. GMPO selected 7 areas along the Gulf Coast as priority areas, and the BT system is one of them. The two proposals that the GMPO selected are:

1) The Bayou Lafourche Initiative Coordination-This initiative will focus public attention on the importance of Bayou Lafourche as a cultural lifeline and as the mainstream of the environmental health of the entire Bayou Lafourche Community. Kerry stated that this is a campaign to gain support along the corridor, to make people understand that Bayou Lafourche is a nice place, not a place to cart garbage downstream. Kerry also stated that these funds would be used to hire a coordinator for this project. The funding level requested is \$190,000 over a 2-year period.

2)An Accelerated Program of Woody Plant Species Selection for Conservation, Restoration & Neotropical Habitat Enhancement-The objectives of this proposal are to implement an accelerated program to develop woody plant technology; to provide plant species information to coastal wetland managers; and, to demonstrate methods for improving plant species diversity and consequently improved wildlife habitat. This project would provide \$187,000 over a 3-year period.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A.) Deborah stated that everyone should have received a copy of the CD-ROM titled "Exploring Coastal

Louisiana”, featuring the voice of Windell Curole. She explained that this was a joint effort between, CWPPRA, USGS and BTNEP. She stated that there is a teacher’s guide to accompany this CD that CWPPRA produced. There is a directory on the CD that tells how to access this teachers guide. NOAA at the NSTA Convention in Orlando, FL will market this CD.

B.) Deborah informed the MC that the National Wildlife Federation sponsors a National Wildlife Week every year. This year instead of having packets to handout, they have produced an online curriculum regarding endangered species. One of the lesson plans will feature the Louisiana Black Bear, featuring a farmer within the

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BT estuary who has black bears on his land and who is promoting habitat protection for the black bear.

C.) Deborah explained that the Save Our Soil (S.O.S.) Project again is taking place this year. This year the effort will hopefully be expanded coast wide. Chambers of Commerce, industry, community members and schools systems will be involved. Deborah stated that the project team is not sure what forum this will take place in, whether it is a letter writing campaign, as in the past, or something else. That will be discussed at next weeks meeting. Deborah asked the MC their opinion on BTNEP providing \$5,000 to the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce to help fund this project. Jean May Brett asked how that money will be spent. Deborah stated that there is no break down at this time. Deborah is asking permission on the merit of the project over the last two years. Jean asked how money was spent the last two years. Deborah stated that funds were spent on the production of a video that was distributed to all the schools involved as well as broadcast through out Louisiana. She also stated that T-shirts were printed. Al Levron stated that more than \$5,000 of good will was gotten out of it. Kerry stated that these funds would come out of the EPA Grant. Al Levron moved to support the S.O.S. Project financially, William Miller seconded. There was no further discussion and no objections.

D.) Deborah stated that at the last Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Board Meeting, Don Davis made a motion that the Coalition begin to get more interested in collecting stories about the impact of land loss on families coastwide. Coincident to that, someone from NSU approached Deborah who is interested in interviewing 20-40 families, doing a qualitative analysis of how land loss is effecting families is the BTE. Deborah is asking the MC to think about whether or not this is something that would be useful to BTNEP, and if so, would it be valuable enough to want to give financial support to.

E.) Sandra asked if anyone was interested in purchasing a polo shirt with the BTNEP logo on it, to give her a call.

F.) Jean May Brett, LSTA, announced that next weekend the Environmental Educators Symposium would be held at LSU

G.) Rex Caffey, LCES, announced that the Atchafalaya Venture Race 2000 would be held April 8-9th. He is looking for volunteers to assist.

H.) Jim Rives, LDNR, stated the EPA gave DNR an extension on a grant to set up Local Permit Information Centers. He stated that the contractor is producing a computerized checklist that will be used to assist someone applying for a permit.

I.) Marty Bourgeois, LDWF, stated that the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission approved a notice of intent that would establish 6 new public oyster seed grounds in the BT Estuary, comprising of 7,000 acres. There would be 4 in Terrebonne, 1 in Lafourche and 1 in Jefferson Parish.

J.) Windell Curole stated that he spoke with Bill Good, LDNR, suggesting that a fact sheet be developed for legislators to carry around that has pertinent but factual information. Windell asked that if anyone anything to contribute, to please contact him or Bill Good, DNR. Kerry suggested that some of the information that was used in the Wetlands Functions and Values for the BT Estuary, produced by LCES, could be used.

K.) Quin Kinler, NRCS, pointed out that NRCS has a couple of restoration projects taking place presently. They are located at Brady Canal, hydrologic restoration project; the second phase of BA2 and Barataria Bay Waterway west are under way also.

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L.) Vince Cottone, Texaco, announced that the producers of "Trailblazers", a PBS show, is producing a video on the rickster rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

M.) Don Lirette, CRCL, announced that GMPO Citizen's Advisory Committee approved to write letter to Governor Foster and Dale Givens to take another look at how unfair it is that BTNEP is taking the brunt of the budget cuts.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned 2:00pm