

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

**MC Meeting #19
9:30 AM July 12, 2001
Multipurpose Room
Ellender Memorial Library
Nicholls State University Campus
Thibodaux, LA**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

The following MC members were present:

Dr. Len Bahr-Governor's Office for Coastal Activities
Mr. Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowner's Association
Ms. Sue Hawes-US Army Corp of Engineers
Mr. Alvin Hebert-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Mr. Windell Curole-Louisiana Association of Levee Boards
Dr. Jessica Kastler for Dr. Mike Dagg-Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Mr. Donald Lirette-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Mr. Herman Waguespack, for Mr. Wallace Ellender-American Sugar Cane League
Mr. Loulan Pitre-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Ms. Martha Segura, for Mr. David Frugé-US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ms. Victoria Caridas-Plaquemines Parish CZM
Mr. David Hughes, for Mr. Ronnie Wascom-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Mr. Quin Kinler, for Mr. Donald Gohmert-USDA/NRCS
Mr. Rob LeMonde, for Mr. Ed Kessler-US Coast Guard
Mr. Randy Lanctot-Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Mr. Vince Cottone, for Mr. Mike Lyons-Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Ms. Pam Roussel, for Mr. Kevin Belanger-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Ms. Dianne Lindstedt, for Mr. Rick Hartman-National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Troy Hill-US EPA Region VI
Mr. Butch Stegall-LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry
Ms. Jean May-Brett-Louisiana Science Teachers Association
Dr. Glenn Thomas-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Ms. Kathleen Dubler, for Ms. Marnie Winters, Jefferson Parish

MC Members not present:

Mr. Jimmy Antoon-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Mr. Don Briggs-Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association
Dr. Paul Coriel-LSU Agricultural Center
Mr. Jim Rives-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Mr. Paul Cancienne-Assumption Parish
Mr. Grady Galliano-Lafourche Parish CZM
Mr. Dennis Demcheck-US Geological Survey
Mr. Roland Guidry-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Mr. Ron Harrell-Louisiana Farm Bureau
Ms. Sharon Calcote-LA Dept. of Cultural, Recreation & Tourism
Mr. Vic Lafont-South Louisiana Economic Council
Mr. Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Mr. Peter Vujnovich-Commercial Fisheries
Mr. Cecil Picard-LA Dept. of Education

Dr. Earl Melancon-Nicholls State University
Ms. Marylee Orr-Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Mr. Brad Spicer-Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts
Mr. Raymond Butler-Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Mr. Charles Caplinger-Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana

Guests Present:

Dr. Rod Emmer-FEMA
Ms. Katina Gaudet-Daily Comet
Mr. Doug Jacobsen-US EPA Region VI
Mr. Cullen Curole-Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation
Ms. Lynnette Cortez-Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation
Ms. Jean Westbrook-Gulf of Mexico Program
Mr. Mike Tullos-USDA
Mr. Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District

BTNEP Staff Present:

Mr. Kerry St. Pé
Ms. Deborah Schultz
Mr. Richard DeMay
Ms. Sandra Helmuth
Mr. Dean Blanchard
Ms. Rachel Somers
Mr. Andrew Barron

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the April 19, 2001 meeting

A motion was made to accept and approve the minutes as written. It was seconded. Sandra stated that she received a correction from Martha Segura via email that US Fish & Wildlife Service was omitted from the roll call. Sandra stated that she corrected the roll call. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Windell apologized to the MC for not including them in the decision to move from LDEQ to LUMCON. Motions had to be taken quickly and he did not feel comfortable in only contacting a few and not the whole group as there was not enough time. He informed the MC that this move is good for the Program as a whole, as well as the staff. The move is also advantageous in that contractual process will be an easier task for the staff. Windell suggested that an executive committee be formed for contractual review so that Action Plan Teams can have things approved between MC meetings.

Jean May-Brett suggested that the idea for a BTNEP Executive committee is a good one, but that it needed to be fully thought out and presented to the Management Conference before it could be approved. Windell said he was not asking for approval, but wanted to present to idea to the Mgt. Conference for discussion.

Sue asked for clarification. There seemed to be 2 ideas on the table: 1) executive committee to help make decisions (like those pertaining to the move to LUMCON) and guide the Program between full Management Conference meetings.. 2) Action Plan Teams decide what issues need to be addressed.

Len Bahr stated that at the last meeting there was too much time spent on details. The MC should trust the Program Office to make decisions concerning contracts.

Loulan added that not only was an amendment set before the legislature, but a lot of negotiations took place also. He thanked Len Bahr and Karen Gautreaux for their help. Windell added that Clifford Smith and Donnie Vandal were instrumental in the process also.

19^h Management Conference Agenda

July 12, 2001

Page 3

Donald Lirette stated to Windell that he appreciated all he did in the process of the move. Windell was chosen as Chair because of his talents and relationship with Kerry, therefore giving him the ability to pull this off. Donald stated that this needed to be done. Windell thanked DEQ also for their support over the years.

Len Bahr stated he was late because he was trying to get a letter from the Governor that Kerry requested that EPA is requiring for the move from DEQ to LUMCON. He stated that the governor wants to actually sign that letter, instead of his designee.

Kerry stated he would give another presentation at the next meeting on the Action Plan Team concept.

C. Program Activities (since April 19, 2001)

- ❖ **Presentations/Exhibits**-Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration Day; Bayou Vision; Coastal America Tour; Leadership Terrebonne; Campfire Girls & Boys; EPA Region VI Stormwater Conference; Coastal & Estuarine Wetland Restoration into the New Millennium Conference; NEP Outreach Coordinators Workshop; Bayou Camps
- ❖ **Media Interviews-NSU:** Budget Cuts; **Daily Comet:** Flood of BTNEP office due to Tropical Storm Allison, Move to LUMCON
- ❖ **Meetings**-Oyster Task Force; NSU Biology Advisory Committee; Lac Des Allemandes River Basin Study; La Fete d'Ecologie Steering Committee; FEMA/Gulf Coast NEP Workshop; Davis Pond Advisory Committee; Gulf of Mexico Program Focus Team Meeting; Sustainability Indicator Workshop; Coastal Stewardship Awards; Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Trail; CWPPRA Outreach Committee

D. Set Date for 20th Management Conference Meeting

The date suggested, October 18, 2001, was changed to October 16, 2001, due to conflicts with other meetings going on.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Wings over the Wetlands

Richard reminded the MC that a contract was done with Glen and Michelle for this video. The Migratory Bird Action Plan Team (APT) has been meeting to develop this video. Richard stated that this is a real rough draft of the video. More music and narration needs to be added. The APT saw the draft a few days ago, and was really pleased and did have some suggestions. Final editing will take place next week.

The MC then viewed the video and, then had comments:

Len Bahr stated that habitat loss should be mentioned. The message needs to be hammered into people's minds nation wide. Habitat loss needs to be connected to coastal land loss.

Jessica stated that in the places where it is mentioned that habitats are in excellent condition, a narration needs to be included about land loss, habitat is being lost.

Randy stated that land loss should not be too overpowering in the video, since the video is supposed to get the public excited about migratory birds. If educational materials will be made available to go along with video, land

loss can be addressed in those materials.

Richard stated that there is no more money to do any more shooting on the video. He stated that these issues would have to be addressed through the narration that accompanies the video.

19^h Management Conference Agenda

July 12, 2001

Page 4

Randy stated that the video is great, other than the small inaccuracies; he doesn't think anything else needs to be changed.

Jean Westbrook stated that she is a birder and loved the video. She asked if there was a list of public places to bird watch. Kerry reminded the MC that in the video it was stated that the Louisiana Bird Trail is being developed. A list of spots will be made available soon.

Deborah suggested that the statement "Bird's are everywhere" should be changed to "Barataria Terrebonne estuary" to attract people to this area.

Jessica Kastler suggested that the brown pelican segment should be clarified that DDT practically eliminated the brown pelican and then they were re-established, not just that they survived the DDT.

Richard stated he's not sure how these issues can be addressed other than narration. Kerry stated that Joe Suhayda's animation might be inserted where habitat loss is addressed.

Jean suggested superimposing specie names on the Audubon prints for those who do not know birds. Richard stated that David Muth talks about those birds before the prints are shown. He suggested that maybe instead of showing David before, just the pictures should be shown.

A Motion was made to accept the migratory bird video with comments incorporated.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. BTNEP move from LDEQ to Board of Regents

Kerry stated that as a long time employee of DEQ, he does feel a tinge of loss because of the move. But does feel this is good for the program. This idea has been in the back of the Program's mind for several years. Program staff, along with many others, felt that being under a university setting would help the program flourish. The mechanism used was an amendment to House Bill No. 1 to move the General Fund money that BTNEP gets from DEQ to Board of Regents. An additional \$145,000 was asked for, but was not approved. However, the move of all assets of the BTNEP, including equipment and personnel was approved. LUMCON will be the fiscal/administrative agency for BTNEP.

Kerry stated that Dr. Mike Dagg, Director of LUMCON, was very acceptable to the idea of the move. He felt that BTNEP would be good for LUMCON, and Kerry feels that LUMCON will be good for BTNEP. The program staff will remain under civil service; they will not lose any benefits they already have.

Kerry stated that there is a list of steps the program has to take to finalize this move, which includes the letter Len Bahr mentioned earlier. A report from DEQ needs to be submitted concerning the grant.

B. July 7, 2001 Flood

Kerry thanked all of those for support and offerings of help after the flood.

Martha Segura asked how much money will be provided to replace all that was lost. Kerry stated at this time we do not know. Although the items lost were purchased through DEQ, the reimbursement will go to LUMCON, so that BTNEP can replace those items.

Kerry gave a presentation on the office flood.

C. Update on Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation Activities

Cullen Curolle stated that 120 new members have joined since last year. The newest board member is Mr. Harold Cappello, former mayor of Donaldsonville.

19^h Management Conference Agenda

July 12, 2001

Page 5

Cullen then gave update on all of its projects.

Bayou Lafourche Initiative-Cullen stated that the key component is the creation of the Bayou Lafourche Alliance. He then gave update on project activities; which include a grant writing workshop and a seminar on board member duties in fund raising. They are also reviewing the feasibility of constructing a cultural center on Bayou Lafourche; they have partnered with the Lorio Foundation and the Jean Lafitte Cultural Center to produce a series of Cajun and Zydeco music performances; and they are in the process of putting together a pirogue trip to celebrate the heritage of Bayou Lafourche

Migratory Bird Celebration Day-Cullen stated that this event celebrates the value of the area for birds; it is a two-weekend event on Grand Isle. The celebration included tours of historic homes, environmental exhibits and boat tours.

La Fete d'Ecologie- Cullen reminded the MC that this event would take place on September 29th. Notices have been sent out to exhibitors, crafters, and food vendors. The Audubon Zoo Bug Mobile and other exhibits from last year will be returning this year.

D. Port Fourchon, LA Maritime Forest Ridge

Richard reminded the MC that the Greater Port Fourchon Commission is expanding the port. The commission was responsible for mitigating the habitat they manipulated. They have more than enough material left over than needed. Ted Falgout came to BTNEP for ideas to use that material. An idea of a maritime forest ridge was developed. The plan includes a two and a quarter mile ridge from Hwy 1 to the north of the port, in one thousand foot segments with crevasses between those segments for habitat for marsh animals. Sixty acres of marsh will be created, built over next 3-5 years. The ridge will be reforested with vegetation being developed through the Woody Species project. BTNEP will apply for funds from DNR to coordinate the re-forestation of the ridge.

E. Update on FY 2002 Workplan

Dean informed the MC that the Budget Cut hand out mailed in packet has been changed. A new handout was given at the meeting. Dean stated that BTNEP needs \$418,297 to run the program. However, the budget was cut down to \$305,243. To make up the difference, the printing budget will be reduced and the FY98 project Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials for \$60,250 will be eliminated. These two items total up to \$113,054.

Martha asked why cut the printing budget when a lot of materials were lost in the flood. Kerry explained that we have federal money designated for printing. Also, DNR is proposing to provide BTNEP with funds for printing. Also, monies from the flood claim will provide funds to replace damaged materials.

Windell asked for motion to approve this new budget.

Len Bahr moved and Randy Lanctot seconded.

F. Annual State Meeting between the State of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico Program

Since the agenda was mailed, it was decided that there was not enough time to submit abstracts before July 18th. Therefore, Kerry stated, this meeting will not take place. However, the MC is still being asked to submit project ideas to the Gulf of Mexico Program. Martha Segura asked what is the cap on the project budget. Doug Jacobsen stated that budgets should be \$150,000 or less with a 40-60% cost share.

Cullen asked when do proposals have to be in. Kerry stated that GMPO needs them by the end of August. Kerry gave a list of projects that BTNEP will be submitting:

Planting of Fourchon Ridge.

Marsh Upwelling System-2nd year funding

Stormwater Pump project=2nd year funding

19^h Management Conference Agenda

July 12, 2001

Page 6

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Len Bahr informed MC that next Task Force meeting will be August 7th and that issues relevant to BTES will be discussed.

Len Bahr also informed the MC that on August 15th, Governor Foster would host Coastal Summit 2001 in Baton Rouge. The theme is 3-fold: the coast can be saved; we have to save it; how to save it.

Randy stated the LWF would be writing a letter to the Governor commending him for acknowledging that coastal restoration is a major issue that needs to be addressed. He encouraged other agencies to do the same. A motion was made for the MC to write such letter; it was seconded with no discussion.

Loulan suggested to Len that he ask potential governor candidates to attend this summit.

Troy Hill informed the MC that the new EPA administrator visited Region VI. She felt land loss is of presidential importance and wants to come visit Louisiana.

Troy also announced that Monica Young delivered a baby girl on June 10th.

EPA representative, John Ettinger, is being co-located at US Army Corp of Engineers, working on coastal restoration and 404 issues.

Windell reminded the MC that Davis Pond would be ready to open in October. Press releases need to be sent announcing that.

Deborah stated to the MC that the "Clawdette's For True or What" poster, Saltmarsh Activity Book and Exploring Coastal Louisiana CD-Rom are available.

Rob LeMonde, US Coast Guard, stated that an oil spill drill will be coming up that will cover BTES. Kerry was asked to help design a scenario.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:51pm