

Management Conference
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

*MC Meeting #27
9:30 AM July 30, 2003
John L. Guidry Stadium
Century Room
Nicholls State University Campus
Thibodaux, LA*

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present:

Mr. Anthony Roussell-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Mr. Randy Robichaux-Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Dr. Rex Caffey-LSU Ag Center
Mr. Chuck Villarubia-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Ms. Sue Hawes-US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Jess Curole-Lafourche Parish CZM
Mr. Windell Curole-Louisiana Association of Levee Boards
Dr. Jessica Kastler-LUMCON
Mr. Rob Gorman-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Mr. Scott Wilson-USGS
Mr. Loulan Pitre-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Ms. Anneliese Westphal-La Dept. of Environmental Quality
Mr. Roland Guidry-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office
Ms. Lori LeBlanc-South Louisiana Economic Council
Mr. Randy Lanctot-Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Mr. Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Ms. Alice Templet-LA Dept. of Education
Dr. Gary Lafleur-NSU
Ms. Leslie Williams-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Mr. Rick Hartman-US National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Doug Jacobson-US EPA Region VI
Mr. Butch Stegall-LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
Ms. Jean May-Brett-Louisiana Science Teachers Assoc.
Ms. Heather Finley-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Mr. John Walthers-Coastal Conservation Assoc. of Louisiana
Mr. Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept.
Mr. David Muth-National Park Service
Mr. Richard Martin-The Nature Conservancy

Staff Members Present:

Kerry St. Pé
Richard DeMay

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Dean Blanchard
Deborah Schultz
Sandra Helmuth
Andrew Barron
Patrick Cantin

Guests Present:

Rob Emmer-Rodney E. Emmer & Assoc.
Laura St. Pé-private citizen
Vicki Duffourc-Jefferson Parish
C.C. Lockwood-potential contractor
Sue Lockwood
Rhea Gary-potential contractor
Katina Gaudet-Daily Comet
Paula Odom-Louisiana Sea Grant
Wes LeBlanc-LDNR
Andrew Hill-LDNR
Jerome Zeringue-S. Terrebonne Levee Board
Cathleen Dubler-Jefferson Parish
James Miller-Terrebonne Parish
Doug Daigle-Mississippi River Basin Alliance
Brent Ache-Battelle
David Bourgeois-LSU AG Center
Lynnette Cortez-BTE Foundation
Carrie Schmidt de la Fuente-LDNR
Joel Barnes-National Geographic Magazine
Steve Peyronnin-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Rene ????-Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office

Reading and Approval of Minutes of the April 16, 2003 Meeting

David Muth moved to dispense of the reading of the minutes, Heather Finley seconded that motion. There were no objections.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Presentations/Exhibits: Assumption High School; Port Fourchon Tour for Diane Regus (EPA); Bayou Region Day at the Legislature; Sewage Treatment Plant Owner/Operators; National Geographics; Leadership Terrebonne; FCE; WETSHOP; NPS History Camp; ANEP Outreach Committee; Cypress Swamp Tour; Hahnville High School; Woodmere School; Marsh Maneuvers; Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo; Thibodaux Rotary Club
- Media Interviews: German NPR Interview-coastal land loss; Daily Comet and Lafayette Daily Advertiser- Wisner Planting

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- Meetings: Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District Meeting; LCA Public Meetings; Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Terrebonne Parish; CWPPRA Outreach Committee; Plant Identification; LRCE; Climate Change Workshop-College Station, TX; Dredge Forum Meeting; Native Plant Conference-Ft. Myers, FL; Wisner Property Planting; Company Canal Dedication Ceremony; Governor's Advisory Committee; America's Wetland Speaker's Bureau; ANEP Outreach Committee Meeting-New Orleans; GOMP Focus Team Meeting; CREST Workshop; Invasive Species Task Force Meeting; NMEA; Planning Meetings for Morgan City Shrimp and Petroleum Festival Children's Day Activities

The next meeting date has been scheduled for October 8, 2003; however, was later rescheduled for November 5, 2003.

III. ACTION ITEMS

Additional FY04 Workplan Projects

BTNEP received the requested additional \$250,000 from the state general fund needed to match federal funds on a 1:1 ratio. The increase in funding also allowed for the inclusion of additional projects. The enclosed proposed project list will be funded with the unallocated additional monies.

Kerry stated that a list of additional proposed projects was included in the MC packet.

C. C. Lockwood

Kerry stated that the staff thought this project has merit although specific details have not been fleshed out.

Rick Hartman stated that he would like to see that the BTNEP logo be put on the products. Rex Caffey made this motion and Windell Curole seconded the motion.

Jean May-Brett stated that she supports this project very much and would like to make sure that all lesson plans meet the states requirements and would like to see that the education action plan team is kept up to date on what is being done and be given the opportunity for input.

Doug Jacobson strongly supports this project also and wants to make sure that BTNEP gets credit for all it is due before a contract is written.

Kerry stated that this project would cost C. C. and Rhea \$100,000 and BTNEP is only proposing to put up \$10,000 so BTNEP is not a major sponsor but do expect some recognition.

Jessie Kastler asked if BTNEP and the MC would be given the opportunity to check any documentation for accuracy before it is published and she was told yes.

Windell Curole moved that this project be added to the FY 04 Workplan and Doug Jacobson seconded. There was no objection.

Invasive Species Educational Video

Heather Finley asked are we spending too much on this video and not enough on the Louisiana Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan which is listed as another proposed project. Kerry stated that management plan does not have enough money to continue into the 2nd year and that BTNEP was asked if there were any additional funds that could be contributed to this plan.

David Muth asked what was the purpose of the video. Kerry stated that at this point invasive species is not an issue that the public is concerned about. This video is an attempt to change that. Kerry stated that the State Invasive Species Task Force main goal is address this issue through education.

Jean May-Brett stated that the public needs to be made aware of how much money is spent on invasive species and the only way this can be done is through education, both in the classroom and in the general public.

Selective Spraying of Bayou Ridges to Promote Water Quality and Bayou Bank Stabilization and Healthy Reptilian Areas

Andrew Barron stated that a similar project was done by LDEQ, Non-Point Source Program where they restored a stream bank. This project, he stated, has the capability to help with habitat enhancement or encouraging native species, and will promote water quality by bank stabilization.

Rick Hartman asked how effective \$10,000 could be. Andrew stated this will be seed money to get the project started and that the program will most probably come back next year asking to fund this project further.

Heather Finley asked how would success be determined. Andrew stated an evaluation would be made approximately every six months.

Al Levron stated that this project will give BTNEP the opportunity to work with a local government entity which it has not had the opportunity to do much of in the past.

Revised Brochure on the Importance of Chenier Woods

Richard Demay informed the MC that the US Fish & Wildlife Service published a brochure entitled "Cheniere's A Place for Oak Trees", was no longer in print. Therefore, Richard stated the Migratory Bird Action Plan Team has taken up the issue to revise this brochure in a restoration perspective as well as historical and ecological one.

Mandalay Nature Trail

Richard stated that Juana Woodard, of the Terrebonne Bird Club, and Paul Yakupzack, of the Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge. This would be funding to be joined with other funding that will provide for foot access to Mandalay Refuge.

LUMCON Boardwalk

Richard informed the MC that John Conover and Jessica Kastler, both of LUMCON, submitted this concept to the Migratory Bird Action Plan Team. This will be seed money to connect the two existing boardwalks already at LUMCON. The staff of LUMCON will construct the boardwalk.

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Rick Hartman asked why this is necessary and Jessie stated that when wet, it does get mucky, but it is also partly for beautification in conjunction with a planting effort by BTNEP.

Bird Symposium

Richard stated this is gaining a lot of interest among the Action Plan Team as well as those outside. He stated the concept is to promote a bird symposium in March 2005 to be held in Lafayette area. It will focus not just in the BTE but statewide. This symposium will identify what the issues are and what is needed to know in order to go further with the issue. There will be a proceedings document developed afterwards. Other organizations have been approached to help offset the expense of developing this document.

CCMP Implementation Opportunities

Kerry stated that throughout the year opportunities come up for BTNEP to become involved in efforts that are not planned, therefore; this year BTNEP is proposing to put monies into a project category that allows the program office to spend when these opportunities come up.

Kerry stated that BTNEP has been heavily involved in pipeline slurry introduction and method of restoration. These funds could be used for that issue if needed.

Vince Guillory requested that a small amount of these funds be used to assist LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries with its derelict crabtrap program. He stated that a volunteer based group will be working to remove some of these traps in the upper Terrebonne-Timberlier estuary February 28-March 14, 2004. Federal funds are being provided to cover the bulk of the expenses. Generally, the agency that holds this event distributes packets to the volunteers. These packets normally include educational materials and souvenirs. Vince is asking assistance from BTNEP by providing informational materials and souvenirs.

Doug Jacobson stated that he didn't believe that part of the budget could be left unassigned to any specific project. Kerry stated that in the past, BTNEP has had categories left unattached to projects, for example, "Demonstration of Various Action Plans". Doug stated that things are changing with EPA, so this may not be allowed in the future.

Jean May Brett stated that putting money towards the Jason Foundation project would be a wonderful thing for BTNEP to be involved in.

Richard suggested that staff go ahead and identify these monies towards a project, but as Doug stated, the workplan could be revised in the future if needed.

Support for the Development of Louisiana Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan

Kerry reminded the MC that BTNEP is on the Invasive Species Task Force that is being administered by the LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries. This Task Force has been charged with developed a statewide management plan. It is in BTNEP's CCMP that the program will support the governor's state plan. The

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Task Force needs another years funding, therefore BTNEP is proposing to help fund that year.

Randy Lanctot asked how much will be needed to develop this whole plan and why is BTNEP putting up \$20,000? Kerry stated that the CCMP calls for BTNEP to assist with the development of this plan. This

\$20,000 is for the second years funding. Randy stated that there should be a way for BTNEP to recoup this money. Since it is a state project, the state should be obligated to fund this effort, not BTNEP.

Arts Curriculum

Deborah reminded the MC that an educator's guide to the BTE is being developed. She stated that teacher's are currently writing lesson plans that will eventually go on the BTNEP website and teacher workshops will be offered. She stated that this curriculum is addressing math, science, social studies and language arts. Deborah stated she received a proposal from Mary Banberry, UNO, who has assisted with the "Lessons on the Lake", the curriculum guide for the Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation. This proposal will use the arts, photography, painting, music, as well, as theater, to teach the estuary curriculum, recognizing that not all students learn in the same way.

Jean May Brett made the motion to approve the proposed revised workplan with the discussed changes, David Muth seconded that motion.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. C. C. Lockwood

Kerry informed the MC that one of the proposed projects to be funded with the additional monies was this proposal from C.C. and Rhea.

C.C. Lockwood and Rhea Gary gave a presentation on their public awareness project that will produce a book and an art exhibit on Louisiana wetland loss and a website to educate the public on wetland loss.

C.C. stated the he and Rhea were contacted by the Louisiana Sea Grant to do a book on Louisiana's vanishing coast. So he and Rhea put together a proposal for a 4-year public awareness project. He stated that with Rhea's paintings and his photographs, an exhibit could also be put together to attract additional audiences. He also stated that the LSU Art Museum, to open in 2005, has chosen this project to be it's second or third exhibit. The exhibit will travel the country to port venues, such as Washington, DC.

He and Rhea decided to begin this project with life on a houseboat. C. C. and his wife will live on the houseboat to document (photographically and artistically) life in the Louisiana marsh. The Morning Advocate has agreed to do a web journal of this year on the marsh. There will also be a website www.marshmission.com where progress can be tracked.

This project will also produce educational materials for schools all over the country. Products of this project will include: teacher in the marsh, the book, the exhibit, and multi-media.

Rick Hartman asked if the boat would move around or stay in one place. C.C. stated that the boat they

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are hoping to have donated will go 20 mph and they will make the rounds of the marsh each season.

Doug Jacobson asked if any of the royalties would be dedicated to the BTEF since BTNEP would be hopefully contributing technical information. C. C. stated they would be surely looking to the program office for help; however, because he and Rhea will be shutting down their businesses for a year, royalties

from the book will be paying for that lost income for he and Rhea.

Jean May-Brett suggested that a deliverable be an assortment of photos be given to BTNEP and the MC to use on posters at certain events. Kerry stated that is an excellent idea and that as of yet the concrete deliverables have not been decided.

Wallace Ellender asked C.C. if he thought about using his earlier photographs in this project to compare.

Roland Guidry offered C.C. a state map and curriculum to use in his project.

Randy Lanctot asked what the total cost of the project is and C.C. stated \$100,000.

B. Brownsfield Redevelopment Regional Coalition-Leslie Williams, South Central Planning Development Commission

Kerry stated that this is a particular project that is supported by BTNEP. Ms. William stated that the Brownsfield Redevelopment Coalition will empower the state, communities and other stakeholders to prevent and safely clean up a sustainably used brownsfield. She explained to the MC that a brownsfield is an abandoned, idle or under-used industrial and commercial facility where expansion or redevelopment is considered real or perceived.

She explained that a brownsfield can be located anywhere, although concentrated in industrialized or commercial areas and agricultural sites.

She stated that South Central Planning received funds to start a pilot program that to assess brownsfield sites and to test and clean them up also. They received \$200,000 to be used over a 2-year period.

Leslie explained that the City of Thibodaux is using the Audubon Dr. brownsfield as its pilot site. It was a formal municipal waste site that occupied 17.8 acres, and donated to the city in early 1990's. She stated that 6 acres of this site has been chosen as a potential site for either the Bayou Children's Museum or other public or private usage. The other 11 acres has been slated for expansion of the Martin Luther King, Jr. playground.

She then explained that South Central Planning plans to conduct public outreach and awareness activities. One activity is the Brownsfield Summit that will be held on the NSU campus, Century Room, November 13, 2003.

C. Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities...."

Kerry stated that this project is a culmination of two and a half years of work. He stated that the EPA Headquarters pushed all the National Estuary Programs to come up with indicators of environmental health to justify the funds being given to the NEP's.

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Brent Ache, of Battelle, the contractor for this project, stated that BTNEP has multiple strategies to meet this EPA requirement, specifically the reporting requirement. That strategy is the development of an indicator's report, whose vision was set on a precedent from other NEP's, specifically Puget Sound and Long Island Sound. The vision includes estuary wide report on priority problem trends before and after CCMP development. He stated this is not a static document, it will be revised every 3 years with current data.

He stated that the indicator's were selected at a workshop the BTNEP held 2 years ago.

To interpret the indicators, the range of figures indicate how dynamic the BTE really is and that the population of species is stable at this point.

Brent then went through the report giving basic details of each indicator.

After Brent's presentation, Kerry asked the MC their opinion on how many of these reports should be printed. It was suggested that 5,000 be printed.

D. Jefferson Parish Permit Center

Dean Blanchard reminded the MC that this project was to assist Jefferson Parish with setting up a Permit Center, which would utilize a computer program developed by LA Dept. of Natural Resources.

Vicki Duffourc informed the MC that funds for this project were used to establish a permit information training center, to staff training in coastal use permitting procedures and the development of a public outreach component.

She stated that the permitting center was established as a Coastal Zone Management office in Jefferson Parish located on Jefferson Hwy. near the foot of the Huey P. Long bridge.

She stated that a self-guided permit application form is available on CD-Rom. It has been distributed to parish libraries.

E. "What's An Estuary? Now You Know" Campaign and Video

Kerry stated that the Association of National Estuary Program's is involved in a national campaign to educate the public on what an estuary is.

Deborah informed the MC that the Outreach Coordinators from each NEP met this summer in New Orleans to brainstorm about what the common issues are amongst the NEP's. She stated that the number one problem is that most people do not know what an estuary is. Therefore this campaign, she stated, is a result of this whole process. She stated that the goal of the program is to have "estuary" be a household word by 2005. Phase I of the program starts September 27th, on National Estuaries Day, with estuary events being held around the country. BTNEP will of course hold it's 7th annual La Fete d'Ecologie and Estuary Live!

Deborah then showed the MC seven-minute television ad, developed by Carter Earl, who is famous for his "Army, Be All You Can Be" ad. These ads are Phase II of the campaign, which will be aired in June of 2004. Deborah stated that a search is going on now for sponsors as the cost of this campaign will be

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between \$3-\$5 million. There will also be promotional items to go along with the campaign and celebrity sponsors.

At this time, Representative Loulan Pitre was asked to give an update on the 3 constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot on October 4th. He gave a brief description of each amendment.

He stated that #1 provides, with respect to money, non-recurring monies that the State obtains from mineral settlements. After the first \$5 million, the next \$35 million per year will go into the Coastal Restoration Fund. And after that \$40 million, it may go into that fund if the Legislature puts it there along

with other permissive places that it can go. It also provides that any non-recurring monies may be placed into the Coastal Restoration Fund.

#2 Amendment provides that if the State sells, on the equity market, the remaining 40% of the cash flow from the tobacco settlement, that 20% of the principle of that sale would go into the Coastal Restoration Fund at such time as the LCA has been authorized by Congress, specifically for providing match to those projects.

#3 provides that the State may limit the liability for damage to properties on coastal restoration projects.

Scott Wilson asked what role could BTNEP play to endorse these amendments. Loulan stated he did not believe BTNEP could endorse them but BTNEP and non-profits can provide information to help the public understand what they are voting on.

F. Clean Marina Guide Update

Andrew Barron explained that the intent of the document is to highlight some of the problems that can go along with marinas, as well as some environmental measures that can be taken in order to correct those problems. He stated that issues covered in this document are boat safety, hurricane preparation, hazardous waste disposal and statistics about the solid waste that is going into the ocean and regulations about where dumping is illegal.

G. Cypress Logging Update

Andrew Barron updated the MC about this issue by saying that he contacted Paul Kemp, of the Governor's Office, who said that as of March 2003, he is no longer on contract with the Governor's Office and that as far as he knew, there was no movement on the cypress logging issue.

Andrew reminded the MC of the presentation he gave at the last meeting. This presentation was on the proposed plan to the Governor's Office where a Task Force would be formed and an advisory panel. Paul told Andrew that as far as he knows, there has been no movement on either this proposal or anything in relation to this issue.

Andrew stated currently there is no cypress logging going on because there is a cease and desist order from the Corp of Engineers.

Doug Daigle stated that he understood there was some logging going on in the Maurepas area.

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H. La Fete d'Ecologie Update

Lynette Cortez reminded the MC that this event will take place on Saturday, September 27th. She stated that the theme for this year, La Fete d'Ecologie: Barataria-Terrebonne Celebrates the Louisiana Purchase. She stated that 76 letters were sent out to invite exhibitors, with a response of 22 as of today's date.

She stated that the Zoomobile has confirmed to be there, LA Nature Center and the Dixie Divers will be present also. Green Wing Day will be back again, LSU Ag and Sea Grant. This year, the tents will be bolted into the concrete in front of the main building at Peltire Park. Therefore, the problem of wet grounds will be eliminated.

She stated also that KTIB will be airing live from the festival as will “Soul in your Bowl”.

I. Estuary Live & Bayou Lafourche Paddle Trip Update

Deborah Schultz stated that Estuary Live will be a live internet broadcast from the levee in Golden Meadow on September 26th. She stated that some simulated live shooting will take place on Monday on Elmer’s Island, which was the original site but a satellite truck cannot get on the island now after hurricane damage made the road to the island inaccessible.

She then told the MC that the Paddling trip will be shortened this year, it will end in Lockport this year. The dates of the paddling trip are November 7th thru the 10th. Camping and other lodging will be available each night, along with food and entertainment/educational activities.

J. Elmer’s Island Update

Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, stated that there is money in capital outlay for land acquisitions and Randy states that this money was still there when the budget was approved. Therefore, he feels that this money would not still be there if the State did not intend to purchase Elmer’s Island. The appraisal is suppose to be in at the end July. The reason it is taking so long, Randy says, is that there are questions as to what the private owner actually owns and what the State owns. This may cause some problem as to what the State can actually pay for the property.

K. Elmer’s Island Survey Update

Dr. Rex Caffey, LSU Ag Center, stated that the Ag Center and Sea Grant, started a project to survey public preferences for coastal recreation and tourism. He stated that there was a dramatic response to this survey, 2,500 responses in 10 weeks. Ten percent of the surveys were done in person at Grand Isle State Park.

The survey showed that \$278/day/person is spent on coastal recreation activities, whether it is fishing, bird watching, etc. Specifically, on Elmer’s Island the survey showed that the number one environmental amenity that the public would like to see is low pollution/high water quality. The least important amenity was camper hook-ups.

Ninety-six percent of surveyors said they were in favor of the State purchasing Elmer’s Island. Ninety-eight percent said they would visit Elmer’s Island if it was purchased for public use.

When asked how much they would be willing to pay to enter the park, the public said anywhere between

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\$5 and \$9 per person.

The public was also asked what their preference was for development and the responses ranged from very primitive (how it is right now) to condominiums.

L. LCA Report Update

Sue Hawes, US Army Corp of Engineers, gave a report as to what this project will entail, who is involved and what can the stakeholders do to support this project. She then described the components of the coastwide plan.

M. Update on Hurricane Damage to Louisiana Coast

Windell Curole stated that Tropical Storm Bill pushed 3 feet of water over LA 1. This is very significant in

that there are 7,000 people working offshore that use that road to go to their homes, and Grand Isle needs to use that road to evacuate. When the Mayor of Grand Isle gave the voluntary evacuation order at 10pm, there was already 6 inches of water over LA 1. Windell stated that had this storm evolved into a Category 1 hurricane, there would have been some severe problems.

Three storms in nine months caused 2 floods in Montegut, 3 in Leeville, 3 in Cocodrie. These are places that are 20-30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Windell stated that any coastal restoration projects constructed will help in a Category 1 or 2 hurricanes, but in a category 3, 4 or 5, the coastline is still going to get beat up.

N. "Louisiana Coastal Landloss Computer Simulation (1932-2050) Video

Scott Wilson, USGS, played a DVD containing a computer simulation of coastal Louisiana land loss ranging from 1932-2050.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Kerry announced the Gulf Guardian Award Winners and informed the MC of Ms. Christine Todd Whitman's visit to Thibodaux.

V. ADJOURN