

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

*MC Meeting # 31 Minutes
9:00AM-August 19, 2004
Nicholls State University Campus
Multipurpose Room, 3 rd Floor, Ellender Memorial Library
Thibodaux, LA*

I. CALL TO ORDER-the meeting was called to order at 9:18am

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present:

Herman Waguespack-American Sugarcane League
Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Steven Peyronnin-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Donald Lirette-Commercial Fisheries
Vickie Duffourc-Jefferson Parish
Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development
Anthony Roussel-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Chuck Villarubia-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Jess Curole-Lafourche Parish
John Woodard-LA Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Windell Curole-LA Association of Levee Boards
Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowners Association
Mike Lyons-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Christina Swaye-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office
Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teacher's Association
Jessica Kaster-LUMCON
David Muth-National Park Service
Gary LaFleur-Nicholls State University
Andrew McInnes-Plaquemines Parish
Martha Cazaubon-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Sue Hawes-US Army Corp of Engineers
Brian Black-US Coast Guard
Susan Bergeron-US Geological Survey

MC Organizations not Represented:

Assumption Parish
Coastal Conservation Association of LA
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Education
LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Association
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association

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Louisiana Wildlife Association
LSU Ag Center
South Louisiana Economic Council
St. Charles Parish
US EPA
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US National Marine Fisheries
USDA/NRCS

Staff:

Kerry St. Pé
Sandra Helmuth
Deborah Schultz
Richard DeMay
Dean Blanchard
Leslie McVeigh
Michael Massimi

Guests:

Steven Welsch- NSU Psychology Dept.
Steve Triche-NSU Dept. of Education
Katina Gaudet-The Daily Comet
Les Dunn-Natchitoches
Jennifer Bell-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Brad Miller-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Jack Fredine-US Army Corp of Engineers
Vince Cottone-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Rod Emmer
Beverly Etheridge-US EPA
Jeanine Peckham-US EPA
Tim Osborne-NOAA
Neil Pollock-Propoganda, Inc.
Captain Ron Robichaux-Defense Supports, Civil Authorities
Joni Blanchard
Celeste Regal-Tri-Parish Times

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the May 13, 2004 meeting

The Chairman entertained a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes. Donald Lirette so moved and another MC member seconded the motion.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Personnel

Michael Massimi-Invasive Species Coordinator, Lainey Pitre-Student Worker

B. Presentations/Exhibits

E. Ascension Sportsman's League (Gonzales); Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation (New Orleans); WETTSHOP (Grand Terre); Jason Project Teacher Training (Milwaukee, WI); NSU Foreign Film Group; Paul Kirby and Caravan Play Group; NSU Dept of Education; Jason Project Site Assessment; Tarpon 31st Management Conference Meeting Minutes
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Rodeo (Grand Isle); EPA Site Visit; Jason Project Summer Institute; LUMCON LEAD Camp; Business Green Tour

C. Media Interviews

KTIB (LCA & NEPA Meetings); LPB Radio Show (coastal restoration issues); KLRZ (coastal issues)

D. Meetings

Research discussion on cultural aspects of coastal restoration (Shirley Laska-UNO and Bob Grambling –ULL); Jefferson Parish Parks; Wisner Planting; Attakapas Landing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; EPA Implementation Review Conference Call; Unveiling of Louisiana Bird Trail; Governor's Advisory Committee; N. Lafourche Levee District; Bayou Lafourche Legislative Committee; Davis Pond Advisory Board; Coastal Forestry Meeting; Coastal Forestry Advisory Board; Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District; State Wetlands Task Force; Brownsfield Site Selection Committee; Senate Committee on Coastal Restoration; National Marine Educators Association Conference (St. Petersburg, FL); CWPPRA Outreach Committee; LSU Ag Center Leadership Council; LCA Public Meeting (Larose); GOMP State Project Meeting; Woodlands Trail & Park Meeting; Plant Materials Center Technical Committee; Jefferson Parish Wastewater Treatment; LCA Project Team; National Science Foundation/NOAA; Southern Mutual Help Association

E. Projects Initiated:

1. Design & Production of the BTNEP 2005 Tidal Graph Calendar-Richard DeMay
2. Boardwalk on Orleans Audubon Society Property, Terrebonne Parish-Richard DeMay
3. Continuation of the BTNEP Website-Richard DeMay
4. Design & Production of a Guide Book "The Habitats of Barataria Terrebonne and Their Importance to Migratory and Resident Birds-Richard DeMay
5. Support of the Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival-Richard DeMay
6. Sustainable Development Training for Public Officials Tour-Leslie McVeigh
7. Media & Promotions Plan for the 8th Annual La Fete d' Ecologie-Leslie McVeigh
8. Creative redesign & layout of BTNEP 2005 Fish Sticker-Dean Blanchard
9. Educational Updates on BTNEP Products-Deborah Schultz
10. Finalization of Estuarine Curriculum Project-Deborah Schultz
11. National Park Service Summer Camps-Deborah Schultz

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date Suggested is December 2, 2004

IV. Discussion Items

A. BTNEP Educator Webpage-Deborah Schultz

Deborah stated that she was hoping that the education webpage would be ready to present but unfortunately it isn't ready. She stated that in the past there was an effort to get the formal education project off the ground but there were several delays. But now the ball is rolling again with Pam Blanchard working all summer on the BTNE Educator's Guide. The Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands

video Teacher's Guide is now online, 3 BTNEP videos have been cut into 3-5 minute clips and categorized by theme by Cally Chauvin. There is much more in the works, with the other videos being clipped and themed shortly.

She also stated that the "Knee Deep in Wetlands" CD-Rom is being updated because there are some issues that need to be addressed such as links that no longer work. This will also be web-based on the site and searchable. She stated that not only will BTNEP educational products be web-based but other

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resources will be incorporated as well.

Deborah stated that she and Susan Bergeron, USGS, and Pam Blanchard, LSU Sea Grant, formed a group named Louisiana Wetland Educators Coalition. This group is dedicated to getting information out to the public and to teachers, specifically.

Also, a photo library is being developed on the BTNEP website, Deborah stated.

Another educational project in progress is a revision of the Lafourche Coastal Zone Management Curriculum. Cally Chauvin, a teacher from Lockport, is on contract to do this update. This curriculum will also be available on the web.

Deborah stated that the Field Trip Guide is also being revised by Carolyn Gorman. Twelve to 15 additional field trips will be added to the guide and will also be available on the website.

Cally Chauvin has revitalized the oral history project and will present this at the Louisiana Council for Social Studies conference to be held in Lafayette in November. Cally is also helping in the design phase of the Bayou Children's Museum.

Deborah informed the MC that the Habitat Change Map is being redesigned since the negatives were lost in the 2001 flood. This new map will have new data that has been characterized. USGS is developing a map that will depict four time periods and will be web-based and printed into posters. Each image will be broken up into separate images for the web so they may be printed out individually.

B. Elevational Data for BTES-Tim Osborne

Tim stated that after correct benchmarks were developed, a 1" rise in sea level is occurring every 30 months. However, the question is are we really seeing sea level rise. What is really happening is land is subsiding, causing sea levels to rise. So, over the last 30 years, a land area that has been lost is about the same volume size as 12.1 billion cubic yards of soil.

Tim stated that NOAA is the only agency that can take a benchmark, do the GPS work, process the data and officially put make changes to that published elevation of that benchmark.

Tim stated that a multi-agency effort was made to get current elevational data beginning shortly after Hurricane Lilli. Tidal water stations had to be integrated to develop a reference frame to measure the actual elevations. Once the data is processed, a 100 mark network of elevations will be published. Tim stated this should take place within the next 6 months. A vertical time dependent program will be developed that will assist in resetting those benchmarks.

Tim mentioned that a tide station has been installed in Grand Isle and another will be installed at the University of Southern Mississippi. One may also be installed in Leeville.

Tim stated that once elevations are posted, a set of advisories on how to use the elevations will be posted. For example, a new benchmark cannot be used with an older one and any tidal station already out there can be reset to the new network.

Tim also announced that NOAA is dedicating the newest NOAA chart of Gulf of Mexico, it will be Chart No. 11346-Port Fourchon and approaches. He stated great credit goes to all the constituents with in the BTNEP area, Ted Falgout, the Navigation community, and the Harbor Police. It is now also

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downloadable from the web along with all other NOAA charts.

Tim then presented Windell Curole, and the South Lafourche Levee District, a plaque of appreciation for their dedication to supporting NOAA and its efforts.

C. Bayou Lafourche Project Update-Leslie McVeigh

Leslie stated that Bob Roberts could not make the meeting. She stated that there has not been much significant activity since the last MC meeting. She stated that a meeting was held with Bob and Steve Mathies of CH2M Hill about ways to beef up the website. The public showed interest in being kept up to date on what is happening with the project so reports and data are not being uploaded to the Bayou Lafourche Project website so the public will have access to that information. Individuals can sign up on the website to receive notice of when new information has been posted.

Leslie stated that the Lafourche Parish Water Dist. #1 has agreed to print a message about the website on the water bills for Lafourche customers. She stated that Ascension and Assumption Parish Water Works departments will also be approached with this idea.

D. La Fete d'Ecologie Update-Leslie McVeigh

Leslie reminded the MC that the festival is coming up on Saturday, September 25th, at Peltier Park in Thibodaux, from 10-5. She thanked Christina Swaye from the Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, and Joni Blanchard, who is contracted with BTNEP to assist with the Bayou Lafourche Project Tasks and with the Foundation to assist in the coordination of the festival. Leslie stated that there is a website dedicated to the festival...lafete.btnep.org....Joni developed a new graphic for the website and promotional items. She also thanked Ed Landgraf, of Shell Pipeline, and Vince Cottone, Chevron-Texaco, for their sponsorship and informed the MC that the Park Service has expanded their role in the festival by coordinating the environmental exhibitors and the children's events.

Leslie stated that Amanda Shaw will be returning this year as the main attraction under the pavilion, along with the Cajun tu Jours and Southern Images.

E. Jason Project Update-Deborah Schultz

Deborah stated that this project is a wonderful opportunity to get the BTNEP message out to a national audience. Teachers have been informed of this project and BTNEP has decided to offer a package of BTNEP materials to support this effort to any teacher wishing to receive it. Teachers will not be charged for these materials but if they wish to make a donation to offset the postage and shipping materials used, the Foundation has set up an account as an avenue for BTNEP to accept those donations.

Deborah informed the MC that BTNEP has allocated funds to support this effort. One-hundred and fifty teachers will be provided with free access to Jason, which would normally cost \$200 for the curriculum and \$100 for training. There will be six training workshops around the estuary, the first one being held

this Saturday at NSU. There will be 2 workshops using TI calculators and one using the video probe.

She stated that there is also a message board available for teachers to communicate with each other. Jason asked if BTNEP knew of anyone in Louisiana that would be willing to moderate this message board and Cally Chauvin has agreed to do that.

Susan Bergeron then mentioned that the Louisiana Wetland Educator Coalition met and made a list of what was available for young people and what was missing. They all agreed that most educational materials that are available are geared towards middle and high school students. So it was decided that something is

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needed for K-4 and then presented to the CWPPRA Outreach Committee the idea of developing a CD-Rom for that group. The idea so far is to incorporate the "Estuarians", cartoon America's Wetland Campaign.

Deborah then added that Bob Ballard, the founder of the Jason Project and the Titanic wreckage, will be the Key Note Speaker at the upcoming LSTA conference to be held in Lafayette.

F. Wings over the Wetlands Update-Richard DeMay

Richard Demay reminded the MC of the upcoming festival at the Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve in Lafitte. It will be held on October 1-3, 2004.

G. Mekong Delta Tour Presentation-Kerry St. Pe'

Kerry then informed the MC that he was unable to prepare his presentation on his Mekong Delta Trip because of an important issue that came up. He stated that each MC member should have a copy of a letter that the Director of the Corpus Christi Coastal Bends NEP received from EPA. Each member should have also a document entitled "Facts Regarding EPA Region VI Reduction in Funding". The fact sheet states that each NEP in Region VI will have a \$56,000 budget cut beginning October 2004. This cut would be used to cover the administrative cuts that Region VI received. Kerry reminded the MC that Congress requires that 320 funds be used by the NEPs, not EPA.

Kerry then informed the MC that the Workplan that was approved in May would have to be re-worked due to this budget cut. He stated that none of the three NEP Director's in Region VI are happy and that he has discussed this with the congressional delegation of this area and they were not happy about it either.

Kerry stated that BTNEP has not actually received its letter but expects it in the next few days.

Donald Lirette moved to allow Kerry to try and restore the funds taken away by EPA.

H. Update on BTNEP Display-Neil Pollock, Propaganda, Inc.

Leslie McVeigh and Neil Pollock gave an update on the BTNEP display. They showed the MC the latest version of the logo and panels for the display and options for the BTNEP stationary.

I. Vince Cottone

V. New Business

Windell Curole informed the MC that Tab Benoit would be hosting the "Voice of the Wetlands" on October 9-10

in front of the courthouse in Houma. Environmental groups are invited to exhibit.

VI. ADJOURN