

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

MC Meeting # 37 Minutes

9:00AM-May 31, 2006

Nicholls State University Campus

Multipurpose Room-Ellender Memorial Library

Thibodaux, LA

9:00 AM-9:10 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present:

Archie Chaisson, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District

Steven Peyronnin-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

John Walthers-Coastal Conservation Assoc.

Bryce Autin-Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Kathleen Deubler-Jefferson Parish

Butch Stegall- LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry

Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development

Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education

Anthony Roussell-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals

Jon Truxillo-LA Dept. of Natural Resources

Vince Guillory-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teacher's Assoc.

Randy Lanctot-Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Rex Caffey-LSU Ag Center

David Muth-National Park Service

Gary Lafleur-NSU

Andrew McInnes-Plaquemines Parish

Laura Michel-South Central Planning & Development Commission

Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish

Cindy Brown-The Nature Conservancy

Doug Jacobson-US EPA Region VI

Rick Hartman-US National Marine Fisheries Service

Mike Trusclair-USDA/NRCS

Organizations not represented:

American Sugarcane League

Assumption Parish

Commercial Fisheries

Governor's Office of Coastal Activities

Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association

LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

LA Dept. of Environmental Quality

Lafourche Parish

LA Assoc. of Conservation Districts

LA Assoc. of Levee Boards

Louisiana Farm Bureau

LA Forest Assoc.

LA Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.

LA Landowner's Assoc.

LA Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

LUMCON

South Louisiana Economic Council

St. Charles Parish
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Coast Guard
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey

Guests Present:

David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center
Quinton Fontenot-NSU Biology Dept.
Chuck Villarubia-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Jennifer Beall-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Allyse Ferrar-NSU Biology Dept.
Mark Blanchard-USDA/NRCS
Cindy Blascke-Fletcher Community College

BTNEP Staff Present:

Kerry St. Pé
Sandra Helmuth
Richard DeMay
Dean Blanchard
Susan Testroet-Bergeron
Andrew Barron
Joni Blanchard

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the March 16, 2006 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to dispense of the reading of the minutes of the March 16, 2006 meeting. There were no objections and so moved.

9:10 AM-9:25 AM

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

Bayou Vista Rotary Club	LUMCON Open House
Terrebonne Parish Aquatic Clinic	NSU Jubilee
Lockport Main Street Festival	Raceland Upper Elementary School
Golden Learning Opportunities	Relay for Life Seafood Cook-off
STEPS-LUMCON	DNR/FRRRI Fourchon Ridge Tour
Calliope Puppets "The Fisherman and his Wife"	2006 Bayou Lafourche Paddling Trip
Nature Based Tourism Workshop-Vicksburg, MS	LOS Bird Festival-Grand Isle
Junior Ranger Volunteer Day-Grand Isle State Park	Oaklawn Junior High Wetlands Day
Plaquemines Parish Ridge	Thibodaux High-World Geography
New Orleans Earthday	Sierra Club Retreat
Bayou Region Day at the Legislature	Larose Kid's Day
Port Fields Conference	Leadership Terrebonne
Fourchon Ridge Planting	Habitat for Humanity Volunteers
Shell LNG presentation	

B. Media Interviews

Red River Radio-Shreveport-Pipeline Sediment Delivery & Coastal Land Loss	Cummulus Radio-Pipeline Sediment Delivery & Coastal Land Loss
Shell Oil Magazine	KTAL NBC 6-Pipeline Sediment Delivery

NPR

GEO Magazine

For additional interviews see press clippings

C. Meetings

FRR I

Seagrant Educational Advisory Board

USDA

Terrebonne Parish Storm Water Redirection

BTNEP Education Action Plan Team

Oil Spill Calendar Planning Meeting

Envisioning the Future Conference

Water Quality Action Plan Team

Maps Training with LDWF

Cote Blanche-Pipeline Sediment Delivery Video

EPA Annual Review

LDNR-Oyster Lease Bill

Common Ground Solutions of New Orleans

LDNR Bayou Lafourche Phase 2 Design Report

CIAP Procedure Meeting

Migratory Bird Action Plan Team

EPA Region 6/NEP Director's

LDNR Freshwater Diversion in Lac Des Allemands

LSU Ag Center-Biocontrol

CREST

Invasive Species Action Plan Team

LSU Sea Grant Advisory Council

Woodlands Trail & Park Grand Opening Ceremony

America's Wetland Economic Forum

Atchafalaya Basin Committee

Coalition to Restore Coastal LA Stewardship

Awards

Gary LaFleur asked if the GOMA Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX should be added to the list. Kerry stated that he was unable to attend because his daughter had a baby.

Doug Jacobson stated he attended. Kerry informed the MC that the results of the BTNEP GOMA Community Workshop were put into the Gulf Alliance plan. Doug told the MC that the plan could be seen on www.gulfalliance.org.

Gary asked Doug how the meeting went. Doug said it was in good attendance and had great presentations with focus on economic value of the Gulf of Mexico. He stated Dr. Rex Caffey gave a very informative presentation.

D. Projects Initiated:

1. "Spirit of the Estuary Graphics, Layout, Design & Original Artwork"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
2. "Educational Website Development"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
3. "The Fisherman & His Wife Youth Wetlands Education Project"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
4. "Educational Posters of the Barrier Islands of Barataria-Terrebonne"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
5. "Post Hurricane Survey of Wading Bird and Seabird Nesting Colonies"-Richard DeMay
6. "Design and Layout of the 2007 Birding Calendar"-Richard DeMay
7. "Design and Layout of the Oil Spill Prevention Calendar"-Dean Blanchard
8. "Submersed Aquatic Vegetative Propagation and Planting Techniques for Restoration in Coastal Louisiana"-Dean Blanchard

9:25 AM – 9:30 AM

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date Suggested is Thursday, September 7, 2006.

9:30 AM – 11:20 AM

IV. Action Items

A. The Economics of Louisiana's Restoration Effort-Dr. Rex Caffey

Dr. Caffey explained that in his opinion there are two types of science in coastal restoration, biophysical sciences (biology, geology, ecology, hydrology, etc.) and social sciences (political, law, anthropology, sociology and economics).

Dr. Caffey defined economics as the allocation of scarce resources amongst competing users or needs. In the environmental arena, we deal with natural resources that often don't have a value in the market place, such as wetlands, water, etc. Instead environmentalists deal with valuation and allocation of those resources, the impacts to those resources, management issues, benefits, costs and efficiency.

Dr. Caffey's rhetorical question posed to the MC was "How do you want to spend the restoration dollars that we have?"

When the Coast 2050 report came out, it said that \$14 billion was needed to sustain the coastline. To date, CWPPRA has provided approximately a little over \$200 million. The LCA plan is suppose to bring in \$1.9-2 billion. None of the new programs developed since Hurricane's Katrina and Rita have produced any funds for restoration.

Therefore CWPPRA is the only money authorized to be spent for coastal restoration. It was recently re-authorized for another 15 years. Projects must be chosen based on cost effectiveness in creating, restoring, protecting and enhancing coastal wetlands.

With funds from Louisiana Sea Grant, Dr. Caffey started on a project to answer 3 questions that all pertained to what is going on with cost efficacy of coastal restoration projects.

- 1) How is it affected by different types of project attributes?
- 2) Is it truly a factor in project selection?
- 3) What are the benefits?

He calls this "The Bang for Our Buck" approach. What project gives us the most benefits? WVA had defined what the benefits are; habitat quantity and quality, habitat suitability index.

The research looked at two stages; first, what determines the cost of the active project.

Research is showing that as time has passed, projects are costing more but are providing fewer benefits. Kerry asked why are these projects costing more. Rex stated that fully funded project averages have been going up steadily but benefits have either been static or declining, resulting in the costs per unit going up. He states what "appears" to be happening is an apparent loss of efficiency.

In the early years of CWPPRA, no one really knew what it costs to do restoration and were overly optimistic on what could actually be done, so benefits were over estimated. There has also been a policy change since the beginning of CWPPRA. Prior to 1999, cost efficacy was 55% of the decision. Since then it has been lowered to 20%.

The second stage of the research was to statistically look at project selection, especially cost efficacy. For this, candidate projects were studied, 299 projects in the last 15 years. Candidate selection model suggests that selection is a function of fully funded costs, but also budget constraints, cost efficacy, wetland criticality, size of project, type of technology and population by basin.

Research showed that over the last 5 years, costs were positively associated with project selection. Projects that were least efficient, (according to WVA) but more expensive, had a greater chance of being selected.

What do we want to do today? How do you want to spend your restoration dollars? Today projects are focusing on habitat restoration and infrastructure protection.

Rex reminded the MC that pipeline sediment delivery is not a foreign concept. Projects have been done with this technology by CWPPRA. CWPPRA's Watermarks publication released last year was solely on the subject of pipeline sediment delivery.

B. Pipeline Sediment Delivery Resolution

Kerry St. Pe' reminded the MC that at the last meeting that Gary LaFleur made a motion for BTNEP to draft a resolution to promote the pipeline sediment delivery strategy. A resolution was drafted and Andrew Barron read it to the MC.

Rick Hartman asked how does BTNEP define pipeline sediment delivery because this is already being used; that it is really the only method of construction in marsh creation projects. Kerry stated the resolution is pushing for use of this strategy on a much larger scale. Rick stated that the resolution does not make it clear as to where the sediments would be coming from. Kerry stated that the point needs to be made clear that the resolution is calling for sediments to be brought in from outside the BTNE system.

There was then discussion on several terms used in the resolution. David Muth moved to adopt the resolution with discussed amendments. Rick Hartman suggested the MC be allowed to review the resolution more thoroughly. Kerry then suggested that Andrew redraft the resolution with the changes discussed, then it would be sent out via email and then the MC could vote via email.

David then amended his motion to take an electronic vote on the edited version of the resolution. Archie Chaisson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and no opposition. Motion then passed.

C. FY 2007 Workplan

The draft workplan for fiscal year 2007(October 1, 2006- September 30, 2007) will be submitted to EPA in June. The workplan describes a budget request to EPA for executing 27 contractual projects and several administrative type budgets. The projects are as listed below:

LUMCON Indirect	\$32,226.17
Travel Funds	15,000.00
Administrative Funds	9,983.83
Program Information Materials	25,000.00
Design and Production of CCMP Part I: Executive Summary	2,500.00
Continuation of the BTNEP Website www.btnep.org	16,000.00
BTNEP Mail Hosting/Web Hosting/GIS Hosting Services	11,000.00
Tidal Graph Calendar, 2007	6,200.00
2008 Bird Calendar-Content Development and Layout	15,000.00
A Value Analysis of the 2007 Bird Calendar	14,845.00
Brochure Documents Promoting Woody Plant Utilization As Bird Habitat	10,000.00
Birding/Nature Trail on Coastal Birding Trail Site	15,000.00
Invasive Species Coordinator Position	40,000.00
Woody Plant Species Distribution Program	10,000.00
Development of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation and Techniques for Restoration in Coastal Louisiana	41,845.00
2007 Indicator Report	10,000.00
2004-2006 Triennial Review	12,000.00
11 th Annual La Fete d'Ecologie	30,000.00
Paddle Bayou Lafourche	10,000.00

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Redesign and Layout of Updated BTNEP Program Area Map	12,000.00
Continuation of Volunteer Program	20,000.00
BTNEP Mini Grants Program	20,000.00
Development of Wetland Education Workshop and Website Using WEMAAP for a Site on False River	13,000.00
S.T.E.P.S. to Bayou Side Classroom Teachers and Students	7,000.00
Jean Lafitte National Historic Park & Preserve Curriculum DVD and Wetland Curriculum	5,000.00
National Park Service Summer Camps	4,000.00
Curriculum Development for Invasive Species Rapid Response Training	12,000.00
Zebra Mussel Survey of Bayou Lafourche	10,000.00
Native Trees for Hurricane Damaged Urban Parks and Green Spaces	3,000.00
Louisiana Yards and Neighborhoods Program	15,000.00
Point Au Chein Stormwater Diversion Monitoring Project- Post Pump Installation	10,000.00
Pipeline Sediment Video	35,000.00
Total Budget	\$492,600.00

V. Discussion Items

- A. Debut of "Thibodeaux's Treasure" K-4 Educational CD-Rom-Susan Testroet-Bergeron (15 min)**
Susan showed highlights of the CD-Rom to the Management Conference.

V. New Business

VI. Adjourn