

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

MC Meeting # 41 Minutes

9:00AM-August 9, 2007

Nicholls State University Campus

Century Room-John L. Guidry Stadium

Thibodaux, LA

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 Tessvich-Commercial Fisheries
Len Bahr-Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Chett Chaisson-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish
Joey Breaux-LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry
Jean May-Brett-LA Dept. of Education
Jan Boydston-La Dept. of Environmental Quality
Anthony Rousell-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Vince Guillory-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Vince Melvin-Lafourche Parish
Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowner's Association
Ed Landgraf-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Christina Swaye-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teacher's Association
Dr. Nancy Rabalais-LUMCON
Barney Callahan-Louisiana Wildlife Federation
David Bourgeois-LSU Agricultural Center
Angela Rathle-National Park Service
Dr. Gary Lafleur-Nicholls State University
Simone Maloz-South Louisiana Economic Council
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Sue Hawes-US Army Corps of Engineers
Dan McQuate-US Coast Guard
Doug Jacobson-US EPA
Kathy Ladner-USGS
Rick Hartman-US National Marine Fisheries Service
Mike Trusclair-USDA/NRCS

Guests:

Matt Benoit-LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
Howard Fielding-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Jesse Means-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
David Gisclair-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Pat Breaux-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Charlie ?-NOAA
Bob Schroeder-C. H. Fenstermaker
Amy Erwin-BTNEP Contractor
Heidi Hitter-CWPPRA
Wayne Keller-Grand Isle Port Commission
Joanie Lanier-US Army Corp of Engineers
Sean Michal-US Army Corp of Engineers

Doug Daigle-Mississippi River Basin Alliance
Jeff Dauzat-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Becky Dupre'- Education Director of Children's' Museum Acadiana
Martha Ryan- Northeast Children's Museum, Monroe
Murt Conover, LUMCON Education
Diane Lindstedt-SeaGrant
Steve Chutz-LA Dept. of Natural Resources

BTNEP Staff:

Kerry St. Pé
Richard DeMay
Sandra Helmuth
Susan Testroet-Bergeron
Dean Blanchard
Andrew Barron
Shelley Sparks
Mel Landry
Michael Massimi
Jean McCorkle

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting

Vince Melvin made a motion to dispense the reading and approving the minutes and Rick Hartman seconded the motion. There was no opposition.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

Bayou Region Day at the Legislature exhibit	Leadership Terrebonne Presentation
Timbalier Island Planting w/ NSU Biology Society	Homeplace Planting w/Chicago Students
Shell Pipeline @ LUMCON Presentation	WETSHOP Workshop
NSU Preservice Teacher Workshop Presentation	NSU Social Studies Teacher Workshop
NPS Barataria Preserve	UNO Alternate Certificate Teacher Workshop
Manning Passing Academy Exhibit	Lafitte Terrace Planting-DNR/Marine Fisheries/DU
Citizen Monitoring Workshop	Tarpon Rodeo Exhibit
Ducks Unlimited Banquet	K-12 Teacher workshops

B. Media Interviews

Houma Courier-water quality; NEP budget; volunteer program
WDSU TV- Bayou Lafourche water quality
NPR- Discussed recent planning efforts compared to BTNEP effort
Redbone Journal-Discussed Impacts of coastal wetland loss on sportsman.
KTIB Radio- hurricanes, coastal protection and restoration and invasive species; Bayou Lafourche Reintroduction into Mississippi Project
Time Magazine Field trip to the Migratory Bird Ridge Project and discussion of coastal restoration.
The Times-Picayune Discussed the La CPRA Plan
The Weather Channel Discussed vulnerability of area communities to hurricane storm surges
WWL Radio
Southern Living
For additional interviews see press clippings

C. Meetings

CRCL Coastal Stewardship Awards	Zebra Mussel QAPP Meeting w/NSU
USACE/NGO Workshop-Vicksburg, MS	EPA Annual Review
Children's Museum	Conf. Call with Southwings/Wal-Mart
Environmental Education Commission	CQ Summit on Community Energy Challenge
LACPR Planning Meeting	NEP 20 th Anniversary Ceremony-Washington D.C.
Lafourche Coastal Zone	Hypoxia Task Force
HET Meeting	CWPPRA Task Force
Bayou Lafourche Project-CH2M Hill	Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Council
Bayou Lafourche Outreach Meeting-LDNR	GOMA Governor's Action Plan Workshop
Spirit of the Estuary Workshop Planning Meeting	USCG Gulf Strike Team Commander Change of
CWPPRA Outreach Committee Meeting	Command Ceremony
LDNR Clean Marina Program	USACE Hydrologic Model of Donaldsonville to Gulf
USACE Change of Command Ceremony	

D. Projects Initiated

1. GMPO Project-"Lumen Christi Native Plant Demonstration Garden"-M. Massimi
2. "Curriculum Development for Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response Training"-M. Massimi
3. "Zebra Mussel Survey of Bayou Lafourche"-M. Massimi
4. GMPO Project-"Native Plant Poster and Workshops"-M. Massimi
5. "2007 WETSHOP Teacher Workshop"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
6. "BTNEP Web Site Support"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
7. "Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche Video Productions"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
8. "Recipes Featuring Estuarine Resources"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
9. "Graphics, Layout, Design and Original Artwork for Estuarine Cookbook"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
10. "2007 Environmental Indicators Report"-D. Blanchard
11. "Design and Production of the Barataria-Terrebonne Executive Summary, CCMP Part I and Cover to Part III and IV"-S. Helmuth

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date Suggested is Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

IV. Discussion Items

A. **CWPPRA Mississippi River Sediment Trap Project Report**-Joanie Lanier, US Army Corp of Engineers

Ms. Lanier's presentation gave a description of the location of the sediment trap, and cost benefits of the trap.

She gave a brief background on the project, the types of dredges used, how much sediment is dredged.

She stated this project is very expensive, so expensive that it probably would not be funded by CWPPRA. Therefore, the Corp is seeking funding from other sources with one possibly being the navigational industry.

She stated the proposed trap would be 4 miles long, it will reach a mile and a half above the Head of Passes to about 5 ½ miles north of it.

The initial construction of the trap would create around 2,000 acres of wetlands immediately. Maintaining the

trap for a 20-yr project life would create approximately 24,000 acres of marsh.

In conclusion, Lanier stated that this project offers a more reliable river channel because it also can predict where the sediment is going to go and would use operation dollars more wisely. It concentrates dredging into one location so materials can be used beneficially and more predictably. It also reduces sediment volumes down river.

B. LA CPR Habitat Evaluation Team Update-Sean Mikal, US Army Corp of Engineers

Mr. Mikal's presentation went over the overall objective of the plan which is to reduce damages and risks to public safety from catastrophic storms, promote a sustainable eco-system, restore and sustain diverse wildlife and maintain or sustain the unique heritage of Louisiana.

He stated that the planning units are divided into 4 units with unit 3 split into A and B, giving a total of 5 units. He stated the technical report has to be completed and to Congress for December. The main focus is to complete planning units 1 and 2. Now that Units 1 and 2 are in editing stage, the other units can now be focused on. He then went over what environmental alternatives are being proposed in each of the units.

He explained that the authors of the Technical report are divided into environmental, non-structural, and structural (levee) teams. After a comprehensive analysis this fall, these three approaches will be combined into the final report, to be sent to Congress in December.

He stated the non-structural group is trying to identify and implement non-structural measures in near term and to identify public and private facilities that are critical for health and safety of the public. Those measures include buy outs and raising homes in place.

C. DEQ Bayou Lafourche Watershed Based Inspection Program-Jeff Dauzat, LA Dept of Environmental Quality (15 minutes)

Mr. Dauzat stated that DEQ's role in water quality issues is that DEQ is authorized to handle enforcement of the regulatory authority in the State of Louisiana. Part of DEQ's goal towards water quality is to monitor water quality within the watershed, toughen permit limits and enforcement.

He stated the program starts with ambient water quality monitoring. He stated collection in the BTE has been completed for 2001 and 2005, and well into completing collection for 2009. Since it is a large basin, only ¼ of the basin can be collected a year. DEQ sampled for a variety of parameters including BOD, TSS, fecal coliform and volatile organics.

He showed a map of the upper subsegment of Bayou Lafourche, which is 99 miles long, from the headwaters in Donaldsonville, to where it empties in the Gulf of Mexico and Port Fourchon.

The 303D Report shows that Bayou Lafourche is not fully supported for primary contact recreation and fish and wildlife propagation. The suspected causes of this impairment are fecal coliform concentrations. The suspected sources are on-site treatment systems, package plants and unpermitted discharges.

A new compliance monitoring strategy has been developed to address watersheds to bring them back into compliance with water quality standards. A watershed based inspection will be implemented to target the watersheds and inspect the facilities that are discharging, bring unpermitted facilities into the compliance and work with municipalities and local governments to address illicit discharges.

Bayou Lafourche was chosen for this pilot project because of it's impairment and because it is a drinking

source.

D. Wetlands Traveling Children's Museum Exhibit Presentation and Panel Discussion-Susan Testroet-Bergeron (30 minutes)

Susan informed the MC that a group of educators, including herself, have been working together for about a year and a half, to develop a traveling children's museum. It has been determined that children and their families is one target audience that is not being reached when it comes to educating the public about coastal land loss in Louisiana.

Susan informed the MC that Jules Babineaux, a construction engineer, who builds exhibits for children's museums was invited to a meeting to give his input on the exhibits.

She stated that one of the exhibits would be an exhibit of recognition. The leaves on the tree will represent the levels of sponsorship towards the project. The other sides of the exhibit will show the order in which the donations came in.

She then gave a brief overview of the other exhibits.

Shelley Sparks informed the MC that the Manship School of Mass Communications and Rally Center for Media and Public Affairs sponsored a survey through LSU which was conducted by the Public Policy Research Lab earlier this year and to determine how the nation views Louisiana and to provide relevant, timely and non-partisan national public opinion data that can be used to help shape Louisiana's future.

The survey included many questions such as what is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Louisiana to economic questions to have you ever been to the Bayou State.

48% surveyed were very aware of Louisiana's wetland loss issue. This indicates that there will be a great deal of support for action by the federal government to prevent or reverse the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana.

She stated that this survey in its entirety can be found at www.survey.lsu.edu

Susan asked the MC if they thought this project should move forward. She asked if she thought the money could be raised to complete the project.

She stated members of the MC could help in several ways: 1) give money; 2) give materials to build the exhibits; and 3) contact media.

Susan then informed the MC that if the exhibit traveled to each children's museum around the country for 3 months, it would be in service for 51 yrs.

The MC agreed to proceed with the project.

E. 2007 Louisiana GIS Digital Map Compilation DVD Set-David Gisclair, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

Mr. Gisclair stated that this DVD is the summation of 10 yrs of work. He then explained GIS. He explained that the visuals you get from Google Earth come from this data gathered by LOSCO.

He then discussed geo-coding. Geo-coding is pinpointing addresses, which is useful in natural disasters.

He then discussed data organization, and GIS and information technology.

He summarized the disk by saying that everything has a uniform thematic naming condition.

Volume 1 has projects and geo-spatial data, it can be used right out of the box. Volume 2 has to be decompressed before it can be used.

On the Internet, atlas.lsu.edu, raster files and pictures and many other useful tools can be found.

Mr. Gisclair then used LIDAR to show a model of the flooding in New Orleans during Katrina.

V. New Business

VI. Adjourn