

**Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**

*MC Meeting # 42 Minutes*

*9:00AM-November 7, 2007*

*Nicholls State University Campus*

*Multipurpose Room-Ellender Memorial Library*

*Thibodaux, LA*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Roll-Call**

**Management Conference Members Present:**

Herman Waguespack-American Sugarcane League  
Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District  
John Clark-Iberville Parish  
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept.  
Matt Benoit-LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry  
Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education  
Emelise Cormier-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Chuck Villarubia-LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
Angela Capella-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Mike Lyons-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.  
Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teachers Assoc.  
John Conover-LUMCON  
Randy Lanctot-Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center  
David Muth-National Park Service  
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  
John Boatman-USDA/NRCS

**Management Conference Organizations not represented:**

Coastal Conservation Assoc. of LA  
Commercial Fisheries  
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
LA Dept. of Economic Development  
LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals  
Lafourche Parish  
Louisiana Assoc. of Conservation Districts  
Louisiana Assoc. of Levee Boards  
Louisiana Farm Bureau  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.  
Louisiana Landowners Assoc.  
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office  
Plaquemines Parish  
South Central Planning & Development Commission  
St. Charles Parish  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
US Geological Survey

US National Marine Fisheries Service

**Guests:**

Sue Hennington-US Army Corps of Engineers  
Rebecca Saunders-LSU Museum of Natural Science  
Trudy Hebert-LUMCON  
Murt Conover-LUMCON  
Marco Giordino-NASA  
Robert Routon  
Zach Youngerman  
Natalie Schnieder-CRCL  
Mattie Dantin-LDWF  
Kell McInnis- LDWF Foundation  
Angela Rathle-NPS  
Kanitra Butler-NSU Student  
Elizabeth Bennet-NSU Student  
Mark Hudson-NSU Student  
Jonathon West-Center for Hazardous Assessment  
Christina Peterson-CHART UNO  
Reggie Coleman-LDEQ  
Christie Rogers-LDEQ  
Lillian Miller  
John Clark-Iberville Parish  
Wayne Keller-Grand Isle Port Commission

**BTNEP Staff Present:**

Dean Blanchard  
Sandra Helmuth  
Susan Testroet-Bergeron  
Shelley Sparks  
Michael Massimi  
Andrew Barron  
Mel Landry

**B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the August 9, 2007 meeting**

Randy Lanctot motioned to dispense of the reading of the minutes and to approve as submitted. David Bourgeois seconded that motion. There was no opposition, the motion passed.

Mel Landry thanked the NSU students who came and volunteered to help with setting up for the meeting.

**II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé**

**A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips**

Jason Project Teachers at Lafourche Tourist Commission  
St. Mary Chamber of Commerce  
Sustainable Economic Development Workshop  
NSU Pre-Service Teachers  
LSU CZM Class (Rod Emmer)  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual La Fete d'Ecologie  
NSU A+ Scholar Event

Swarthmore College Debris Removal Field  
Trip  
2 yr Katrina Anniversary-Belle Chasse  
Dead Zone Fishermens Conference  
LDEQ Hazardous Waste Disposal  
Workshop  
Southeast Louisiana Retired Teachers

LUMCON H20 Teacher Workshop  
Traveling Children's Museum Pres. To Fur & Alligator  
Advisory Board.  
Native Plant Workshop for Landscapers &  
Nursery Owners-Plaquemine  
Native Plant Workshop for General Public-Plaquemine  
Native Plant Workshop for Landscapers & Nursery Owners-  
Plant Material Center, Galliano  
Native Plant Workshop for General Public-Thibodaux

Traveling Children's Museum Pres. To  
LSTA Board  
Voice of theWetlands  
Grand Isle Beach Sweep  
Fletcher College  
CWPPRA Dedication-LUMCON  
Louisiana Science Teacher's Assoc. Conf  
Louisiana Birding Field Trip  
K-4 Teacher Workshop  
Spirit of the Estuary Workshop

## B. Media Interviews

- Washington Foreign Press Field Trip
- K. St. Pe interviewed for NPS/Water Quality Video for LDEQ/SCPDC
- NEP Webcast
- KTIB-La Fete d'Ecologie
- "Barataria-Terrebonne Program seeks to save important habitat," *Gonzales Weekly Citizen*.
- "Magazine article casts cynical eye on Morganza," *The Houma Courier*, Kerry St. Pé, response to TIME magazine article.
- "Pollution sources sought," *The Advocate*, Kerry St. Pé, Bayou Lafourche pollution
- "Coastal Plan Skips Public," *The Advocate*, Kerry St. Pé, coastal restoration plans
- "Estuary program to launch children's exhibit," *The Houma Courier*, Susan Testroet-Bergeron, Earl Melancon, BTNEP&BTEF children's museum exhibit
- "Giant jellyfish ride unusual current east," *The Advocate*, Michael Massimi, invasive species
- "Festival blooms into cultural showcase," *The Houma Courier*, Kerry St. Pé and Shelley Sparks, La Fête d'Ecologie
- "Bayouside festival offers bayou-style fun," *The Daily Comet*, Kerry St. Pé and Shelley Sparks, La Fête d'Ecologie
- "Hundreds attend environmental festival," *The Houma Courier*, Kerry St. Pé and Shelley Sparks, La Fête d'Ecologie
- "A Colorful Cast," *The Tri-Parish Times* (photograph), La Fête d'Ecologie
- "Seeing is Believing," *The Lafourche Gazette* (photograph), La Fête d'Ecologie
- "Celebrating Success," *The Daily Comet* ("Cheers" column), La Fête d'Ecologie
- "Celebrating Success," *The Houma Courier* ("Cheers" column), La Fête d'Ecologie
- "Program to host Grand Isle beach clean-up," *The Daily Comet*, Mel Landry, beach sweep
- "Get Dirty to Clean Up at the Grand Isle Beach Sweep," *The Lafourche Gazette*, Mel Landry, beach sweep
- "BTNEP to Host Plant Workshop," *The Houma Courier*, Michael Massimi, Native Plant Workshop

## C. Meetings

LDWF Wetshop Follow Up Meeting  
Environmental Education Commission  
Sustainable Development Workshop  
Planning Mtg.-SCPDC  
Mike Fesi, Terrebonne Parish President  
Candidate  
Marco Giardino-NASA  
Terrebonne Tree Board

Louisiana Assoc. Of Professional Biologists  
Water Quality Workshop Planning Mtg-LUMCON  
Comprehensive Planning Tools Workshop  
CWPPRA Outreach Committee  
LDHH Beach Monitoring Program  
Janet Grigsby-Union College  
Tour of The Golden Ranch and it's Invasive Species  
Program

Glenn Thomas-oyster reef proposal  
Bobby Fletcher-Thibodaux Yards &  
Neighborhoods Project  
Terrebonne CZM  
NOAA Marine Mammal Workshop  
LACPR Briefing for Environmental Defense  
Louisiana Native Plant Initiative Workshop  
Donaldsonville to the Gulf-Bob Essenwein  
Phragmites research-Don Hauber  
Habitat Evaluation Team  
Conoco Phillips  
Atchafalaya East Watershed Meeting  
LACPR Stakeholder's Workshop-UNO  
Bayou Lafourche Stakeholder's Meeting  
Plant ID Course  
Education Action Plan Team

Deanna McKneely-Le Reflections du Bayou  
CPRA  
Robert Routon-Bayou Lafourche Outreach  
LUMCON Executive Board Meeting  
Lafourche CZM Meeting  
LRA-Fisheries Meeting  
Gulf of Mexico Alliance Watershed Panel Conf. Call  
LSTA Board Meeting-Conference Planning Meeting  
LUMCON Open House Planning Meeting  
Rapid Assessment Team  
DNR/LCA Science & Technology-Jim Paul  
Point aux Chene sampling  
LACRP Stakeholder's Workshop-Houma  
CWPPRA Task Force  
Open House for NEP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Jules Babineaux-Children's Museum Exhibit

#### **D. Projects Initiated**

1. "False River Wetland Education through Map and Aerial Photography (WETMAAP) Product Development" No Cost Time Extension-S. Testroet-Bergeron
2. "Teacher Workshops for Spirit of the Estuary-Trainer (Cally Chauvin)-S. Testroet-Bergeron
3. "Teacher Workshops for Spirit of the Estuary-Project Leader (Sue Ellen Lyons)-S. Testroet-Bergeron
4. "Debris Removal with the Barataria Basin: Barataria Preserve" No Cost Time Extension-M. Landry
5. "Luling Land Lab"-S. Sparks
6. "Bidding the Construction of the Boardwalk and Observation Platforms at the Pointe aux Chene Wildlife Management Area"-R. DeMay
7. "Development of the 2008 Tidal Graph Calendar Content"-R. DeMay
8. "Layout and Design of the 2008 Tidal Graph Calendar"-R. DeMay
9. "BTNEP Web Hosting and Email Hosting Services"-R. DeMay

**III. Schedule Next Meeting Date:** Date Suggested is Thursday, February 21, 2008.

#### **IV. Action Items**

##### **Consideration of new Management Conference Representatives**

Dean informed the MC that Iberville and Pointe Coupee Parishes were both involved with BTNEP during the planning years, but were not included in the make up in the new MC. Both parishes would like to re-join the MC. Letters of request have been submitted.

Al Levron stated that he thought this was a great opportunity for the MC to reach out to all of its participants. He entertained a motion to approve the acceptance of Iberville and Point Coupee parishes be represented on the MC. Randy Lanctot made the motion and David Muth seconded. There were not comments or opposition. The motion was passed.

#### **V. Discussion Items**

##### **A. NASA's Archaeological Survey of the Barataria Basin-Marco Giordano, NASA**

Mr. Giordano informed the MC that in 2004 NASA partnered with USACE to find some new technology using NASA remote sensing to try and mitigate some of the cultural resources in south Louisiana.

The first objective was to develop a model to locate archeological sites in South Louisiana. The second

objective was to use a practical application for those two federal legislations that impact cultural resources.

He stated that the methodology was simplistic. The team asked the State of Louisiana to inform them of all the known archeological sites, which were all visited.

Advanced GPS units were used to get the entire outline of an archeological site. The purpose of that was to locate it on an aerial photograph and see if they could recognize other similar vegetation patterns throughout the marshes that would indicate other sites were present. The cultural and natural attributes were then described as to what would make a good location for a site. It was found they are close to levees and water, and the bigger sites tended to have satellite sites, which means smaller sites were found at some distance from a larger site.

Mr. Giordano then went over the physical features of the sites. He stated most of their study was concentrated in Plaquemines and St. Charles parishes, with a few in St. Bernard and Lafourche.

He stated that by studying archeological sites, we can learn something about sustainable development, sustainable economy, and resiliency.

**B. Pelican Mounds Presentation-Dr. Rebecca Saunders,Museum of Natural Science**

Dr. Saunders stated that the Pelican Mound was not recorded until 1999 by the State of Louisiana, although the locals knew it existed. The site "hangs" off of Bayou Grand Cheniere.

She states the site is quite large. There is a plaza that is 66 m x 88 m, and is oval, where as a circular plaza is more common. It is oval because it is sitting on a little levee.

She then gave a brief history and description of the site and showed results of radio carbon dating.

**C. WETSHOP-Weeklong Wetland Symposium for Teachers-** Angela Capello, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Kell MacInnis, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Federation  
Angela informed the MC that WETSHOP started around 1995, as a workshop for science teachers in Northern Louisiana. It was originally called A Wetland Workshop for Upland Teachers because those teachers were not getting any information about what was going on in south Louisiana.

In 1995, the workshop was opened up to the entire state because even the teachers in South Louisiana were not getting information about their own area.

She states that BTNEP has been a partner in WETSHOP since 1998. She thanked the Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation because without the Foundation, LDWF could not receive the grant money to implement the workshop. She also thanked NRCS Plant Material Centers, LUMCON and the Port Fourchon Commission.

She stated that the workshop goes into how the area has changed in the past and how it is changing now. She then went over all the activities that take place and topics discussed during the workshop.

**D. National Park Service/BTNEP Summer Camps for Students--** Angela Rathle, National Park Service - Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve  
Angela informed the MC that she supervises the parks in Thibodaux and Barataria Preserve in Lafitte.

She stated that there are now 7 camps offered each year between the 2 sites, 3 in Thibodaux and 4

down in Barataria. The camps are for children between the ages of 7 and 11. Each summer the camps registered 175 kids, with over 1,000 having gone through the program.

The purpose of the camp is to teach the kids about the resource and also the culture that lives within it.

- E. Bayou Lafourche Corridor Plan-** Cullen Curole- Lafourche Parish Government Representing Lafourche, Ascension, and Assumption Parishes and the municipalities of Donaldsonville, Napoleonville, Thibodaux, Lockport, and Golden Meadow  
Cullen informed the MC that this plan started out with a meeting between Sen. Mary Landrieu and Parish President Charlotte Randolph at a conference in Hammond where Sen. Landrieu stated she wants to be involved in the Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River Water Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche Project. President Randolph wants to get involved with master planning for the bayou community.

Sen. Landrieu secured \$500,000 of HUD/EDI for this project. This was supposed to be seed money for the master plan for the corridor. However, the hurricanes came but the federal monies didn't. So the parish paid for the study, which is geared towards eco-tourism. The corridor extends from I-10 to Grand Isle.

The focusing point was found to be where Hwy 90 crosses the bayou. So the master plan has ideas of how to get people to that focal point and into and respecting the bayou.

The master plan was made up of local plans that already existed. Six community meetings were held where existing plans were laid on the table but other suggestions were accepted.

He stated there are about 25 projects in the plan. One example is the cloverleaf area around Hwy 90 and Hwy 1/Hwy 308 exits. The idea is to enhance the area like the Cajun Village like the one in Sorrento with a marketplace.

He stated a grant has been received to build a wharf across from the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission.

**F. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual La Fete d'Ecologie Update-Shelley Sparks**

Shelley Sparks informed the MC that the festival was a success once again. The purpose of the festival is to use entertainment to educate the general public about what's going around their environment. The projected audience was an estimated 5,000 from 10am to 5pm. This year there were 25 exhibitors, and 7 folk crafters. She stated there was excellent media coverage; it was on the cover of the Gumbo Entertainment Guide, as well as the Courier's Entertainment Guide, and in many articles and post event articles.

She thanked all the sponsors who gave from monetary donations to in-kind support to physical labor. And of course The Cast Net King received a lot of press coverage too.

She then announced that the Bayou Lafourche Paddle Trip is March 27-30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**G. Native Plant Workshop Series Update-Michael Massimi**

Michael Massimi informed the MC that there were four workshops held, 2 for general public and 2 for landscapers/nursery industry.

There were presentations by the native plant society, native plant initiative, a tour of the NRCS Plant Material Center, the Natural Heritage Program.

The workshops were made possible by a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Program.

#### **VI. New Business**

Gary LaFleur announced that Heather Dyer would be defending her thesis for her Masters on November 14, 2007 at 2pm in Gouax Hall, Room 301. The title of her thesis is "Seasonal Fish Assemblage of Bayou Lafourche Up-Stream and Down Stream of the Thibodaux Weir".

Paul Johnson, on behalf of LSTA, thanked Sandra and Susan for their help with coordinating the short courses for the LSTA conference. He also announced the Louisiana would be hosting the NSTA conference in March of 2009.

Mel Landry stated that the Volunteer Program is always looking for ideas for things for the volunteers can do.

#### **VII. Adjourn**