

**Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**

*MC Meeting # 43 Minutes*

*9:00AM-March 6, 2008*

*Nicholls State University Campus*

*Multipurpose Room-Ellender Memorial Library*

*Thibodaux, LA*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Roll-Call**

Management Conference Members Present:

Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District

John Walthers-Coastal Conservation Assoc. of Louisiana

John Tessvich-Commercial Fisheries

Chett Chaisson-Greater Lafourche Port Commission

John Clark-Iberville Parish

Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish

Matt Benoit-LA Dept. Of Ag & Forestry

Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development

Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education

Emelise Cormier-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality

Anthony Roussel-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals

Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources

Jerome Zeringue-Louisiana Assoc. of Levee Boards

Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowners Assoc.

Ed Landgraf-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.

Paul Johnson-Louisiana Science Teacher's Assoc.

John Conover-LUMCON

David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center

David Muth-National Park Service

Gary LaFleur-Nicholls State University

Martha Cazaubon-South Central Planning & Development Comm.

Simone Maloz-South Louisiana Economic Council

Earl Matherne-St. Charles Parish

Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish

Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy

Sue Hawes-US Army Corp of Engineers

Dan McQuate-US Coast Guard

Doug Jacobson-US EPA

Ronnie Paille-US Fish & Wildlife

Heidi Hitter-USGS

Rick Hartman-US National Marine Service

John Boatman-USDA/NRCS

Organizations not represented:

American Sugarcane League

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Governor's Office of Coastal Activities

LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Lafourche Parish

LA Assoc. of Conservation Districts

Louisiana Farm Bureau

Louisiana Forestry Assoc.  
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.  
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Plaquemines Parish  
Pointe Coupee Parish

**Staff Members Present:**

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

**Guests present:**

Michelle ?-UNO  
Christina Peterson-UNO/CHART  
Jonathan West-UNO/CHART  
John Bowie-GOMP  
Leslie Suazo-Terrebonne Parish  
Melanie Goodman-US Army Corp of Engineers  
Nicole Broussard-NSU Student  
John Day-LSU  
Greg Linscombe-Continental Land & Fur Co.  
Lin Kiger-Chamber of Lafourche & Bayou Region  
Murt Conover-LUMCON  
Darin Lee-LA Dept of Natural Resources  
Cynthia Dubois-NSU Library  
Gerry Freeman-Office of Public Health-Beach Monitoring Program  
David Miller-Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority

**B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the November 7, 2007 meeting**

David Bourgeois moved to dispense of the reading of the minutes and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted. There were no objections.

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

**A. Personnel Changes**

**Student workers-** Lainey Pitre resigned, Bobbi Sue Prejean hired

**B. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips**

Wal-Mart Executives  
Debris Removal w/Verda Valley School  
, Sedona AZ  
TMDL Bayou Petit Caillou with DEQ staff  
Union College Bayou Lafourche Field Trip  
Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Project  
Grand Isle Beach Sweep

Dickenson College Field Trip  
ILGIS Conference-Keynote Speaker, Chicago IL  
Orange Festival-Belle Chasse  
E. Thibodaux Middle School  
Houma-Terrebonne RV & Boat Show  
NSU Pre-Service Teacher Workshop  
Barataria Debris Removal w/E.D. White

Ben Franklin HS Career Day  
Morris P. Hebert Dredging Operation-  
Big Bayou Blue  
Eagle Expo  
Leadership Lafourche  
E. D. White Wetland Ed. Training/Field  
Trip for Sisters of Mt. Carmel

Teachers  
Plover Survey-Fourchon, Grand Isle, Big Timbalier,  
E. Timbalier, Grand Terre, E. Grand Terre,  
W. Belle Pass, Elmer's Island  
Louisiana Environmental Educators Symposium

Richard informed the MC that the BTNEP document "Vanishing Before Our Eyes", which discusses the importance of chenier landscape along the Louisiana coast and their importance to migratory birds, was submitted to the Houston chapter of the Society for Technical Communication, as part of a competition. It won two awards, the award of Excellence in the category of informational materials and the Award of Distinguished Informational Material Design. It will now go to national competition which will be held in Pennsylvania.

### C. Media Interviews

Katie Mayer-"Climate Ready Estuaries"

- *The Tri-Parish Times*  
- "Our Work's Not Done," [editorial]
- *WWLTV*  
- Kerry St. Pé, "Solution to Louisiana's coastal erosion half a world away,"
- *The Plaquemines Gazette*  
- "Woodlands Trail earns National Coastal America Partnership Award," , Richard DeMay – award recipient.
- *The Times-Picayune*  
- "Community Report" BTNEP Coastal America award.
- *The Banner-Tribune*  
- BTNEP Eagle Expo  
- Richard DeMay, 2008 Tidal Graph Calendar
- *KTIB radio*  
- Kerry St. Pé, "NEP anniversary,"  
- Vince Guillory, LDWF and Shelley Sparks, Crab Trap Removal and BTNEP volunteer program
- *The Houma Courier*  
- Kerry St. Pé in listing of Governor Jindal's Coastal Restoration and Hurricane Protection Advisory Council.  
- Michael Massimi, about how land loss affects birds and native plants  
- Discovery center organizers will work with LUMCON and BTNEP for guidance in wetlands education  
- BTNEP volunteer project.  
- BTNEP Christmas tree volunteer project  
- Michael Massimi, invasive apple snail
- *The Cajun Gazette*, (Pierre Part, LA)  
- BTNEP Eagle Expo.
- *The Daily Comet*  
- Michael Massimi, about how land loss affects birds and native plants  
- BTNEP Christmas tree volunteer project.  
- BTNEP volunteer event.  
- Michael Massimi, invasive apple snail
- *Gumbeaux Magazine* (Lake Charles, LA)  
- BTNEP Eagle Expo.

- *'E' The Environmental Magazine*  
-Kerry St. Pé about wetland loss in Louisiana.
- *The Tri-Parish Times*  
-Michel Claudet, Terrebonne Parish President spoke with BTNEP about coastal restoration and preservation.
- *The Advocate*  
-BTNEP Eagle Expo.  
-BTNEP volunteer event  
-2008 Birding Calendar  
-Richard DeMay, 2008 Tidal Graph Calendar  
-Mel Landry, Christmas tree restoration volunteer project
- *The Daily Review*  
-BTNEP volunteer project, Grand Isle Beach Sweep
- *Southwest Daily News* (Sulphur, LA)  
-Richard DeMay, 2008 Birding Calendar.
- *Bayou Catholic*  
-Volunteer event in Barataria preserve.
- *"WWLTV Investigates on Eyewitness News"*  
-"Coastal restoration yet to get into full swing," BTNEP wetland loss animation used.

#### D. Meetings

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation	ANEP/NEP Fall Meeting-San Juan, Puerto Rico
Multiple Lines of Defense Plan Workshop	LUMCON Open House Meeting
Eagle Expo Planning Meeting	CWPPRA RPT Voting-Baton Rouge
Invasive Species Rapid Assessment Meeting	Wading Bird Colonies Meeting
America's Wetlands "A New Sustainability for the Future of the Gulf Coast"	Governor's Transition Team Meeting
Staff EPA Performance Evaluation Meeting	CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting
Wetlands Discovery Center	USDA Plant Materials Evaluation
Elmer's Island Meeting	E. D. White Education Training Plan w/Sister Barbara
Invasive Plant Control Training Workshop -Alabama	Bayou Lafourche Focus Team Meeting
LSU Ag Center & America's Wetland Partnership Opportunities Volunteers	Terrebonne Parish Science Fair Judging
Ecosystems Function & Dynamic: Atchafalaya River	CWPPRA Outreach Meeting
Bayou Lafourche Corridor Plan & Bayou Lafourche History Outreach Project	Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species w/ Task Force
Underserved/Under-represented/GOMA Grant w/Dr. Diane Austin	Senate Natural Resource Committee
Smart Growth Conference-Washington, DC	Habitat Evaluation Team/LACRP
ANEP/NEP Spring Meeting- Washington, DC	CPRA Annual Plan Meeting-Houma
Regional Planning Team Meeting -Morgan City	LACRP meeting with NGO's-Vicksburg, MS
Regional Planning Team Meeting -New Orleans	CWPPRA Task Force Meeting
New Orleans Historic Collection	LDEQ NPS Interagency Meeting
	Migratory Bird Action Plan Team Mtg. Donaldsonville to the Gulf
	Clean Water Initiative w/DEQ
	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Env. Ed. 5 Yr Strategic Plan
	Chuck Wilson w/SeaGrant-Children's Museum

**E. Projects Initiated**

1. "Conversion of Educational BTNEP Videos to DVD"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
2. "Organization and Development of Symposia and Mini-Grants Program for Strengthening the GOMA: Enhancing Local Capacity to Reach Underserved and Underrepresented Populations"-Shelley Sparks
3. "Technical and Logistical Support for Strengthening the GOMA: Enhancing Local Capacity to Reach Underserved and Underrepresented Populations"-Shelley Sparks
4. "Production of the Paddle Bayou Lafourche Paddling Trip 2008"-Shelley Sparks
5. "Development of a Video Addressing Coastal Land Loss and the Use of Pipeline Slurry as a Restoration Tool-R. DeMay
6. "Development and Production of 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cajun Zydeco Music & Dance Exhibit/Wetland Cultural Day in Conjunction with other Jubilee Festivities"-Sandra Helmuth

**III. Schedule Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**IV. Discussion Items**

**A. Christmas Tree Project-**Jason Smith, Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept.

Jason started his presentation by stating that this project is a tool to getting the public aware of coastal wetland loss. There has been a lot of press coverage, especially this year, which got the community, especially kids, involved.

He stated the project was partially funded by a \$53,000 grant from LDNR, along with corporate donations. There were many volunteers, civic clubs, BTNEP, and environmental organizations that were there to help.

The trees came from Jefferson and Plaquemine Parishes.

Most of the project took place in Goose Bayou. Jason then discussed how the sites progressed over the years.

**B. H-2-0 Water Quality Workshop-Jennifer "Murt" Conover, LUMCON**

Murt informed the MC that this workshop was held at LUMCON and funded by BTNEP Education Action Plan Team.

She stated the objectives of the workshop were:

1. to re-introduce teachers to BTNEP and LUMCON and the estuary
2. to further teacher understanding of water quality issues within the estuary and the LUMCON Bayouside Classroom program
3. to provide teachers with resources to implement the Bayouside Classroom program in their own classroom

She then explained to the MC what the Bayouside Classroom provides to the teachers and students. She stated the goals of the program are to teach students science using hands on techniques so they will be able to answer questions scientifically using the scientific method and to promote stewardship.

Bayouside Classroom currently has 88 trained teachers. There is 7 years worth of data on the Bayouside Classroom database.

Murt stated that the H-2-O workshop took the place of the S.T.E.P.S. workshop. She then went over the schedule of the workshop.

**C. LaCPR HET Restoration Alternatives for the B-T**, Ronnie Paille, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ronnie informed the MC that LaCPR evaluated multiple alternative plans for restoration, including the State's preliminary draft Master plan and LCA.

Two new alternatives were also developed for the Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries. These 2 alternatives included ways diversions could be operated off the Mississippi River. The goal of these alternatives is to achieve "no net loss" of wetlands based on year 2010 wetland acreages.

Ronnie then described the two diversion plans, R1 and R2, and showed results of the diversion influenced areas in the Barataria Bay.

He then stated that the methods used could not calculate the synergistic benefits. He then went over some of the predicted results from each of the plans.

Ronnie then went over the projected results of the plans in the Terrebonne Bay. However, the Atchafalaya River would be used with smaller GIWW type diversions since the Mississippi River is not within reach for West and South Terrebonne.

Ronnie stated that before these plans could be further studied or put into place, sediment sources needed to be identified.

There was then discussion of Ron Bustany's model which was used in developing these plans.

**D. 2009 CPRA Draft Annual Plan**-David Miller, LDOTD

David stated that the public comment period for the annual plan had been extended through March 13<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the idea with the annual plan was to bring a draft to the public and stakeholders for comment. He stated three regional planning groups would be developed to interface with the public and stakeholders on a regular basis.

The annual plan is set up to deal with projects that are in the Master Plan that was completed last year and approved by the Legislature. It will provide accountability in that things will be done under an umbrella. It will show everyone how the funds are being spent and it will provide a framework to show the funding needs for FY09, as well as projected funding needs for FY10 and FY11.

In the future, the annual plans will have performance measures and performance indicators that are outcome based.

Project criteria for the plan included needing to be consistent with the Master Plan, they have to come from the three major basins and emergency projects have to be considered.

David then talked about the funding sources: traditional, CPR Trust Fund and Capital Outlay; and non-traditional, CIAP and CWPPRA.

He then discussed some of the projects that will be funded through this plan.

David stated that this plan has to be submitted to the House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Natural Resources on March 19<sup>th</sup> for their approval.

**E. Point-aux-Chenes Stormwater Redirection Project Update-Dr. John Day, LSU**

Dr. Day stated that this 3-year project has been looking at the impact of stormwater from the Point aux Chenes pumping station.

Dr. Day showed aerial images of land accretion and mud flat formation in the area over a 3 year period. This project was designed to add sediments, increase vegetative cover, and freshen the area. He stated that data showed a reduction in nutrients from the impacted area from where the water flows out under the Isle de Jean Charles road. Total suspended solids and dissolved oxygen have increased, whereas fecal coliform was much lower in distant sites. There was no significant change in aboveground bio-mass, but the vegetation is spreading. Findings show that the receiving area has freshened, nutrients are being retained, and the marsh is healthy and spreading.

This project is demonstrating that a pumping station of the size of the Pointe aux Chenes station can significantly lower salinity, assimilate nutrients and promote the spreading of marsh vegetation.

Darin Lee pointed out that the Pointe aux Chenes WMA had put in flap gates on the culvert that is the only outlet for the area that receives the water from the pumping station, and that the decrease in salinity is partially a result of the flap gates.

**V. New Business**

Rick Hartman made a few announcements concerning Davis Pond, and CIAP project.

**VI. Adjourn**