

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

MC Meeting # 44 Minutes

9:00AM-June 5, 2008

Nicholls State University Campus

Plantation Room-Student Union

Thibodaux, LA

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present

Herman Waguespack-American Sugarcane League
Natalie Snider-Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
John Tesvich-Commercial Fisheries
Jerome Zeringue-Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish
Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development
Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Vince Guillory-LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Nick Matherne-Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management
Jerome Zeringue-Louisiana Association of Levee Boards
Ed Landgraf-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Christina Swaye-Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Cally Chauvin-Louisiana Science Teacher's Assoc.
John Conover-LUMCON
David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center
David Muth-National Park Service
Gary LaFleur-Nicholls State University
PJ Hahn-Plaquemines Parish
Martha Cauzabon-South Central Planning & Development Commission
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
Heidi Hitter-US Geological Survey
Rick Hartman-US National Marine Fisheries
John Boatman-USDA/NRCS

Organizations not represented:

Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Coastal Conservation Association of LA
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Iberville Parish
LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
LA Association of Conservation Districts
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Association
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association
Louisiana Landowner's Assoc.
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Pointe Coupee Parish

South Louisiana Economic Council
St. Charles Parish
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Guests:

Marilyn Barrett O'Leary-LSU
Brac Salyer-Aquatic Nuisance Coordinator, LDWF
Steve Chutz-LDNR
Andre Williams-CWPPRA
Juanita Coswell-National Wildlife Federation
Wally & Amy Faucheaux

BTNEP Staff Members present:

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

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the March 6, 2008 meeting

Rick Hartman made a motion to dispense of the reading and the approval of the minutes and David Bourgeois seconded the motion.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

Donaldsonville Knights of Columbus
Terrebonne Parish Aquatic Clinic
Thibodaux Regional Hospital
Paddle Bayou Lafourche
Over 50 Club-Bayou Black
Bay Chaland trip with DNR staff
Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration
LUMCON Open House
Plover Survey Scouting Trip
Leadership Terrebonne
Pipeline video shoot at Ridge with Glen Pitre
And Michelle Benoit
Wish to Fish
Riverside Brookfield High School Beach
Sweep/Planting on Fifi Island

Barataria Preserve Volunteer Debris Removal
events
Welcome Neighbor's Organization
NSU 12th Annual Jubilee-Cajun Zydeco Music &
Dance Exhibit
Wetland Watchers 10 year Celebration
Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation
McMains Canoe Trip
GOMA Underserved Underrepresented Symposium
Scouting apple snails in Schriever and Bayou Black
Fourchon Beach Sweep
Desk & Derrick Club of Westbank
Great Rivers School Debris Removal event

B. Media Interviews

The St. Mary Journal

- "Eagle Expo Feb. 14-16 includes Boat Tour."

The Tri-Parish Times

- Soar with the Eagles at Morgan City Expo.”.

The Daily Review

- “Cypress plantings project help requested on Friday.”. (Volunteer project)
- “Estuary program has funding for mini-grants.” (BTNEP mini-grants announcement).
- “Paddling trip on bayou set.”. (Paddle Bayou Lafourche)
- photograph of Paddle Bayou Lafourche

The Daily Comet

- “Plant a tree.” [photograph].. (Volunteer project near Grand Bois).
- “Bayou Saviors?”. (bio-control and the salvina weevil).
- “Grant money available to help preserve the coast.” (BTNEP mini-grants announcement).
- “Fact sheets provide rare species info
- “Paddle trip set for March 27 -20.”
- “Birdwatchers to flock to Grand Isle.”
- “Cheers: Paddle Bayou Lafourche drew a record crowd.” [Cheers & Jeers].
- “Grand Isle is for the birds at annual celebration.”

The Enterprise-Progress, Mansfield, LA.

- “Louisiana Coastal Zone Rare Species and Natural Community Factsheet Available on L.D.W.F. Web site.”

The Courier

- “Wonder Bug.”. (bio-control and the salvina weevil).
- “Grant money available to help preserve the coast.” (BTNEP mini-grants announcement).
- “Are there drugs in your drinking water?” (testing of drinking water supplies).
- “Fact sheets provide rare species info”
- “Convoy of paddlers treks down Bayou Lafourche.”
- “Music, dance exhibit takes a feminine point of view.”(NSU Jubilee)
- “Cheers: Paddle Bayou Lafourche drew a record crowd.” [Cheers & Jeers].
- “Visitors, some feathered, expected to flock to island.” (Grand Isle Migratory Bird Festival).
- “Biologists assess and kill invading snails.” (Apple snail removal and monitoring).
- Research facility opens doors to the public.” (LUMCON open house).
- Cajun filmmaker Glen Pitre has made a career out of documenting life on the bayou for the big screen.” (Pitre speaks of films he has produced for the BTNEP).

KTIB interview. [radio]. Thibodaux, LA.

- Shelley Sparks and Kerry St. Pé spoke about Paddle Bayou Lafourche.
- Vince Guillory and Shelley Sparks spoke about a volunteer crab trap removal event.
- Michael Massimi spoke about the apple snail.

The Advocate

- “Wetlands require urgent action.” [letter to the editor].
- “Bayou trip educational.”. (Paddle Bayou Lafourche)

The La Life Magazine

- “The Great Outdoors.”. (Top 10 Louisiana destinations cited Grand Isle State Park and BTNEP’s partnership).

The Donaldsonville Chief.

- “Paddlers to bond with Bayou Lafourche.”
- “Paddlers bond, journey down Bayou Lafourche.”

Gonzales Weekly Citizen

- “Paddlers to bond with Bayou Lafourche.”.
- “Paddlers bond with Bayou Lafourche.”

The Times-Picayune

- “Birding Guide” [events section]. (Grand Isle Migratory Bird Festival).

Gambit Weekly

- “Coastal Loss, Coastal Cost.”

KKAY interview. [radio]. Donaldsonville, LA.

- Kerry St. Pé spoke about the history of Bayou Lafourche

WWLTV

- “Fist sized snails invade Terrebonne.”. (Apple Snail removal and monitoring).
- “Snails found in Gretna, Terrytown and Belle Chasse worry scientists.” (Apple snail removal and monitoring).

C. Meetings

America’s Wetland Conservation Corp Volunteer Training Workshop	American Advanced Technologies Public Meeting
CPRA	Association for Supervisors & Curriculum Conf.
HET/LACPR	Lafourche CZM
Davis Pond Advisory Board	LAIS Task Force
Ryan Fikes-GOMA Debris Removal Grant Mgr.	CELP
NSU Jubilee Rotary Lunch	DEQ State Revolving Fund
Louisiana Nutrient Hypoxia Strategy	Rapid Assessment
Donaldsonville to the Gulf	ORRAP-Washington DC
Wal-Mart	2008 Mini Grants Review
Recreational Trails	Donaldsonville Salinity Model
Bonnet Carre Implications teleconference	LUMCON Executive Board
Wetshop & Environmental Education	LDEQ Clean Water Program
John Hoffmeishter-Shell	EPA Performance Evaluation Conf. Call
	CWPPRA Task Force Meeting

D. Projects Initiated

1. “Invasive Species Rapid Assessment and Symposium”-M. Massimi
2. Cost increase and Time extension for “Post-Pump Installation and Evaluate Impacts of Stormwater Discharge to Coastal Wetlands Adjacent to the Pointe Au Chien Pumping Station, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana”-A. Barron
3. “2008 Louisiana Preservation Conference”-S. Testroet-Bergeron
4. “2008 WETSHOP Teacher Workshop”-S. Testroet-Bergeron
5. “False River Wetland Education through Maps and Aerial Photography (WETMAAP) Teacher Training Workshops and Material”-S. Testroet-Bergeron
6. “Design and Layout of the 2009 Calendar Depicting Oil & Produced Water Spill Prevention Measures”-D. Blanchard
7. “2009 Calendar Depicting Oil & Produced Water Spill Prevention Measures Applicable to the Oil & Gas Industry within the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary”-D. Blanchard

8. "2009 Bird Calendar Text"-R. DeMay
9. "2009 Bird Calendar Layout"-R. DeMay
10. "Wilson Plover Breeding Biology Study - Third Year"-R. DeMay
11. "Construction of the Pointe aux Chene WMA Boardwalk and Observation Platforms"-R. DeMay

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date Suggested is Wednesday September 3, 2008.

IV. Action Items

FY2009 Workplan

Kerry first explained how the project selection process occurs with Action Plan teams. He then explained that all NEPs received an increase for their FY2009 budget.

Staff members gave brief descriptions of each of the following proposed projects for fiscal year 2009(October 1, 2008- September 30, 2009) that will be submitted to EPA in June. The workplan describes a budget request to EPA for executing 23 contractual projects and several administrative type budgets.

TOTAL FUNDS	\$591,750.00
Project Name	Cost
LUMCON Indirect (10%)	\$53,795.45
Rental - Building (Operating Services)	\$26,133.55
Travel Funds	\$25,000.00
Administrative (supplies)	\$5,000.00
Program Info. Materials	\$75,000.00
BTNEP Mail/WEB/GIS hosting	\$12,000.00
Website support/BTNEP.ORG	\$16,000.00
BTNEP Personnel Salary	\$105,856.00
BTNEP Personnel Fringe (25%)	\$26,465.00
La Fete (contractual)	\$28,000.00
La Fete Promotions	\$10,000.00
La Fete Supplies	\$2,000.00
Paddling Trip	\$14,500.00
Paddling Trip (Supplies)	\$500.00
BTNEP Invasive Species Mini-Grants	\$10,000.00
Support for Wetlands/Cultural Day NSU Jubilee	\$3,000.00
Content Development of the Bird Calendar	\$6,000.00
Layout of the Bird Calendar	\$9,000.00
Grand Isle Bird Day (supplies)	\$2,500.00
Rookery Camera showing the nesting, hatching, feeding and rearing of Louisiana's wading birds	\$10,000.00
2009 WETSHOP Teacher Training	\$7,000.00
National Park Service 2009 Summer Camp	\$5,000.00
From H-2-O: A Water Quality Workshop for Teachers	\$8,500.00
Claude and Dumaine Pilot TV Commercial and 6 Radio Ads	\$45,000.00
Connecting Children to the Estuary with Art	\$3,000.00
Stormwater Redirection Resident's Guide and Brochure	\$10,000.00
Educational Materials for 2010 Clean Gulf Conference	\$5,000.00
Web-based Testing Program for Spill Prevention	\$10,000.00
Preserved Invasive Species Specimens (Supplies)	\$2,500.00
Apple Snail Control Support	\$15,000.00
Public Relations Survey	\$40,000.00
TOTAL	\$591,750.00

The Chairman asked if there was any objection to the Workplan. Doug Jacobson abstained from voting. There was no objection; therefore, the workplan was approved.

V. Discussion Items

A. Importance of Spill Prevention and Louisiana One Call-Ed Landgraff, Shell Pipeline (20 minutes)

Ed stated that he had a resolution that he would like the MC to review while he went through his presentation.

He stated that he was proud that Shell Pipeline has a bio-diversity action plan. He also stated that Shell has systems that run through the Delta National Wildlife Refuge and produced a CD of the wildlife refuge.

He stated that the objective today is to prevent oil spills and he will go over a few scenarios on how that can take place.

He first gave an overview of how the oil and gas industry operates.

Ed showed maps of eroding coastal Louisiana. As marsh edge erodes away, pipelines have less cover in them and become more susceptible to damage. This erosion promotes boat traffic in that area, also not having that protection blanket from storms and hurricanes, those pipelines could flex or prematurely corrode and cause oil spills. These are reasons why Shell Pipeline is involved in coastal restoration and with BTNEP.

He then showed examples of third party damage. Third party damage is a source of the oil industries largest spills. And it is these kinds of spills that Shell is trying to prevent.

The event that brought Ed to the meeting today happened 5 miles north going towards LOOP from Port Fourchon. He stated they air patrol their pipelines, and the air patrol called in saying there was a barge working on top of their pipeline. Shell sent people out and found a work barge doing plug & abandon work on a well. The workers said that being out in open water, he did not need a coastal use permit. A Shell pipeline ran right between the two spuds that were dropped from this barge. This could have been a very big spill.

With a coastal zone use permit, this near mishap could have been prevented.

So, Ed is promoting the coastal zone use permit and/or the 811 One Call Ticket, which must be obtained before breaking ground, digging or excavating.

Ed stated that the resolution he put before the MC asks nothing more than to follow the law and to bring the awareness level up of the people who operate and industries that operate in the coastal zone.

Vince Guillory stated that this probably couldn't be resolved at this meeting. Everyone probably needs time to think this over. He asked if it could be brought up again at the next meeting. Kerry said that it could.

Vince motioned to defer this topic with possibly further comments from DNR, David Muth seconded the motion. There were no objections.

B. Barataria-Terrebonne Rapid Assessment Project-Marilyn Barrett O'Leary

Michael Massimi introduced Dr. O'Leary who is the contractor for this project. She stated that this project reflects something that BTNEP is doing all the time, and that is combining science with outreach and trying to get the whole system to work; trying to take care of the health of the habitat in relation to

the people that are also part of the system.

She stated that the State of Louisiana spent 5 years developing the Invasive Species Management Plan with the idea of being able to figure out how to control and prevent invasives species that affect the people and the wildlife.

She stated that this project is part of that plan. The goal of the project is to rapidly assess the waters of the BTNEP area. In order to get a baseline of the invasive species that are present in this area, a group of volunteers, scientists from Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, will spend a week gathering samples from specific places.

This project will also educate the people at Wildlife & Fisheries and the Dept. of Natural Resources that work out in the field and connect them with university people. Most of these people study the native plants and animals, not the invasives.

She states that invasives are a sign of a weakened or changed eco-system. They take advantage of weakness; they are capable of taking over.

She then went over the structure and schedule of the project.

Kerry asked who has volunteered. Michael stated that he has volunteers from NSU, LDWF, LUMCON, and LDNR.

He stated that the data collected would be available in a final report, which will serve as a baseline for future monitoring. He stated also that this will be put on the BTNEP website.

C. Update on Apple Snail and invasive Carp in Davis Pond-Brac Salyers, Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, LDWF (10 minutes)

Michael then introduced Brac Salyers. Brac showed the MC slides of freshwater invasive species such as the apple snail. He gave facts about the snail. He stated that the only way to eradicate these snails is to put a highly toxic poison into the water, but this will kill every other animal that is in that water body. The snails also eat a wide variety of plants.

He stated the biggest concern is when these snails go unchecked and they reproduce over and over again.

Michael showed a map of reported sites of the apple snail.

Brac then discussed the Grass Carp, Common Carp and the Silver Carp. Again, their biggest threat is their massive ability to reproduce and the large size they can become. He stated they are a bigger problem in the northern part of the Mississippi River watershed but are also a big problem in our area.

He stated that a possible new invasive coming to Louisiana is a snake head. There was a population identified in Arkansas in March started by a fish farmer. When this fish farmer found out there was legislation stating having snakeheads was illegal, he dumped all his fish on the other side of the levee.

VI. New Business

Linda Pace announced that a public notice was sent out yesterday that CELP, that is funded by NOAA, has submitted a draft plan for states that have Coastal Zone Management plans to compete for funds.

Kerry announced that BTNEP went through its EPA evaluation and passed with exemplary remarks. There is a

site visit involved with this evaluation. This visit will be announced at a later date.

Susan Testroet-Bergeron announced this years Mini-Grant winners.

VII. Adjourn