

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

*MC Meeting # 45 Minutes
9:00AM-September 30, 2008
Nicholls State University Campus
Plantation Room-Student Union
Thibodaux, LA*

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present

Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Natalie Snider-Coalition to Restore Coast Louisiana
John Clark-Iberville Parish
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish
Anne Perry-LA Dept. of Economic Development
Emelise Cormier-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Anthony Roussel-LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Nick Matherne-Lafourche Parish
Dwayne Bourgeois-LA Assoc. of Levee Boards
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
John Conover-LUMCON
Randy Lanctot-Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Rex Caffey-LSU Ag Center
David Muth-National Park Service
Quenton Fontenot-Nicholls State University
P.J. Hahn-Plaquemines Parish
J. A. Rummler-Pointe Coupee Parish
Simone Maloz-South Louisiana Economic Council
Cullen Curole-South Central Planning & Development Commission
Earl Matherne-St. Charles Parish
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Jean Landry-The Nature Conservancy
Susan Hennington-US Army Corp of Engineers
Doug Jacobson-US EPA
David Marks-US Geological Survey
Rick Harman-US National Marine Fisheries Service

Organizations Not Represented:

American Sugar Cane League
Coastal Conservation Association
Governor's office of Coastal Activities
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
LA Dept. of Ag & Forestry
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Education
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Association
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association

US Coast Guard
US Fish & Wildlife
USDA/NRCS

Guests:

Cynthia Dubois-NSU Library
Olivia Smith-LSU
Mayor of Morgan City Tim Motte
Harley Winer
Helen LaFleur-BTNEP Contractor
Cynthia Blaske-Fletcher Technical Community College Library
Mark Ford-GEC
Nikki Buskey-The Houma Courier
Amy Wold-The Advocate
Albertine Kimble-Plaquemine Parish

BTNEP Staff:

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

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the June 5, 2008 meeting

Randy Lanctot made a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes and to accept them as submitted.
Leslie Suazo seconded the motion.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

NPS Summer Camp-Debris Removal @Grand Isle	Project Dreams Teacher Workshop
Project Wet Coordinators Conference	WETSHOP
EPA Program Evaluation/Site Visit	NPS Summer Camp Beach Sweep
Morgan City Rotary Club	Florida University Students-Water Quality
Lockport Rotary Club	Monitoring on Lake Verret
Donaldsonville Rotary Club	NSU Dept. of Education Grad/Undergrad Classes
Project Smart	One Shell Square-Shell Employees
Tarpon Rodeo	Pointe Aux Chene Sampling
Rapid Assessment Project	SeaGrant Tour
Bridge City Correctional Center	

B. Media Interviews

Abbeville Meridional (Abbeville, LA)
- "Educators tour reclaimed coastal land." WetShop field trip, 6/19/08.

Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

- "Few pesky invaders found in Barataria estuary search." Barataria-Terrebonne Rapid Assessment Project, 8/7/08.
- "Losing Ground: As hurricane season begins, the Gulf is closer than ever." Coastal landloss, 6/2/08, (taken from *The Houma Courier*).
- "Volunteers needed for beach cleanup." 5/18/08.
- "Louisiana often leads U.W. oil spill list." 7/6/08.
- "River silt may be used for fill." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 7/22/08.

Alexandria Town Talk (Alexandria, LA)

- "Educators hope to reclaim Louisiana coastal wetlands." WetShop field trip, 6/29/08.

Banner-Tribune (Franklin, LA)

- "St. Mary, Terrebonne parishes look for sediment solution." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 7/21/08.
- "Educators take tour of reclaimed coastal land." WetShop field trip, 6/30/08.

Bayou Buzz.com (online)

- "Filmmaker seeks to save Louisiana Cajun Coast." Independent filmmaker, 8/19/08.

Beauregard Daily News (DeRidder, LA)

- "Educators tour reclaimed coastal land." WetShop field trip, 6/29/08.

Country Roads (St. Francisville, LA – monthly publication)

- "Marshland Memories." Remembering the past and protecting the future, August 2008.

Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, LA)

- "Areas look for sediment solution." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 7/22/08.
- "Educators tour reclaimed land." WetShop field trip, 6/28/08.

Daily Comet (Thibodaux, LA)

- "Field Trip: Educators tour reclaimed coastal land." WetShop field trip, 6/19/08.
- "5 volunteer efforts that need your time." BTNEP Volunteer Program, 8/12/08.
- "'A little unfamiliar': Scientists scour local waterways for invaders." BTRAP, 8/7/08.

Daily Iberian (New Iberia, LA)

- "Parishes look for sediment solution." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 7/21/08.
- "Educators see growing coast." WetShop field trip, 6/29/08.
- "Teachers tour reclaimed coastal land." WetShop field trip, 6/30/08.
- "Coastal impact." Affects of pipelines, 7/8/08.

Daily Reveille (Baton Rouge, LA –LSU)

- "Dead Zone at its largest, set to grow." LUMCON, 6/24/08.

Daily Review (Morgan City, LA)

- "TP officials like sediment-sharing restoration plan." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 7/18/08.
- "Fourchon's beach sweep set Saturday." 5/21/08.

- Paddle Bayou Lafourche image. 5/4/08.

Hammond Daily Star (Hammond, LA)

- "Teachers take on wetlands." WetShop field trip, 7/3/08.

Houma Courier (Houma, LA)

- "Losing Ground: As hurricane season begins, the Gulf is closer than ever." Coastal landloss, 6/1/08.
- "Funneled sediment could speed restoration." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 7/17/08.
- "Lawmakers sign Discovery Center into being." BTNEP to submit two names to serve on the oversight commission for the Discovery Center, 6/10/08.
- "Bills for south Lafourche hospital, Terrebonne museum pass." BTNEP to submit two names to serve on the oversight commission for the Discovery Center, 6/10/08.
- "Offshore money could rebuild roads." 6/24/08.
- "Tropical storm highlights parish's erosion crisis." 8/5/08.
- "Scientists scour local waterways for invaders." BTRAP, 8/7/08.
- "Project aims to get water flowing by year's end." Bayou Lafourche project, 8/18/08.

Independent Weekly (Lafayette, LA)

- "Gone Native." Bill Fontenot retires after more than two decades, 7/23/08.

La Conservationist (Baton Rouge, LA)

- "LDWF partners with BTNEP to assess apple snail population on private land north of Houma" August 2008.

Lafourche Gazette (Larose, LA)

- "Just having fun..." [image]. BTNEP Beach Sweep, 6/18/08.
- "Getting it cleaned up..." [image]. BTNEP Beach Sweep, 5/28/08.

Leesville Daily Leader (Leesville, LA)

- "Parishes look for sediment solution." Possibility of transporting sediment from the Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish, 6/23/08.

Louisiana Sportsman (Boutte, LA)

- "Apple snails threaten marsh, rice crops." 7/08.

Opelousas Daily World (Opelousas, LA)

- "Artists focus on coastal erosion." BTNEP mini-grant recipient, 7/28/08.

The Times (Shreveport, LA)

- "La. educators tour state's reclaimed coastlands." WetShop field trip, 6/19/08.

Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA)

- "Grant will help plant cypress in wetlands." Jefferson Parish Dept. of Environmental Affairs to receive a grant to restore and protect the banks of the Bayou Segnette Waterway, 7/31/08.

Tri-Parish Times (Houma, LA)

- "The next big threat? Apple snails dining in area's waterways." 7/30/08.
- "BTNEP, feds on hunt for enviro threats." BTRAP, 8/14/08.
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WWLTV (New Orleans, LA)

- "Coastal Restoration." WetShop field trip and sediment delivery, 6/19/08.
- "Plant Center grows plants that halt coastal erosion." PMC, 6/21/08.
- "Wildlife agents search for invading species." BTRAP 8/14/08.

C. Meetings

Luncheon w/Senator Vitter	SeaGrant/MMS
EPA Yearly Evaluation	CPRA Integration Briefing
Plaquemines Parish Council	Governor's Environmental Ed. Commission Award
Mindy Mayer-Traveling Children's Show	Ceremony for 2009 Calendar Winners
Rapid Assessment Program Planning	Blue Moon Project-B. Dardar Robichaux
Bayou Lafourche Re-introduction Into Miss. River- LDNR Office	NEP Strategic Planning
Ascention Parish Household Hazardous Waste	Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce "After the Session" Session Legislative Update
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities	Art Shilling-Coastal Restoration Strategies
Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone-Leslie Suazo	CWPPRA Outreach Committee
Ansil Taylor & Michel Claudet-Pipeline Sediment Delivery	H2O Workshop Planning Meeting
Project Flying Wild	Plant Material Center Technical Meeting
ORRAP-Seattle, WA	LACPR Stakeholder's Meeting
La Fete d'Ecologie Steering Committee	Environmental Education Commission
	Rep. Joe Harrison-Bayou Lafourche Project

D. Projects Initiated

1. No-Cost Time Extension for "Submersed Aquatic Vegetative Propagation and Planting Techniques for Restoration in Coastal Louisiana-D. Blanchard
2. "Design & Layout of the 2009 Calendar Depicting Oil & Produced Water Spill Prevention Measures"-D. Blanchard
3. "12th Annual Production of La Fete d'Ecologie"-S. Sparks
4. "Silent Witness"-S. Sparks
5. "Grand Isle Maritime Forest Restoration Project"-M. Landry
6. K-12 Birding Curriculum for Bird Characterization Report and Related BTNEP Birding Materials-S. Testroet Bergeron
7. "Scientific Content for Birding Curriculum"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
8. "Development and Implementation of Web Site Special Projects"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
9. "Louisiana Estuary Cuisine Cookbook Photo Shoot"-S. Testroet-Bergeron
10. "Bibliographic Instruction for Public Libraries"-S. Testroet-Bergeron

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008

IV. Discussion Items

A. Discussion of DNR, Coastal Management Division's response to inquiry from Shell Pipeline

Linda Pace, LDNR

Linda presented to the MC LDNR Coastal Management Division's response to the resolution from Shell Pipeline suggestion of the Louisiana's One Call condition and parish local coastal management permits and state coastal use permits and authorizations, specifically in regards to oil and gas.

She informed the MC that oil and gas activities can only be permitted through the state. All oil and gas activities have to be reviewed by the state and permitted by the state. There is already a Louisiana One Call condition and has been in affect for 10 years.

Leslie Suazo asked that since there is already a condition of the permit, is there a penalty or how is the issue enforced.

Linda stated that LDNR has to be notified of the violation but CMD does not monitor the activities.

B. Viewing of "Harvest to Restore"-Richard DeMay, BTNEP

Richard stated that this documentary took over a year to produce with Cote Blanche Productions. The intent is to mass-produce and distribute this like we do all of our educational products. LPB will be airing it and BTNEP will make it available to local stations.

He stated there are several animations in the documentary that have been cut out and uploaded to the BTNEP website.

After the documentary was viewed, there was discussion of how to implement this strategy and how to distribute the documentary.

David Muth stated that he was in complete agreement with everything stated in the film until Kerry starts saying there is no role for major diversions. He believes there is a role for both and immediate benefits of using dredged material and continuing benefits of pipeline sediment delivery. But he believes if we don't continue major diversions, then saving the coast is a lost cause.

Other MC members stated they did not hear that in the film; that they heard small and medium diversions were needed to sustain the land built by sediment delivery.

Rick Hartman stated that he felt the film emphasized using dredged material as the principle tool. But did not hear that diversions should be ignored.

David admitted he could be wrong but felt that if the script was read, it would read that only small and medium diversions were needed.

Rick Hartman asked that the script be read and the findings be brought back to the MC.

There was also discussion on what the CCMP states as far as major diversions and BTNEP's position on them now. It was also asked that the action plan for river diversions be investigated and be brought to the MC.

C. Update on Reintroduction of Mississippi River into Bayou Lafourche Project-Kerry St. Pe'

Kerry informed the MC that the first 6.2 miles of Bayou Lafourche was supposed to be dredged on an emergency basis in response to the 40 miles of septic water caused by Hurricane Gustav. The hurricane knocked over hundreds of trees, which landed in the bayou that caused the bayou to become anaerobic.

Then Hurricane Ike caused a tremendous surge pushing water up the bayou.

Kerry then went through the history of the damming of Bayou Lafourche and it's controversy.

He stated that LDNR, now CPRA, has examined 144 alternatives that were screened down to 7 based on creating a minimum flow of 1000cfs, modifying the river crossing in Donaldsonville, and limiting rise on Bayou Lafourche and dredging costs.

Alternate No. 38 was chosen but will be re-tooled to do the emergency dredging. Archie Chaisson, with the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District, has been asked to manage that contract.

Kerry stated that BTNEP held several public meeting to explain to the public why surveyors and other people would be in their backyards. There was one held on September 12th where maps were made available to the public showing them exactly what would take place.

The following day, Kerry stated, the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFD) Office held an emergency meeting where the BLFD passed a resolution saying they would take the project. Another public meeting was held the day after that, Sunday, in Belle Rose.

Kerry then gave a brief overview of what the project will entail.

Archie informed the MC that the Emergency Contract is a 70 hr emergency protective measure that has been completed. There have been about 125 trees with still 600 or more remaining between Belle Rose and Thibodaux. The full contract is in the works now.

Rick Hartman asked if this emergency work would include any of the work in the original project. Kerry stated it would not. It would only bring the original pumps back up to 350 cfs. The pumps would need to be re-tooled, as stated in the original plan, in order to increase water flow to 1000 cfs.

It was stated that the dredged material would be hauled to an undetermined site, possibly working with private landowners or stockpiled for future coastal restoration use.

D. Barataria Barrier Shoreline Restoration: Past, Present and Future-Rachel Sweeney, National Marine Fisheries Service

Rachel first talked about project design principles looked at when building barrier islands.

She stated that most of their projects cost about \$20-25 million each. All of the projects she is talking about today have all been authorized and constructed by CWPPRA. There are other projects on going that are funded by other programs.

She gave brief descriptions of the following projects and how the hurricanes of 2005 and 2008 affected them: E. Grand Terre, Chalande Headland, Shell Island, Pelican Island, Robinson Canal, Trinity Island, New Cut, Timbelier Island, and Wine Island.

E. Impacts to Louisiana Coast Due to Gustav and Ike-Dr. Rex Caffey, LSU Ag Center
Rex informed the MC the LSU Ag Center is responsible for releasing information after major storms on preliminary estimates on revenue and infrastructure loss. After Katrina and Rita, a partnership was formed called the Louisiana Fisheries Community Recovery Coalition, formed of 20 different organizations. The primary goal of this partnership included documenting impacts, developing requests for federal and state assistance and helping to determine allocation of any funds that might be forthcoming.

He stated today he was going through assessment techniques for revenue and infrastructure losses. The goal was to get an idea of how much the industry could lose from a storm impact, which is difficult to do. Different types of fisheries, revenue changes and meteorological data are assessed.

Shrimp had the biggest impact. It had about a \$30 million revenue loss. 65% occurred in Terrebonne, Lafourche, Jefferson and Plaquemine parishes.

Rex then discussed the impacts of the storms on commercial fisheries, docks, recreational vessels, marinas, and agriculture.

He stated the real hurricane is not the storms but market conditions. A 40% reduction in our cultural fleet of shrimp fishermen and the heritage you see going down Hwy 1 is disappearing not because of coastal land loss, but because of the price of shrimp, which is set in Southeast Asia and Central America. Also the price of fuel which has quadrupled has had a negative impact.

F. After the Storm Parish Update-

Iberville-John Clark

John stated that there wasn't much flooding in Iberville Parish but there were a lot of trees that had fallen that could cause flooding in the future if a storm should happen with the existing conditions.

He stated there is a USGS gauge station in Rosedale that ran for 3 days backwards at a rate of 1000 cfs. Then it slowly fell back to 800 cfs. No one can understand how that happened when there was very little rainfall.

He stated that the Bayou Sorrel Locks were used for the first time as sort of a diversion.

He stated Iberville Parish had 80 mile hr winds for about 6 hrs on the east side of the parish. He stated that 4 miles of power lines took on major damage.

The USGS gauge station in Rosedale showed that the water rose 10 feet in one day.

He stated that several oilfield sites had open pits that overflowed. He also stated there were miles and miles of fish kills.

He stated that there was between 150,000 and 200,000 cubic yards of debris to remove.

Jefferson-Jason Smith

Jason stated that the bulk of the damage in metro area of Jefferson Parish was downed power lines causing sewage systems to be down. However, in the Lafitte area, their affects mostly came from Ike. They received roughly 8" more than from Rita.

In Grand Isle, the newer housing, that went up after Katrina, didn't get flooded or receive other damage. He stated as of today, about 98% of the residence have gotten their power turned back on. He stated there were sections of the dunes that were pushed all the way through the properties, back over the road, and towards the Caminada bay side. So, people received up to 3 ft. of additional fill in their yards.

Lafourche- Nick Matherne

Nick stated that Lafourche Parish fared pretty well throughout the storms. He stated that the parish government office in Raceland lost part of its roof and the building took on a lot of water.

Nick gave a status of the port by showing slides of Fourchon Beach and several of the slips in the port. He showed slides of Leeville being under water after Ike.

Jean Landry asked what was learned about the approaches to the new bridge after Ike. Nick stated he has not seen any photos. Kerry stated the approaches are high but the highway to those approaches is still underwater.

A MC member asked about the Ridge Project. Kerry stated that the new part of the ridge stayed above the water. The older part had all sorts of debris on it.

Nick stated phone services are restored, main transmission lines will be restored tomorrow and that Emergency dredging bids for Belle Pass will be coming in soon.

Plaquemine-P. J. Hahn

P.J. showed slides of different events that happened in his parish throughout the storms, starting with oil spills all along the Westside of the river.

He reiterated what Al said that the military was a huge help. They were able to deploy some Hesco baskets to rebuild the levee.

Pointe Coupee-J. A. Rummler

J.A. informed the MC that the problems Pointe Coupee Parish faced were very similar to those that Iberville Parish faced. There was a lot of wind damaged causing trees to fall on power lines. He stated False River residents were without power for a week or longer. The drinking water utility well generators were running out of fuel but that problem was addressed quickly. The primary problem was and still is flooding.

He stated that the back flow happening in Iberville Parish may be contributing to some of the problems that are going on upstream at Bayou Grosse Tete and Portage Canal Network where there is still flooding in some of the wooded areas now going on a month.

J.A. stated there were not any fish kills on False River that he was aware of. There may have been some on some of the bayous. He stated the water level was dropped down in the river in anticipation of Gustav.

St. Charles-Earl Matherne

Earl stated that the parish had no water damage from Gustav, but there was considerable amount of wind damage. There were a little over 2,000 houses damaged, which is about the same amount damaged from Katrina.

There was quite a bit of tree damage in the neighborhoods. There was a barge parked up on the westbank during Gustav.

For Ike, there was more water than from Rita. With Rita, Bayou Gauche received 2.8' of water above normal, with Ike, 3.2' of water above normal was recorded.

St. Mary-Mayor Tim Motte, Morgan City

Mayor Motte stated that Morgan City did not have any flooding from Gustav, like most of the other Parishes. He stated the biggest challenge was losing power and water.

With Hurricane Ike, the Atchafalaya River reached about 7'-7'4". Also, chloride levels jumped in the river and that became a challenge but that issue was addressed quickly.

Terrebonne-Al Levron

Al stated that Terrebonne Parish was pretty much shut down for a period of 14 days. He stated the Louisiana National Guard did a tremendous job with the resources they provided.

He stated Gustav was basically a wind event. All major utilities were knocked down. Trees knocked out the water plant and sewer systems could not run because there was no power.

There was no loss of life. Evacuation was tremendous. There was an issue with re-entry but until the

Parish felt it was safe for its residence to return, they did not allow anyone to return to their residence.

A Unified Command System was put in place. Hurricane Ike impacted the parish in a worse way because of flooding. Al then gave information on flood impacts in Lower Terrebonne.

G. Update on Oil & Gas Industry- Ed Landgraf, Shell Pipeline

Ed stated the Shell Pipeline did not have any reports of any spills during the storms but there were a few transient spills from other companies. There was major damage on one of their off-shore facilities to the point where there was thought not to even produce oil on that platform any longer. But now that has changed.

The refineries at Convent and Norco are back running at normal capacity. Shell's pipeline system normal capacity is about 800,000/day but right now they are running about 30%.

As far as community response to the storms, Shell gave some donations to the schools down in Lafitte, to the volunteer fire department in Lafitte, made hurricane recovery bags for Lafitte, Montegue, Pointe aux Chene, Erath, Belle City and Lake Charles. Shell also gave donations to Pointe aux Chene Elementary and Bayou Black Elementary.

V. New Business

Kerry informed the MC that BTNEP and NSU are collecting school supplies to give to schools in lower Terrebonne that suffered damages due to the storms. Susan stated that the donation period ends on Friday.

Shelley informed the MC that La Fete d'Ecologie has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 15th.

V. Adjourn