

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

MC Meeting # 48 Minutes

9:30AM-June 2, 2009

Nicholls State University Campus

Plantation Room, Student Union

Thibodaux, LA

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll-Call

Management Conference Members Present:

Herman Waguespack-American Sugar Cane League
Ann Wilson-LA Dept. of Education
Emelise Cormier-LA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Linda Pace-LA Dept. of Natural Resources
Nick Matherne-Lafourche Parish
Dwayne Bourgeois-LA Association of Levee Boards
Tim Allen-Louisiana Landowner's Association
Ed Landgraf-Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Christina Swaye-LA Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Shannon Lafont-Louisiana Science Teacher's Assoc.
Nancy Rabalais-LUMCON
David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center
Albertine Kimble-Plaquemines Parish
Simone Maloz-South Louisiana Economic Council
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Doug Jacobson-US EPA
Andre' Williams-USGS
John Boatman-USDA/NRCS

Organizations not represented:

Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana
Commercial Fisheries
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Iberville Parish
Jefferson Parish
La Dept. of Ag & Forestry
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
LA Dept. of Economic Development
LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
LA Association of Conservation Districts
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Association
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
National Park Service
Pointe Coupee Parish
South Central Planning & Development Commission
St. Charles Parish
The Nature Conservancy
US Army Corp of Engineers
US Coast Guard
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US National Marine Fisheries Service

Guests:

Alex Prochaska-LDEQ
Kelly Phillips-LDEQ
Gary LaFleur-NSU
Murt Conover-LUMCON
Cynthia Dubois-NSU Library

BTNEP Staff:

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

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the March 11, 2009 meeting

David Bourgeois made a motion dispense of the reading of the minutes and to approve them as written; Doug Jacobson seconded the motion. There was no opposition. The minutes were approved.

II. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

Louisiana Library Association
NSTA Teacher Workshop
Davis Pond Tour for NSTA
Fletcher Community College
Paddle Bayou Lafourche
Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration
Holy Rosary Catholic Church/Social Justice
Committee Earth Day Event
Canoe Trip for McMains Children's Development
Center-Tickfaw River
Veggie Fest

NSU Jubilee Events:
Spencer Bohren Concert
Singer of United Lands
Swamp Stomp
Folklife Festival/Blessing of the Fleet
Terrebonne Aquatic Clinic
Envirothon
Labadieville Primary School
LUMCON Wetland Ambassadors
"Down the Bayou" Film Premiere
Leadership Terrebonne

B. Media Interviews

Advocate-Ascension Section (Baton Rouge/Gonzales, LA)

- "Paddling Away", April 2, 2009

Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

- "Meeting still just more talk; no action yet", March 13, 2009
- "Center gives children canoe trip, hope", May 11, 2009

Bayou Journal (Pierre Part, LA)

- "Paddling Bayou Lafourche 2009", April 30, 2009

Daily Comet (Thibodaux, LA)

- *Cheer and Jeer "Doing Their Part"*, March 14, 2009
- *"Expert to Speak at Restore or Retreat"*, March 24, 2009
- *"Let the Good Times 'Row'"*, March 26, 2009
- *"Time, distance get recalibrated on a canoe"*, March 27, 2009
- *"Follow reporter, photographer as they travel bayou"*, March 26, 2009
- *Cheers and Jeers "Join the Trek"*, March 28, 2009
- *"It's Our Backyard: Paddle by paddle, learning to treasure Bayou Lafourche"*, March 28, 2009
- *"Paddle Bayou Lafourche: Four days on the bayou end Sunday in Lockport"*, March 30, 2009
- *"Birders flock to Grand Isle for annual bird festival"*, April 16, 2009
- *"Growing festival to celebrate boat blessing with music, food, art"*-April 20, 2009
- *"Wetlands loss forces floodgates to close more often"*, May 4, 2009
- *"Blue crawfish escapes fate of ordinary comrades"*, May 4, 2009
- *"Rising water is higher than ever"* editorial, May 6, 2009
- *"State to exterminate invasive tilapia fish"*-May 9, 2009

Donaldsonville Chief (Donaldsonville, LA)

- *"Swamp Stomp Festival to feature regional bands"*, March 12, 2009
- *"Coastal Roots is growing!"*, May 7, 2009

Houma Courier (Houma, LA)

- *"Want to paddle Bayou Lafourche?"*, March 13, 2009
- *Cheer and Jeer "Doing Their Part"*, March 14, 2009
- *"Say oil and gas and be proud of it"*, editorial, March 15, 2009
- *"Let the Good Times 'Row'"*, March 20, 2009
- *"Follow reporter, photographer as they travel bayou"*, March 26, 2009
- *"Time, distance get recalibrated on a canoe"*, March 27, 2009
- *"It's Our Backyard: Paddle by paddle, learning to treasure Bayou Lafourche"*, March 28, 2009
- *Cheers and Jeers "Join the Trek"*, March 28, 2009
- *"Bayouside locals share hospitality with paddlers"*, March 29, 2009
- *"Paddle Bayou Lafourche: Four days on the bayou end Sunday in Lockport"*, March 30, 2009
- *"It's not all fun and games on Bayou Lafourche"*, March 30, 2009
- *"An Outsider from the Inside: Work by Chauvin artist bears a loud 'Silent Witness'"*, May 3, 2009
- *"Blue crawfish escapes fate of ordinary comrades"*, May 4, 2009
- *"Wetlands loss forces floodgates to close more often"*, May 4, 2009
- *"Rising water is higher than ever"* editorial, May 6, 2009

Lafourche Gazette (Larose, LA)

- *"Coastal Roots program spreads to other states"*, March 15, 2009

Tri-Parish Times (Houma, LA)

- *"Discover Bayou Lafourche"*, March 25, 2009
- *"Christmas Trees Get New Life"*, March 25, 2009

C. Meetings

Davis Pond Advisory Committee	Migratory Action Plan Team
NSU Jubilee "Swamp Stomp" Tent Planning Mtg.	Invasive Task Force
Invasive Action Plan Team	ORRAP
EE Commission/Symposium Planning Mtg.	LDWF Terrebonne Aquatic Clinic Planning Mtg.
EE Commission Grant Review	LSU Ag Center Meeting
Lafourche CZM	Wetlands International Luncheon (Shell)
LDWF-tilapia issue	Quarterly EE Commission Mtg.
Coalition to Restore Coastal LA Stewardship Wally Awards	Faucheux-Claude & Dumaine Campaign
Dr. Julia Cherry "Climate Change" @ LUMCON	House Commission on Natural Resources and Env.
Legislation Day for Coastal Groups	DEQ Water Education Day
Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet	America's Energy Coast

Michael Massimi gave the MC an update on the current Tilapia incident. He stated that recently these fish have been found in a drainage canal down near Port Sulphur, however, it is not the same species that was permitted for aquaculture. LDWF had built a frame around where they think the population is and there is the opportunity for eradication. The area is about 7 miles of a back levee drainage canal. BTNEP has been asked to assist in the post treatment monitoring process.

Kerry then announced that Richard DeMay was a recipient of the CRCL's Stewardship Awards.

D. Projects Initiated

1. "Production of the Paddle Bayou Lafourche Paddling Triip 2009"-Shelley Sparks
2. "Gardens that Grow Diversity on the Gulf" –Shelley Sparks
3. "Continued Technical and Logistical Support for Strengthening the Gulf of Mexico Alliance: Enhancing Local Capacity To Reach Underserved and Underrepresented Populations" –Shelley Sparks
4. "Claude and Dumaine Pilot TV Commercial and 6 Radio Ads"-Susan Testroet-Bergeron
5. Time Extension Amendment to "Zebra Mussel Survey of Bayou Lafourche-Michael Massimi
6. Time Extension Amendment to " Invasive Species Rapid Assessment and Symposium"-Micheal Massimi
7. " Development of a Colonial-Nesting Seabird Atlas for Coastal Louisiana"-R. Demay
8. "Breeding Biology Study of Wilson's Plovers in Coastal Louisiana-Year 4"-R. Demay

Shelley announced that beginning tomorrow, June 3rd, until June 6th, the GOMA Diversity Summit will be held at NSU.

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2009

IV. Action Items

A. FY2010 Workplan

This draft workplan for fiscal year 2010(October 1, 2009- September 30, 2010), will be submitted to EPA in June. The workplan describes a budget request to EPA for executing 22 contractual projects and several administrative type budgets.

Kerry stated that this year each NEP will receive \$600,000 as a result of the ANEP and the educational efforts the NEP staff members towards their legislative delegation. He explained that the federal funds have gone up over the years, but the state portion, particularly this year, with a projected 15% cut, have gone down. Kerry stated the BTNEP staff is worried about making its match.

Nancy Rabalais, Executive Director of LUMCON, stated that she did meet before the Senate Finance Committee and explained all this too them and what would happen to BTNEP if the State did not meet the federal match.

Kerry stated that because BTNEP's state budget will have a possible 15% cut, which is used to administer the BTNEP program office, a portion of the federal funds BTNEP receives from EPA will have to be used to make up those cut from the State budget; therefore, leaving less money to be used for projects.

Staff members gave brief descriptions of each of the following proposed projects for fiscal year 2010 (October 1, 2009- September 30, 2010) that will be submitted to EPA in June. MC members were given a copy of all proposed projects. The workplan describes a budget request to EPA for executing 24 contractual projects and several administrative type budgets.

Project Name	Cost
LUMCON Indirect (10%)	\$54,545.45
Rental-Building (Operating Service)	\$7,200.00
Travel Funds	\$30,000.00
BTNEP Personnel Salary	\$110,000.00
BTNEP Personnel Fringe (25%)	\$28,600.00
BTNEP Student Worker Funding	\$12,000.00
Program Information Materials	\$101,704.55
BTNEP Mail/WEB/GIS hosting	\$12,000.00
Revise and Update All BTNEP Web Sites	20,000.00
Website support/BTNEP.ORG	\$16,000.00
La Fete	\$6,000.00
La Fete Promotions	\$10,000.00
La Fete Supplies	\$2,000.00
Paddling Trip	\$6,500.00
Paddling Trip (Supplies)	\$500.00
Layout of the Tidal Graph Calendar	\$5,000.00
BTNEP Invasive Species Mini-Grants	\$10,000.00
Support of Wetland/Cultural Day NSU Jubilee	\$5,000.00
Paddling Trails Brochure & Paddle Launch Kiosk	\$7,500.00
Census Birding Survey Along the LA Coast	\$26,350.00
Along the Bayous and In Our Backyards: Humans and Plants in the Estuary	\$2,000.00
Bayou Lafourche Litter Abatement Campaign	\$8,000.00
Printing and Distribution of the 2011 Bird Calendar	\$20,000.00
2010 From H-2-0: A Water Quality Workshop for Teachers	\$7,500.00
Birding/Nature Trail on Coastal Birding Trail Site	\$20,000.00
Survey and Tracking of Rio Grande Cichlids	\$30,000.00
Colonial Wading Bird Atlas	\$14,000.00
2010 Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Wetlands Camp	\$6,000.00
Louisiana Fishing Trails Brochure	\$5,000.00
2010 Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium	\$5,000.00
Agricultural and Cultural History of South LA	\$9,800.00
Indexing for "Wetlands Weblibliography"	\$1,800.00
TOTAL FUNDS	\$600,000

David Bourgeois made a motion to accept the FY2010 Workplan as drafted; Ann Wilson seconded the motion. There were no questions, there was no discussion nor opposition. The motion carries. Doug Jacobson abstained.

B. Draft Resolution in Support of Continued funding of the CREST Program (5/09)-Doug Daigle, CREST

In the absence of Mr. Daigle, Andrew Barron read the resolution to the MC.

Nancy Rabalais stated that she is the Chairman of the Executive Board of CREST and encouraged and asked the MC to consider and adopt this resolution.

Linda Pace asked if the resolution is asking for continued funding by NOAA. Nancy stated that CREST would continue to receive its funding from NOAA.

Doug Jacobson stated he wholly supported the effort however was concerned about the last paragraph where it states "to convey this support to Louisiana's Congressional delegation". This is asking BTMC and BTNEP to lobby which EPA prohibits.

Gary LaFleur stated that several NSU students have benefitted from this program and therefore he and NSU strongly support this resolution. He also stated he felt that it would be stronger if the eleven universities in CREST's memo of agreement were listed in the resolution. Nancy stated that there are actually 12 institutions involved.

Nancy stated she would like to leave the meeting today with a revised resolution so she could send it to Doug so it could be sent as soon as possible.

Doug Jacobson motioned to accept the resolution with the following changes: 1) listing all 12 universities in the 3rd WHEREAS paragraph; and 2) removing the clause "...and to convey this support to Louisiana's Congressional delegation." David Bourgeois seconded the motion, there were no comments, no opposition.

Kerry asked Sandra if these changes could be made today; then printed on letterhead and scanned and emailed to Nancy. Sandra said it could be done.

V. Discussion Items

A. LDEQ Criminal Investigations Process-Alex Prochaska, LDEQ

Alex began his presentation by discussing the process of how the department was re-organized.

He stated there are now investigators out in the regional offices; in Shreveport, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Lockport, and New Orleans.

He then explained the term designated felon and how the decision is made to open up a criminal case against an industrial corporation.

After all the information is gathered about the case, they refer everything to the District Attorney's office. LDEQ does not do the prosecution itself. Alex does offer his services in assisting with the case as a special prosecutor.

Alex then showed some slides of some specific criminal cases.

Questions were then asked about litter and disposal laws and how this department is involved in them. Alex stated that LDWF handles a lot of that by handing out littering tickets. LDEQ mostly deals with companies that make money off of dumping.

B. Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration Update-Richard DeMay

Richard informed the MC that BTNEP sponsored the 10th Annual Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration. He stated that the Louisiana Ornithological Society also held their annual event on the same weekend on Grand Isle so that helped boost participation.

The walking tours were a huge success; however, once again, the boat tours that were offered, although booked fully well in advance, the weather is too bad that they have to be cancelled.

There were 164 different migrating resident birds sighted this year; an increase from last year's 155.

C. Invasive Species Mini-Grants Update-Michael Massimi

Michael informed the MC that the mini-grants program that will be funded in the FY 2010 Workplan, just approved by the MC, will be the second year that the mini-grants program will be geared towards invasive species.

The current year program was able to fund 5 projects.

- 1) The Audubon Institute's AquaVan will have an invasive species program and will travel further out into the estuary than they normally do to schools and offer this program. They will also be at BTNEP's La Fete d'Ecologie.
- 2) Bio-Remadable: Nutria fashions
- 3) Coastal Roots Program at Pointe Aux Cheine Elementary
- 4) Studio in the Woods-Tulane University Foundation-invasive species removal
- 5) Woodlands Trails and Parks-Katie Braedsted-invasive species removal

D. Paddle Bayou Lafourche Update-Shelley Sparks

Shelley gave the MC an update on the paddle trip that was held in March. She stated this was the 8th annual trip. She stated there were approximately 170 registrants this year over the course of the 4 day trip.

She stated that this trip relies heavily on sponsorship, so she thanked them all for their generosity. She went over the itinerary for each day, giving highlights of the day, including weather obstacles.

There was a lot of media coverage this year. The Houma Courier sent a reporter and a photographer on the 4 day trip to see how fast the news could be gathered and put up on the web. The newspaper, reporter and photographer all received awards for this news series. The award they are most proud of receiving the Best Continuous Coverage of a Single News Event.

The paddle trip of 2010 is scheduled to take place the last Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of March.

E. Viewing of "Down the Bayou" DVD-Shelley Sparks

Shelley stated that this film was a product of a mini-grant that was awarded to Vision Communications, it was produced by Andrew Elliot. Shelley stated that he did a wonderful job at showing the plight of the shrimper's in the industry. Not only through the voices of the shrimpers, but he also backs it all up with science.

She informed the MC that BTNEP hosted a film debute that was a success.

The MC then viewed the film.

VII. Adjourn