

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
 Management Conference Meeting #74 Final Minutes
 Student Union
 Thursday, February 4, 2016 Meeting

Management Conference #74 Meeting Minutes

1. Al Levron welcomed everyone to the 74th Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Management Conference meeting.
2. Management Conference members and guests were asked to introduce themselves by stating their name and affiliation.

Roll call results were as follows:

<i>BTNEP Staff</i>					
X	Alma Robichaux	X	Kristy Monier	X	Richard DeMay
X	Andrew Barron	X	Matt Benoit	X	Seth Moncrief
X	Dean Blanchard	X	Michael Massimi	X	Susan Testroet-Bergeron
X	Delaina LeBlanc	X	Natalie Waters		Steve Mathies, Director Emeritus
X	Emily Clark	X	Nicole Babin	X	Kerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus
<i>Management Conference Member</i>		<i>Member</i>		<i>Alternate</i>	
American Sugarcane League			Flattery McCollum		Herman Waguespack John Constant
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District			Hugh Caffery	X	Benjamin Malbrough
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana			Kimberly Reyher		Hilary Collis Morgan Crutcher
Coastal Conservation Association of LA			John Walther		
Coastal Protection Restoration Authority			Chip Kline	X	Kyle Graham Elizabeth Shoenfelt Robert Routon Natalie Peyronnin Karim Belhadjali Darin Lee Kenneth Bahlinger Bren Haase Carol Parsons Richard Joseph "Wes" LeBlanc Brad Miller Honora Buras Jason Landor
Commercial Fisheries			John Tesvich		Peter Vujnovicch Clint Guidry
Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission			Chett Chaisson	X	Davie Breaux Joni Tuck
Iberville Parish			John Clark		
Jefferson Parish			Marnie Winter	X	Jason Smith Seamus Riley

				Matt Sevier
LA Association of Conservation District		Ruben Dauzat		Brad Spicer Jerome Cantrelle
LA Association of Levee Boards	X	Dwayne Bourgeois		
LA Department of Ag & Forestry		Joey Breaux		Carrie Castille Caitlin Lambert Faran Dietz
LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism		Debra Credeur		Karen Leathem Linda Smith
LA Dept. of Economic Development		Paul Sawyer		Anne Perry
LA Department of Education	X	Ann Wilson		Jill Cowart Paul Johnson
LA Department of Environmental Quality		Christy Rogers		Gregory Waldron Mary Gentry
Management Conference Member		Member		Alternate
LA Department of Health and Hospitals	X	Chasity Cheramie		
LA Department of Natural Resources	X	Charles Reulet	X	Don Haydel Sarah Krupa Robert Williamson Tori O'Malley
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	X	Marty Bourgeois		Brady Carter
LA Forestry Association				
LA Independent Oil & Gas Association		Randy Robichaux		
LA Landowners Association		Tim Allen	X	Randy Moertle
LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association		Mike Lyons		Ed Landgraf
LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office		Brian Wynne		David Gisclair Karolien Debusschere
LA Science Teachers Association		Shannon Lafont	X	Tera LaPrarie Nathan Cotten Jean May-Brett Natalie Lirette
LA Wildlife Federation		B.J. Barney Callahan		Rebecca Triche Eden Davis
Lafourche Parish		Archie Chaisson, III	X	Charlotte Randolph Amanda Voisin
LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant		Rex Caffey	X	Alan Matherne Julie Falgout Dianne Lindstedt Emily Maung-Douglass Don Davis
LUMCON		Nancy Rabalais	X	John Conover Murt Conover
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	X	Rick Hartman		Lisa Abernathy
Nicholls State University	X	Dr. Bruce Murphy Jeanne Murphy Gary LaFleur		Quenton Fontenot Zack Darnell Keri Turner
Plaquemines Parish		Vincent Frelich		Albertine Kimble Krista Clark

Point Coupee Parish		J.A. Rummeler		
Sassafras LA		Alex Naquin		
South Central Planning and Development Commission		Kevin Belanger Martha Cazaubon		Cullen Curole Simonne Caesar
South Louisiana Economic Council		Vic Lafont	X X	Simone Maloz John Lombardo
South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center	X	Jonathan Foret	X	Angelle Percele
St. Charles Parish		Earl Matherne		Kim Marousek
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government	X	Al Levron		James Miller
The Nature Conservancy		Jean Landry		Nicole Love Karen Gautreaux
U.S. National Park Service	X	Angela Rathle		Allyn Rodriguez
US Coast Guard		Charles Reed		Brian Black
US Corps of Engineers	X	Susan Hennington	X	Barbara Kleiss Mark Wingate Cheri Price Sarah Bradley
US Environmental Protection Agency		Doug Jacobson		
Management Conference Member		Member		Alternate
US Fish & Wildlife Service		Ronnie Paille		Bill Vermillion Jeff Weller Brad Rieck
USDA/NRCS		Quin Kinler	X	John Boatman Ryan Johnson Alton James Andrea Moore Harris Arnelis Crespo Russell Richard Scott Edwards
USGS	X	Scott Wilson	X X	Phil Turnipseed Kate Spear Kelia Bingham Nikki Cavalier Melissa Collin Cole Ruckstuhl
Guest Organization		Guest		
Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation	X	Earl Melancon	X	Michele Beary Nolan Falgout, III Paula Rome
Bayou Country Children's Museum		Kristy Naquin		
Bayou Grace		Mary Gueniot Biegler	X	Jenny Dupre
Bayou Land RC & D		Dr. Colleen Butler Jennifer Roberts Siva Nunna		
Daily Comet		Lex Wilson		
Ducks Unlimited		Leslie Suazo		

		Joe Fifer		
Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw	X	Chief Albert P. Naquin		
Louisiana Appleseed	X	Kristina Peterson		
Nicholls State University		Alex Arceneaux	X	Jenny Schexnayder Keri Turner
Office of Congressman Garret Graves		Stacy Schlieve		
RESTORE	X	Justin Ehrenwerth		
Royal Engineering		Shelley Sparks Kirk Rhinehart		
Ryan Productions		Andre' Lyons		
Shell Oil Company	X	Andy Wellbaum		
Spahr's Seafood Restaurant		Donald Spahr		
UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology)	X	Kristina Peterson	X	Melanie Sand Katherine Norwood Bennett Alldredge
UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory (Guest Speaker)		Martin O'Connell		
University of Arizona		Jonathan Hird		
Moffatt & Nichol	X	Dottie Hartman		
Crab Trap Removal	X	Jeff Marks		
LAMOGA	X	Melissa Cloutet		
CRIA	X	Chris Adams		
Clovelly	X	Randy Moertle		
ALBL	X	Dwayne Bourgeois		
Lowlanders	X	Kristina Peterson		
	X	Siva Nunna		

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Al Levron and second by Kerry St. Pe for the reading of the November 5, 2015 minutes and to accept them as submitted. Motion carried.

2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Personnel Changes – Emily Clark is the New Coastal Bird Coordinator

B. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips/Volunteer Events
Updates on Program Activities were given as follows:

Dean Blanchard- At the end of the month we are going to our annual EPA/NEP meeting in Washington D.C. While there they discuss guidance and yearly work plans guidance and performance evaluation. The evaluation is done by EPA every 3-5 years. We are going to discuss guidance on our CCMP revision. We are meeting with our representatives and senators to inform them about our 2017 funding. We are also informing them that reauthorization bill to reauthorize the NEPs at the \$600,000 is still in play.

Al Levron: You mentioned the Federal funding, what about the status of State funding?

Susan: That is one of the things I am going to talk about. At this point our State funding has not changed. I talked with Nancy Rablais. LUMCON is our executive branch they manage our finances. At this point we are still scheduled to receive what we normally receive for 2016. The fiscal session has not started and I have talked with Jerome Zeringue a little bit about we can better find ourselves in the executive budget, not just in HB1 so that with that change in administration coming at LUMCON we might have some changes. What I think is probably going to happen in a very near future, I am going to be emailing out a Management Conference email saying what is going on with the State funding as we find out and let you know how to find out if you are interested.

Dean: We currently, the last several years, got \$600,000 from the Feds. It requires a 50% match. Our State funds don't even match that. That will be one of the things Susan is trying to do, is get at least a 50% match.

Richard DeMay: Several years back we gave you a series of presentations, those presentations focused on partnerships we were building with America Bird Conservancy with the focus of restoring small rookery islands in the Barataria Basin for colonial wading birds. Through that partnership we worked with a number of organizations, Shell Oil Company being one, where we partner with them and receive donations from these organizations. Shell was the biggest donor at \$1 million dollars. That money to date has not been spent. That project right now is being looked at and evaluated by CPRA to be funded under NRDA. We had meetings with some CPRA officials months ago, it was their suggestion to us that we look to repurpose the money we had raised along with America Bird Conservancy to other projects. They were thinking they were going to spend 100% of their NRDA funds on the restoration of these rookery islands at some point. That is still being evaluated, as a result of that we met with Shell Oil Company at least once we are going to meet with them in the coming months it shouldn't be too long from now. We've had a number of conversations with them, we are looking to repurpose that money toward other projects. The focus on implementing the CCMP.

Delaina LeBlanc: A few years ago we started a blue bird trail in New Roads. Pattie Holland who is now retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service has taken over that project. She is going to be building some new houses and working with some local scout troops to evaluate and monitor those houses. I also wanted to report results from the Christmas bird count. We were very successful, we had a count over 12 thousand birds counted that day and 115 species. The bird count has not been done in 10 years, but the high count over the years that it has been done is under 15. So I imagine if we had more individuals that participate we could cover more ground, so we expect we can have high numbers in the future.

Natalie Waters: One of our new projects that we are kicking off this spring is the Bayou Warbler Survey and Monitoring Project. We are going to be building several nest boxes for the species. It is actually a species that is in decline. We are going to be partnering with the Boy Scouts to build the nest boxes and one of the places we want to put them behind the Nicholls Visitor Center. We purchased the new saw and drill press to do that. We also wanted to thank Robichaux Lumber for donating the wood for the nest boxes. I also wanted to remind everyone, the Eagle Expo is at end of this month. The Migratory Bird Celebration is April 15-17 in Grand Isle.

Alma Robichaux: Yesterday, Seth and I took a group of the Marine Debris Prevention Program students from Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish up on top the Veterans Memorial Bridge to lower a GPS tracker into the Mississippi River to see if we could track the course of marine debris. The rope broke and now the GPS tracker is now in the bottom of the Mississippi. We are going to do some engineer changing and get another GPS tracker. The kids loved it, it will be great once we get it going. Bayou Lafourche Clean Up is coming up. Ben Malbrough with Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District and myself are planning that. We have our site captains in place, everything ready to go. Just getting the logistics worked out. It is going to be March 12, 2016. In addition to the Bayou Lafourche Clean Up this year Jonathan Foret with the Wetlands Discovery Center is going to be doing the Bayou Terrebonne Clean Up. We're going to have a 'Battle of the Bayou' where nobody wants to win because

nobody wants to pick up the most trash. Jonathan had a great turn out at his first meeting planning. People just want to clean it up. We get about 1,000 volunteers. Terrebonne comes first so we will see who comes out for that. Third thing, Wetlands Youth Summit is March 5, 2016. We're going to do global warming change, sea level rise, that sort of thing. Just giving the information to the kids and empowering the kids to make their decisions on whether it's true or false, so we are going to do a very informative this is fact this is what we know. We are looking for local people who have expertise on this. If anyone knows of anyone who's been studying and has good data and would be willing to come and present for the kids let us know. It's going to be at Nicholls stadium this year, which is fun. We had it at Nicholls building in Houma in the past. This year it will be at the stadium. It ought to be a great event for the kids to come and get the information that they so crave, so they can make their decisions.

Susan: Thank you. Andrew?

Andrew Barron: I think most of you have received the new tidal graph calendar. This year the subject was the secret lives of estuary fishes. Early on, we got some help from fish experts to help out with this calendar and to choose the different species that you see in there. We also had a couple of local artists who did the illustrations in here. Each of the articles for each month, the main illustration was done by Stephanie Donaldson with the Purple Penguin Art Company that's here in Thibodaux. We commissioned her to do the fish illustrations with the fisheries ID book that Seth is doing now. She did those a while back, and I saw them and thought they would be great to use. We had another local artist, Ms. Ruth Rebstock who did the illustrations for the articles that have the blue crab, the brown shrimp, and the oyster. She died this year as we were finishing up the calendar. She had severe complications of Parkinson's disease, but it was a group effort and we're proud of the talent there. If you haven't gotten any or enough, please pick them up. We have boxes of them left in the Suburban parked out front. Thank you.

Susan: I have one other thing to say about publications. We were contacted by a young woman named Rua Necaese, she's actually from Thibodaux. She's from the Sustainable World Council. We were picked, 25 organizations from all over the U.S. to share the book. They picked the National Estuary Program here in Louisiana because they saw so much of the work that we've been doing with a consensus approach. They're on the front table when you came in, so be sure to pick one up as you go out. One of the things that y'all don't always notice at meetings, if you look on page 6 of the agenda it talks about our EPA status report. I'm going to ask Michael to talk about one of the reports that's EPA funded today.

Michael Massimi: So we have one EPA project, the Barataria-Terrebonne Paddle Guide. It's one we're pretty excited about. Zero impact and recreational activities could be promoted more, so that the whole idea behind the Paddle Guide. The whole idea is to go through the Barataria-Terrebonne region and identify 8-10 great paddle routes in the style of the Sierra Club Paddle Guide. The contractor is a very experienced paddler, but he's also an accomplished author and illustrator. We're really happy to be working with this guy out of New Orleans, Ritchie Kay. We've identified 36 possible sites and launches that may or may not yield 8-10 great routes. I'm sure we'll find some great stuff to put in the guide.

Susan: The last person that's going to share with us today is Kristy. You want to tell them a little about what's been going on in the PR world?

Kristy Monier: We had our "State of the Estuary" breakfast in December, and we had over 100 in attendance, which is great. John Snell from Fox 8 was our speaker, and I think he did a wonderful job. We're looking to do it again in December. We don't have a speaker yet or a date, but we'll keep y'all posted. Paddle Bayou Lafourche is March 31st- April 3rd. It's going to be our 15th annual if anyone wants to come and paddle. We have two paddlers

this year if they show up that they'll have paddled at 15 years. Then we have some 14 and 13 year paddlers also. Today at 10:30 we're going to be aired on "Flip My Food." We talked about it before that we were doing it back in October, and it's on channel 8. I won't show y'all all of it. I'm going to attempt to tease y'all with some of it. They usually don't show these clips before the show airs, but they gave me the go ahead. You can go online and find the clips of the show on flipmyfood.com. Alma cooked shrimp, Michael had redfish, and Susan had sheephead. I won't ruin too much of it, but I'm going to let y'all see some clips.

..... "Flip My Food" plays.....

Kristy: So if y'all want to see the cooking parts of it. It should hopefully be up online. You have to look them up by the recipes. They said it was one of the best shows that they've done. Hope y'all enjoyed it and get to see it all.

Susan: Also, the reason Kristy did this that she didn't mention is because this is syndicated across the whole U.S. It highlights the estuary not just with our local residents, but throughout the whole U.S.

Kristy: It's aired on 61 networks throughout the country and up to 21 million households.

Susan: They contacted Kristy and had heard about us.

Kristy: Fox 8 will do the local sales and find the people. I think John Snell had something to do with it. They know us at Fox 8.

Guest: Can this be linked to the BTNEP page?

Kristy: I think the segments can, but I need to double check. I think we have the right so the segments.

Susan: Alright, that's all on our reporting. Does anyone have any questions about our activities for the last few months? We're on page 7.

- C. Media Interviews -All media events were listed in the agenda.
- D. Meetings - All program meetings were listed in the agenda.
- E. Projects Status -All projects initiated and completed were listed on the agenda.

3. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATE

- Reminders – May 5, 2016 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union
- August 4, 2016 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union
- November 3, 2016 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

3. OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING BTNEP DATES

- Grand Isle Arbor Day Tree Giveaway- February 12 - 13, 2016
- Derelict Crab Trap Removal February 20, 2016
- LA Environmental Education Symposium – February 19-20, 2016
- Eagle Expo -February 25-27, 2016
- Wetlands Youth Summit – March 5, 2016
- Bayou Lafourche Cleanup/Terrebonne Parish Bayou Cleanup –Saturday, March 12, 2016
- Lafourche Parish Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – March 12, 2016
- City of Thibodaux Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – March 13, 2016

Leeville Arts and Heritage Festival – March 19, 2016

Challenges in Natural Resource Economics and Policy (CNREP) – March 20 to 23, 2016

Paddle Bayou Lafourche – March 31 to April 3, 2016

Grand Isle Migratory Bird Festival and Black Bear Festival – April 15 to 17, 2016

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) 2017 Annual Plan – Jason Lanclos, CPRA (30 minutes)

Thanks for having me. There are several folks in the room that have been to the other Annual Plan presentations. We've been going all around the last couple of weeks doing the public meetings and outreach. This is the 8th annual plan that CPRA has presented. I won't bore you with the tables. A lot of times when we're doing the plan we have to get a lot of the financial numbers out. Today, I'd like to talk about some of our projects that we're working on in this area and some things we are working on related to the oil spill.

With that, I'd like to welcome you to the timeline. Right now, we've been through 3 public meetings. We've done Lake Charles, New Orleans, and Houma-Thibodaux. We are currently in the period for the fiscal year 2017 plan. That means draft copies are available for everyone to take a look at. Comment on projects with a formal submittal process. The big push for us is to make sure all those comments are incorporated, and then presented to the legislature within the next couple of weeks. We are looking at the comments and making sure we incorporate them so we can get that final draft out. Right now, we are looking at that March deadline. The deadline to get those comments is in the next two weeks, please let us know. I wanted to just walk through what is in the annual plan for fiscal year 2017. There are some important points and I'm just going to hit some highlights.

Over the last several years if you've seen our Annual Plan you noticed a lot of big funding streams that we talked about, the CIAP program, the CWPPRA program, a lot of these State Surplus dollars that we got in '07, '08, and '09 those were the bulk of our funding streams that we were doing the majority of our project. With that we have a few of those projects that are coming to a close this year. You won't see a ton of those projects and programs listed in this year's annual plan and the reason for that is that CIAP comes to a close at the end of this year. We are really pushing very hard to make sure that CIAP projects are in a parish level or state funded or moving and will get done by the end of 2017. We have a lot of grants that we are either revising or getting in place to make sure that happens. We are pushing on our project management division to make sure they are communicating and the parishes are aware that. We have not heard anything about that program being renewed. Trying really hard to get CIAP done.

Transitioning to new funding streams what that means, the bulk of the fiscal year 2017 plan is related to oil spill funding. I'm going to talk about how we're using those oil spill funds from a projection level. We have an idea of what those funds are. It is a finite amount. A lot of folks ask, we read about the settlement, the settlements not really finalized. There is still a lot of work to do. I was talking with some people from the oil spill getting to the next phase which is getting the settlement finalized so the states understand exactly what funds they have and can start backing out a lot of plans they've already done and associate with.

Since, 2007 we've had approximately 76 projects under construction for a total approximately \$3 billion that includes the New Orleans hurricane protection system. That is 22 projects for a grand total of about \$780 million. A lot of the dollars here are associated with engineer design. For oil spill funds you won't see anything tagged specific to construction yet just because there are still some unknowns with when funds will come in and with what frequency. Based on the federal dollars associated with Restore, NRDA and some of these other federal funding streams from the oil spill, the projects all have to go through the full NEPA process. We are trying to make sure we have all the grants and people in place to understand how to best match projects with those programs. It is not like some of our previous funding streams where you get money upfront you can go out, do the engineering design, planning, construction without having to do a detailed grant approval process.

This time next year, one of the most exciting things for us is that our 2017 Master Plan will be out for review. Hopefully, next year you will be looking at draft of the Master Plan. We are currently knee deep in the modeling. You will see in the fiscal year and this year that there are a lot of funds associated with that Master Plan that's related specifically to getting those models updated to understand which projects are best suited for how we are going to move forward. There is a lot of modeling go on. I've had several meetings with the team in the last several weeks. They are finalizing how the selections are being done and the prioritizing. Again, the modeling is ongoing and we expect to start seeing some projects soon. We will have a lot of public meetings that are coming up that are related to the Master Plan. Please be involved with it and make your voice heard on those.

A couple quick notes on the Deep Water Horizon settlement. The numbers are starting to not change as much. A year ago you saw a lot of variability in those numbers. Different states were lobbying for funds, we have to remember that Louisiana is only guaranteed a finite level amount. Once the settlement gets finalized, we will know more in totality what that is. But we are competing for funds in a sense, through some of these programs. It is not just all allocated for us. There are five other states that are trustees, they all have projects and programs they are competing as well. Again, we are guaranteed some funds, the settlement allocates approximately \$6.8 billion to Louisiana, but that's promised in October. The \$5 billion is specifically related for natural resource damages. We have \$787 million minimum in Clean Water Act civil penalties and approximately \$1 billion in state economic losses.

In anticipation of receiving the oil spill dollars, CPRA began public discussions related to this process in 2013. We're continuing these discussions and we understand that there has been a tremendous amount of planning that has occurred in the last several years. Once the oil spill funds started to come out and we had an idea of what they may be, we starting putting projects in areas and started allocating how many projects do we have in certain basins, how is that going to match up with funds and try to look at what is going to happen with these grant processes to get that in place.

Another thing I wanted to mention was our diversion recommendations. We had a board meeting in October where the mid-Barataria diversion and the mid-Breton diversion where basically approved for moving forward with engineering design. You'll see that in our annual plan as well. That is another tremendous emphasis for us, not only is the Master Plan going on, but we just formulated a program management plan team to get in and understand all the big decisions pushed forward with construction decisions on the two diversions. The program management started, we anticipate a very aggressive schedule that is going to be occurring in the next year to get us the most available data to look at evaluating those projects. We have a lot of data already for mid-Barataria, mid-Breton and hopefully we'll catch up in the next 6-8 months, we do have project teams associated that are working on that project as well. Those two big projects are taking a lot of our resources internally to get going. The formal request for funds for additional funds for engineering design is included in this year's annual plan. We anticipate engineering design work to take place over the next year to two years if not longer in which we will further refine our analysis and develop and operation regime.

I do want to highlight a couple of things we are focusing on. There is a tremendous focus on resilience this year, non-structural programs, looking at matching projects from an ecosystem stand point because of all the oil spill funds. We want to make sure that prioritization tool that was developed in 2012 is further refined in 2017. What you have right now is a large suite of projects that is currently under evaluation in the modeling process. We are going to understand a whole lot more in the next several months as to which projects shake out and the prioritization tool has worked to screen those projects. We have taken the project list from a very large pool and we're refining it down to a smaller one. We are hoping in the next several months to actually be getting some more project specific stuff out to the public, but to discuss and look at it from a basic stand point. In terms of goals we know the coastal restoration projection goals ultimately intend to support the people who live and work in coastal Louisiana and the 2017 plan focuses on communities. You'll see a more detailed section on socioeconomic impacts in terms of what these projects are going to do to these

communities making sure these communities are involved and have a voice in those projects and programs. CPRA is also incorporating new ideas in information; the Master Plan considers an array of new projects not modeled in 2012. These new project ideas were submitted from across the coast by state voters and members of the public. Additionally, we see significant advancement in approving the models based on the best available sites.

The 2012 plan, we are very proud of, was founded on state of the art science and analysis. In the 2017 plan efforts we plan to build on those analyses. The modeling process changes and it provides us a deeper understand of our coastal environment and we anticipate using those refinements to again make a better selection of projects and understand our program. A lot the meetings we did, the public meetings we went through a lot of the numbers and tables. Once you get the draft plan either electronically or from us you will see that these numbers, they resonant. The expenditures and the revenues for fiscal year 2017 are approximately \$687 million. The best snap shot for us to be able to provide what that covers is here. (Shows slide)

One of the things I've always been proud of is that a lot of those funds that we have for our annual plan are in construction. That's always been something we've prided ourselves on in terms of trying to get the majority of the projects we have through planning, through engineering design and into construction as quickly as possible. You'll see about 60% of those funds in construction, we also have a large portion in planning as well. Engineering design that number has grown from previous years. Over the last several years we had a lot of projects in the planning phase. The reason this year that E&D piece has grown is that a lot of those projects are finished with the planning phase and moving into engineering and design you'll see the funding associated with those that reflects that. The operations, maintenance, and monitoring cost is loss an increase because we had more projects under construction.

From there the projects set for construction and I do apologize please I want y'all to visit the website. I'll use this as an opportunity; I know you've heard us talk about some of the tools we are developing to look at these projects. One of the things I think is easy to for the public is our CIMS program. What that is CIMS, if you go to coastal.la.gov it is the Coastal Information Management System. What that does for you is it gives you a GIS platform to do queries based on what projects we have under construction, which projects we have coming up for construction, it has protection projects, it has current projects and I think it goes back to 2007 with historical project. You can pull data, we are on very aggressive mission to update and make sure that database stays updated with the latest information. You'll get information on budgets for projects with their current phases and again you can search it or sort it by database or basin. If you're interested in one area you can query it, but I'd encourage you to play around with the system. I think it's a very powerful tool for us. We are in the process of developing a system like that for levees as well. The protection side of the business for us is a very big business for us. The databases associated with that are a lot harder to populate. Trying to get the alignments from the local levee districts, the core of engineers, the state level data, etc. has been very extensive, but I'm hoping that we have a pilot version out in the next 6 months. We are working on it internally. I've seen a few drafts of it, and it looks very good. That will couple with the CIMS viewer with project information and it will incorporate the protection information.

With that, I wanted to talk about just some of the projects that we have going on in this area. I know this is one you hear a lot about, the Caillou Lake headland or Whiskey Island project. That project is a barrier island headland project. Estimated cost is about \$110 million dollars, land benefitted about 933 acres. That's funded by NRDA and this project aims to restore the whiskey island, barrier island. It creates about 170 acres of marsh habitat and about 917 acres of beach and dune habitat. It's a great project that's over \$100 million dollars. We've done a lot of projects through other programs that have a closer source of sediment to the barrier islands. Right now, we're running to an area where we've done a lot of those barrier islands, but we have a lot of difficulties now. The soils are softer or the sediment source is located farther away, but it's still something that we're actively pursuing. Another large project that we are moving forward with in this area is HNC Lock project. That is being led by the Terrebonne levee district. It's a \$357 million dollar project. I know you've heard different numbers for that again this is an estimate. You'll see in our annual plan that it is

included. They're currently working on it and we've had several meetings related to it that they are looking at developing a lot of the END scope right now to understand how this project is going to be best suited for this area.

The Caminada Headland Increment two, one of the largest barrier island projects we've ever done, almost \$150 million dollars. It benefits close to 500 acres. This was funded by NFWF. It's a phenomenal project. Port Fourchon is right in that area. We were very fortunate to have NFWF funds and a contractor. If you haven't been out there it's certainly a fantastic trip. If you've ever had a chance to fly it or use Google Earth to look at it, our barrier island chain is something that is very impressive right now. We hope it continues that way.

The NRDA Shell Island West Project is one of the NRDA early restoration projects. This one is about \$101 million dollars. Years ago, \$100 million barrier island project was unheard of. Our operating budget was in the \$60-80 million dollar range when we first started. The bulk of those funds were CWPPRA, which is still a fantastic program that we still use. I'm going to mention some CWPPRA projects that just got approved, but right now we are transitioning to not only doing that program, but doing other programs. Also, the Bayou Dupont long distance sediment project, you've heard a lot about this project. It's had a couple of different funding sources, both CWPPRA and the CIAP program, \$66 million and \$38 million have been contributed by those two funds. This aims to create about 415 acres of marsh and 20 acres of ridge. That's currently still under construction, but that's another great project that if you have a chance to visit please do. Again, I wanted to mention that CWPPRA projects. This is the email address if you want to submit comments. CWPPRA new phase one projects, one demo and two new phase one projects. I know they just had another meeting. Those projects in relation to our annual plan, since that meeting had not occurred, a drafting plan, there will be included in the final. We had a placeholder for it until that committee met and approved it. I'll mention them very quickly. For phase one, the French marsh creation, the Barataria bay marsh creation, oyster lake marsh creation and nourishment, Caillou isle headlands back area marsh creation East Leeville, there is also demo project and then the phase twos were Rockefeller, Cole's Bayou, and Hydro and planting of the swamp. Again, these will be included in the fiscal year 2017 plan, but in the draft we just had to have it placed order since they weren't officially voted in. Again, I've got tables back here that I'm not going to go through, but I just wanted to run through. I'd like to take any questions. Thank you.

Gary Lafleur: Why would you call a project Caillou Island headland instead of Whiskey?

Jason Lanclos: I don't know all of the history behind the name change. The original project was a Whiskey Island project, as it's gone through planning and design the name changed to Caillou Island Headlands.

Darian Lee: To be frank, Gary, I think it was to avoid confusion with old projects and other funding sources that were called Whiskey Island restoration, so they just said this is part of the Caillou Headland and we're going for NFWF funding.

Gary Lafleur: Where's the sediment coming from?

Darian Lee: Ship shoal

Jason Lanclos: 9 million cubic yards of sand and about 1.2 million cubic yards of sand also from ship shoal. Build the whole thing, dune marsh, out of ship shoal.

MC Member: Also intending to get some LCA funding on that project?

Jason Lanclos: Potentially.

MC Member: An observation, Jason mentioned that the two mid diversions are moving forward.

What's not mentioned are the two lower diversions. The Mississippi River hydro study was looking at two mids as well as two lowers. The two lowers have basically been dropped out of every study for a number of reasons. As we move forward, the diversions that are currently on the table are just the two mids.

Susan: That brings me to a question. We don't meet very often at the Management Conference, 4 times a year, so when we're going to make comments about this we want to get the comments from the Management Conference. Do you guys want to have a discussion about this or send comments? That's part of why you're here, so we can discuss this as a group.

MC Member: This is a complicated matter. The modeling of fisheries and the estuary can be very complicated. It would be nice if there was a way to break it down into something we could discuss or ask questions about.

Susan: Okay, so we'll see if we need to take a stab at preparing some general comments. Jason, I really appreciate the way you made the presentation today. That was really nice and I appreciate it.

Jason: Otherwise, it's just overwhelming with numbers, but unfortunately we have to get all the programmatic numbers out there about which ones we're funding etc. Those are tough for me as well.

Michael Massimi: How much is in engineering and design for the two diversions?

Jason: For the two diversions, I think it's.. I'm not sure. Let me look and shoot you an email.

Michael: Is it broken down by diversion?

Jason: Yes, I don't have those exact numbers in my head.

MC Member: Jason, we should say again if you see these numbers and compare them possibly to previous END efforts, pay attention to what Jason has said. Because of these different funding sources and how they operate now CWPPRA may just need an EA because it has a programmatic EIS as a program, but these might require full EIS, full environmental, so you may see what is now incorporated in END expand simply because now your different funding sources have different processes required.

- b. Derelict Crab Trap Removal – Barataria Bay – Jeff Marx, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (10 minutes)

My name is Jeff Marx and I work for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. I'm the Fisheries, Crustacean Manager. I took over from this gentleman sitting to my left since April. It's been a learning experience thus far. I'm going to be the fish man today for the derelict crab trap removal. Basically, the blue crab fishery counts for a lot of the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana accounts for 62% of the whole Gulf. Generally from year to year it ranges, but it is from 30 million pounds to 50 million pounds. As far as license sales go, recreational licenses have been increasing steadily. In 2004, we had 4,400 now we're up to 6,400. I don't see that slowing down. Every year we get new people into that sector. The commercial license sales have remained stable over the last 10 years or so. It is about 3,000-3,500 licenses. The interesting thing though is that the actual number of people selling crabs is on the down fall. While we have about 3,500 licenses we only have about 1,700 people selling crabs. That's downfall, about 2,200 ten years ago.

With all of that commercial and recreational, you do get some loss of crab traps. You can lose them a variety of ways boat propeller clips, a storm can come, the ropes can just be rotten, they can be caught in other gear, or other ways. Basically, to combat that back in 2004 the department started the derelict removal program. It's something that's done legislatively. We have to go to our Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. They designate the areas, of course we suggest where the areas are, but they have final authorization. Generally it's done in the winter because that's one of the slow times for the commercial guys. So why do we want to clean up the crab traps? There's a thing called ghost fishing, I'm sure a lot of you know what that means. Back in 1993, Vince Guillory did some work in Louisiana and had some numbers like 25 crabs per trap per year die due to ghost fishing. The number of traps has gone up considerably even though we have fewer guys fishing. The number of traps out in the water is a lot. We had a recent study in 2012 and 2013 Louisiana Sea Grant, Julie Anderson did some work during the cleanup. They came up with actual number of crabs in our traps as we were cleaning them up and she came up with about 2 ½ to 3 ½ crabs per trap. You can see, that can impact the fishery as a whole, so we want to remove those traps as best as we can. This is just an old picture of where crab trap removal has been conducted. You can see the one in Lake Pontchartrain and one in Lafitte. Those are the two that we're doing this year. Last year was a tough year, 2015, we were in Sabine, over by the Texas border. It was a rough day, the wind was blowing, and it was cold. We were able to get 400, but you can see we'd like this year to combine forces.

The department received a grant from NOAA marine debris. We used some of that money to funnel into BTNEP/BTEF and also Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation for volunteer activity. I want to step through the process. It's a dirty day. It's fun and people seem to have a good time doing it. We'll have volunteers with boats and without boats. Whatever we can get. We'll close an area that's been through the legislature, been okayed. We've sent notices to all the crabbers in the area, so they know that the area is closing. Then we go in with boats and grappling hooks and pick up as many as we see in those waters. Generally, the contents are removed. Some crabs alive, some dead. They bring the cages to some crab trap smashers that we have.

It's a really good opportunity to have to talk to folks. We get them piled up by the dumpster. We get two dumpsters full and some piled up on the side. It's closed for about 10 days, so there is some department effort during that period. There are three closures that we have and two volunteer events. The first one is in Lake Pontchartrain that's Saturday the 13th 8-4 at Pelican Point Marina. The one that's in Barataria Basin in Jean Lafitte Harbor, and I think we have 8:30-7:30 on February 20th. We have a third closure, but it's not a cleanup event. Texas is holding a cleanup event in Sabine Lake instead of trying to hover an invisible line between Texas and Louisiana we shove our half of the lake so they can go and clean up without worrying about coming on our turf. Seth, you want to pitch anything for the closure?

Seth: On February 20, will be our volunteer event day. Volunteers can pre-register, I can provide you with the link to pre-register and volunteers can show up and sign up at 8:00am and we'll have tarps for the boats, the volunteers will have small knives in their boats to cut the buoys and lines off so they can stack neatly in the boat. We'll have tarps provided so they can put tarps down in their boat when they are picking them up. We will have lunch, CCA will be providing jambalaya. Basically we're looking for anybody that wants to help.

MC Member: Seth, you don't need to have a boat to be a volunteer is that correct|?

Seth: No sir, we're going to have people on the bank taking traps out of boats, smashing them, and disposing them.

Jeff Marx: A lot of the effort from our department comes in the form of the boats because we have many coastal study areas with leaders, some of them come to these meetings quite often. You don't have to have a boat to come. We can certainly use the help unloading.

MC Member: On the flip side, if you have a boat..

Jeff Marx: Even better, and even better if it's a boat that you don't mind getting dirty.

Kerry St. Pé: Jeff, do you have any research on the number of turtles found in those traps.

Jeff: I don't have any of the numbers on how many are captured, but there are a few. The good thing is...

Marty: What we'll do Kerry is we'll initiate a two and a half year crab trap by catch survey coast wide. I believe we did that last year to assess the fisheries and sustainability. Bottom line, I think we caught 6 terrapins in about 7,000 traps, which is a pretty low number.

Jeff: I think this goes a long way to preventing that as well. A lot of the time it's that intertidal zone where those terrapins are caught in the traps. Like Marty was saying, we checked our traps every 2-3 days that they're in a place where they're fishing. The ones that are tending their traps and fishing there's not a whole lot of terrapin by catch. It's the traps in the wash up in the tidal zone. Those are the ones that gets seen a lot, up on the bank, that people can just pull up and clean it up.

Seth: For volunteers that are willing, we're going to have a data sheet for them to fill out.

MC Member: So why don't the fishermen go pick up the derelict traps and re-use them?

Jeff: We try to get them to and we encourage it, but it's If you can pay them they would probably come, but those guys are on the water the majority of the time. If they normally fish in the closed area, they will go right outside of the closed area. You have guys that are on the water 350 days a year. They're busy. I'd like for them to come out. One of the hard parts is trying to get them involved, but you'll have some.

MC Member: You mentioned that there are more licenses this year than there are people selling. What's the benefit of having a license and not selling?

Jeff: There was a questionnaire sent out by Gulf States Marine Commission to survey about how many traps, general information. I got some calls from people saying I like crabs, so I bought a license to support the crab industry sort of idea. It could be that, or it could be I want to keep it for my son, I want it bought every year, and be able to sell it down the road.

MC Member: I think another reason is that under state regulations under a recreational crab trap license you can fish up to 10 traps, but with a commercial license you can fish an unlimited number. It might be a recreational fisherman buys a commercial license, so he can fish more than ten traps.

Jeff: And up until recently the commercial fisherman license is only \$25, but it's \$50 now. You may see that number of people who just wanted to buy a license just drop off if it gets up to \$200 or \$300.

MC Member: Do you think you'll see an increase in the number of crab fishermen because of the oil

industry. I know some people who are going to try to crab to make a living.

Jeff: In the past it was a very easy thing to jump right into. If you got laid off you could go buy a \$25 license. Now, the gear has become somewhat of an issue. It's \$30-\$40 a trap, and if these guys are fishing 1000-800 traps it's a lot of upfront.

MC Member: Okay, thank you very much.

c. CCMP Committee Structure – Susan Testroet-Bergeron, BTNEP (20 minutes)

Alright, so y'all know we're updating our CCMP. Dean started our meeting off this morning with something interesting. He said we're going to Washington D.C. and, we're going to meet our delegates and going to get some more guidance on updating our CCMP from EPA. This is interesting because we told them we were starting this and we're not the only ones. Now EPA has some additional guidance. So what I need is for y'all to see what this guidance is, so you know what it is and you can know where we're going. There's been a lot of discussion. We want this to be the Management Conference's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. This is administered through EPA, but it is not just an EPA document. This document is designed to represent all of us who are members of the Management Conference, all of the people that you represent. When we go to look at this today, I want y'all to keep that in mind.

The first goal is for us to be sure that, yes we want to follow their guidance. So, I want to be sure I have provided you the guidance. This first came out in July, we got a message that they're going to show us something different in February, I don't want any meetings to start until we get back in February. It also is important that we have a check list. We're going to, as a staff, create a straw man a kind of template for what this is supposed to look like and then each of the groups can look at that template. What we did, we sat down and started talking about how can we divide up this great brain trust we have sitting around this table. We have business, we have insurance, we have scientists, we have educators we have all these different people who are doing all this good work.

The next thing I have for you is the way we divided up the committees. (passes out packets) I'm going to ask each one of you to think about what do you know that you think you can share in a smaller committee to help us look at our Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. Y'all remember I brought it in it's a big technical document so what is going to happen is if you look at this coordinated planning and implementation this is sort of how we run the program. One of the things you should see on there is we're going to have program office, that's not going to change. Another thing you see is that we have a Management Conference. Those kinds of things probably aren't going to change, we don't want them to change things that are working very effective for us. We still have to go through each of these items.

What happened is, I talked about this at our last Management Conference meeting, I had a few people volunteer. Mel Landry with NOAA offered to help co-chair this committee, so Mel is going to be a chairman, but we don't want this to just be Mel's ideas. So I need people to think about if you're good person at organizing people, at planning, maybe that's the committee you might want to be on. Now, for each of these committee chairmen we're going to have a staff member be a co-chairmen. At every time there is a member. Either Dean or I will be going to this meeting on coordinated planning.

The next one is ecological management and restoration. We had a presentation today from Jason

with CPRA and of course Darin and Rick, y'all are working on restoration on a regular basis. We have Dr. Steve Mathies, who was our first director, who has offered to lead this team. Also, on this team is going to be Dean Blanchard, Matt Beniot, and Micheal Massimi, if he has time (because he also sits on our framework development team and that's our restoration coordinator). That's how we're dividing it up internally, so we have to remember when we are looking at our CCMP we're not doing all this restoration, but restoration is getting done in the estuary so who are the people doing it, what are they doing, we will look at its hydrologic restoration and marsh creation, barrier islands and those kinds of things. If you have experience in those realms; maybe, this is the committee you want to join.

The next one is water quality. Kerry St. Pé has offered to chair that group and Andrew Barron is going to be working with him and or Dean Blanchard. These are all issues related to pollution control. This committee will include monitoring and drain stenciling; those kinds of things. If your job requires you to work on water, maybe this is going to be the one you are interested in.

The next one is living resources. Now, Dr. Earl Melancon and Rick Hartmann with NOAA agreed to co-chair and then we have Richard DeMay and Michael Massimi who are going to be on this team. Even at our first meeting, we had some discussion about fisheries and things like that. So, we know that there are not a bunch of them on this one because we know Michael has already expressed he wants some changes. This group is going to have work a little hard. This section includes things like the Migratory Birds, which y'all know Richard and his team work on. Also, natives and invasives, fisheries, and related topics. Be thinking about if your skill set lies there.

The next one is citizen involvement. This will be Seth's team. Kristy is going to be working with Seth. We do not yet have a volunteer has called me and said yes I would like to lead this so I'm looking for a chairperson for this committee. I have not been able to get a volunteer yet, so if you don't evacuate quickly today, I will find somebody.

The next one is about cultural heritage. We have decided to put this one by itself. It is so important. We are very different and very interesting, so we're going to keep the cultural heritage by itself. Dr. Don Davis and Dr. Shana Waltin at Nicholls will lead. They are going to co-chair this and I am going to sit on this and when I can't be there Dean will. If you have some interest there, we'll be asking you to please join these committees. They've also been contacting people so that group has been moving along.

The next is media relations/public relations. How do we get out to the public so we stay engaged. Kristy will be our lead with Seth as her backup and Nicole "Nicky" Boudreaux here at Nicholls has volunteered to work with Kristy as the chairman for that committee. If you're good with the public, this might be the committee you sit on. This one is probably going to have a few changes because we now have lots of other ways we communicate with the public that are different then they use to be.

Formal and informal education overall will be lead by Nathan Cotton. Alma Robichaux will be leading the team and I'm going to sit in on that one. I think this one is not going to have a whole lot of changes. We still want to reach our educators both formal and informal.

Economic growth, this is like the part of the CCMP that I need to learn the most about. Dr. Rex Caffey, Louisiana Sea Grant he has agreed to chair this committee and I'm going to sit in on it and I'm going to ask Richard, who is our lead scientist to sit with me on this.

What we're asking is if you look in the very back of the sheet, it says "Committee Number," choose

one. You will see #1-9, pick one you think you're good at and please volunteer to join us. If you could put your name, your email address, and we'll get these with Nicole. Put your paper here with Nicole before you leave. We really need everybody! I've had a lot of discuss over the last few days with Doug Jacobson, EPA Dallas about the CCMP. We want as many people involved as possible. I told him he didn't have to worry, this is the Estuary Program. People are going to come and they are going to give us their opinion. Please sign up, I'll be at the door.

Let's review a quick timeline. Here's what we think it going to happen, 3 meetings, hopefully one meeting sometime in March/April. At the first meeting you're going to review the CCMP. We're going to look at that technical document and then you're going to look at a strawman of things we have to put in the next one. Then have some idea what you're going home with. Next one, you're going to look at all the action plans we want to keep and if there is some you want to change or update that second meeting is to decide what are the updates, what are the changes. The third meeting, you get together and get a draft. Does anybody think that is going to be a problem? When you commit; you're committing to 3 meetings. After those 3 meetings, we're going to bring the draft back to everybody and y'all will get your review. We're not going to go forward until everybody looks at the draft. (shows time table) How can you help? Here is how you help. What is your experience? What is your knowledge? What is your education? What organization do you work with? And then, think about who else you can bring into this. You have to know what you're good at, most of you do. We also want some new, young ideas too so if there is some young people who you think can learn from this process, we want them to join. Anybody have any questions or comments?

MC Member: When are we trying to get the 3 meetings done by?

Susan: Let me go back to that. We're trying to get all of the meetings done by September and have a draft by December. So 3 meetings between now and September. Anybody else? No questions, that's amazing.

Kerry: What happens at each meeting?

Susan: At the first meeting, we're going to look at the CCMP, just the items that are on your list. Then what you are going to decide is how do they look and how can they fit in this new format we have put together for EPA. We're going to create as a staff, a strawman so once we all get together cause you got 9 different committees...

Kerry: So we're not actually doing a strawman at the first meeting

Susan: No, we're going to have that prepared for you. You have 9 different committees, meeting at 9 different times, we're going to draft a strawman for you. Then, at the second meeting you say okay these are the ones we like, we need very little modification, we're missing something like Michael said it was some of his invasive. So the team says these are the ones we want to fix. Then, we come back with a draft. Now, the goal of this is to then be able to go to a writer and tell this writer we kind of have this all together and it all makes sense. So it is going to be important we all follow that same format.

Rick Hartman: For the act of clarification, the acts are heavy lifting in terms of writing. Is that BTNEP staff?

Susan: As a chairman, here is what I suggest. Say you have 9 items; I would make sure I have 9 people in my committee and divide up everybody take up one to write. You're going to have a

model to work off of. As chairman that's what I would do. You want to get as many people as you can. Then we're going to give it to a writer to make it one complete document. We're going to have to.

Richard: I'm not sure how one writer is going to deal with it. The way we did it in the past, we developed the initial plan back in '95 and '96 is it was not the BTNEP staff who wrote the CCMP. It was you guys, or the representatives from the organizations who you now replace. Those are the people who wrote the components of the CCMP. So, you went in, developed your background, your introduction, you defined short, medium, and long term actions. You helped find what cost structure associated with that was going to be. That was not the staff, that was the individuals who made up the management conference, various committees of that were in place at the time, the scientific technical committee, the management committee, the citizen advisory committee, and some extent to local governments. Those are the folks, those are the warm bodies who actually made or developed that CCMP. It was not the program office's CCMP, it was the program's CCMP.

Susan: That's one of the things we want to be sure we are doing. We want to create a kind of template, so everyone has something to work off of.

Richard: The template exists. The template exist in the 51 actions. If you look at the CCMP today, it has 51 action plans in that comprehensive plan. Each one of those plans has subheadings underneath. Each of those subheadings are defined or there is some information under it or something about that action plan. The template exist. What are we going to do with this action plan? Are we going to modify it, is it still current if it is not current what do we have to do to make it current? What are we missing, is there an action plan in here or not in here that we need to define? Then that is to be written up by somebody who is going to define it we're missing this.

Susan: Then we're going to have to all come back together as a team and say go through them and say these are the ones we kept, these are the ones we changed very little, these are the ones we need to add, and these are the ones we changed. So you're right, the template exists, but in some way we also have to be able to, in this strawman be able to determine which ones are the same, which ones are slightly modified, which ones are new. That is EPA requirement.

MC Member: to add to what Richard said, there are a couple of objectives and what is this action plan supposed to accomplish? Objectives, in depth background. The background pretty much lays down why there needs to be an action plan dealing with the subject matter. The part that I am messing with is the, well there is short term, medium term, and long term action plans. Then there is the finance plan.

Kerry St. Pé: Everybody here needs to understand that there are 28 National Estuary Programs. In the CCMP they are quite different; some of them might be similar. But some of them are massive check lists at each step as an action plan. Restore Timbalier Island as one action plan and we restored it now we check it. EPA seems to like that approach because every year they ask the program which action plans are complete. You tell them, we restored the Timbalier Island, check. Our CCMP is not like that. It is more strategic in nature. I really always liked that approach because it gives you a lot more flexibility. It says restore barrier islands, yeah we need to restore the barrier islands, but we have way of knowing in the future which barrier island might need restoring. That action plan gives you the flexibility to restore barrier islands and even barrier shorelines. So that is more of an approach that I like. That is the way our CCMP is structured.

Susan: I think that we aren't the only one, but we're one of the few that has such a broad approach.

Another thing is we have a really, really big estuary. We drain 2/3 of the U.S., so we have a lot of issues. Environmental, like water quality issues that are different than smaller estuary programs. What I'm telling you is, we don't have to change who we are or how we think to fit in a box that EPA thinks we need to fit into as long as our missions are all environment in nature and to improve the ecosystem, we're okay. Any other questions, comments, discussion? Alright thank y'all very much.

- d. RESTORE (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States) Act Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Presentation- Justin Ehrenwerth and John Ettinger (45 minutes)

Susan: I'm going to introduce our next speaker from the RESTORE council. We were very lucky Steve Mathies took us right before Christmas to New Orleans to meet Mr. Ehrenwerth. He introduced himself and the first thing he said was, "I'm with the newest federal agency." Y'all know John Ettinger formally EPA. We were very honored you both agreed to come and talk to our Management Conference about what is really going on with the BP oil spill money. So, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Ehrenwerth, he will tell you a little bit about himself. We are very pleased you are willing to come and join us today and tell us about what is going on with the RESTORE.

Justin Ehrenwerth: Thank you. Good morning. The best thing that I get to announce is that John Ettinger, who you've known as an EPA person is now working with us. Thank you again Susan for the invitation to be here. I serve as the Executive Director of the newest federal agency. I don't know how much longer we'll be able to say that, but I think we still have that title. We were created by the RESTORE Act. I want to talk a little about the RESTORE Act and funding, but not to get too far into the details. I think most people here are pretty familiar with it, but talk about a quick overview of it. Talk about the money and then what we're, as a Council, working on. This is my famous buckets or pots slide. Essentially, the history of the RESTORE act was, after the spill, there was this recognition that there would be billions of dollars of penalty money coming as a result of the spill. Typically on the civil side, all those penalty dollars by law go to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The delegations, the NGO's, probably a lot of people in this room got together and said, why should all the money go to that trust fund in Washington D.C.? It's used for good purposes. The coastguard uses those dollars to respond to future spills. The idea was why should all the money go there, why not have the money come back here?

So, the U.S. legislature got together and passed the RESTORE Act. The bottom line of it is that 80% of that money, instead of going to that trust fund, goes to a new trust fund, the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. It's a new deal in the Treasury Department because of the RESTORE Act. That was the big thing that RESTORE did, number one. Then, legislation was pending and there were a lot of ideas about what those dollars should be used for. Some people said, "You take all that money, cut it into five slices and give one to the five Gulf Coast states an equal share." Others said, "We should create a new council, they should do an ecosystem restoration plan, and the dollars should be funded according to that ecosystem restoration plan." Others said, "No those are both wrong, what you should do is figure out how much oiling each state received, and give out the funds accordingly. The state that gets the most oiling should get the most money." Others said, "Don't forget about science and monitoring." The end result was, yes, we'll do all of those things. That's where these buckets come in.

The first slide here is the five slices that are divided for the five states, and these states are Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Louisiana of course, has a policy that RESTORE

dollars will be strictly used for Master Plan projects and ecosystem restoration. The second and third buckets of money are really the bread and butter of the Council. Talking about the council, I serve a Board of Directors with the five governors and the heads of six federal agencies, the Commerce Department, EPA, USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, and the Department of the Interior. There are a lot of opinions within the five states and six federal agencies. There are a lot of opinions within one federal agency as to the right way to steward these dollars. That Council is in charge of this bucket of money here and approves dollars that go to this bucket of money here.

This second bucket of money here, we are to write an ecosystem restoration plan for the entire Gulf and to fund projects accordingly. In the third bucket, that is the oil spill impact allocations and there we were to look at how much oiling each state received and award dollars accordingly. There for the states to get access to those dollars they write a state expenditure plan to us, we approve it, and then the dollars flow. Finally, the last two buckets, while small in percentage at 2.5 % each, are incredibly important for what they do. The fourth one here is a program that NOAA has stood up called the NOAA Restore Science Program to do science observation monitoring work. The fifth bucket is for Centers of Excellence in five states, so the Louisiana Water Institute of the Gulf has been designated.

The other states are all working now and have identified their Centers of Excellence for restoration work. We are funded strictly by civil penalties from the spill. Back in 2013, there was a settlement with Transocean and their civil penalties for a billion dollars, and that's nice for description purposes because it's a nice round number. All that money now has made its way into the Trust Fund, and I'll describe how we've begun to allocate that Transocean money. The big news is the settlement announced with BP. It's not official yet, but we're hoping that the judge in New Orleans will prove the consent decree sometime in the spring. When that happens it's a 20.8 billion dollar consent decree what flows into RESTORE would be 5.5 billion dollars in civil dollars. There's a NRDA element of that, which is about 8.8 billion of that. NRDA Trustee Council and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) are our two other key Gulf wide funding streams or partners. NFWF received the criminal dollars, so we work very closely with them also as well as CWPPRA and all the other acronyms around the Gulf. Once the judge stamps the BP dollars as approved, one year after that, BP will have to make its first payment. Those payments are scheduled to continue for the next 15 years, which is very exciting. We have been waiting for a long time, RESTORE was passed in 2012. A lot of people thought that BP and the other parties would have settled from the get go. We've been operating in an environment of uncertainty for a long time, so we're very excited to see this happen. I hope the judge does approve soon. While this is all very exciting, it also creates a big challenge. How do you move forward with Gulf-wide restoration when the dollars are going to come in over a 15 year period? It's nice to have that certainty, but it also creates some difficult planning challenges.

Let me talk now about what we're doing in that second bucket. We are to do ecosystem restoration without regard to geographic location. Based on the Transocean dollars alone, it's about 240 million dollars in that second bucket that we have now. We approved back in December a funded priority list for about 157 million dollars of restoration projects around the coast. We identified ten key watersheds. I highlight this without regard to geographic location, we are supposed to take the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, delete the state lines, and delete the parish lines or county lines. That is easier said than done, especially when you have five governors on our board. There's some priority criteria from the RESTORE Act that guide us, and I'll go into those in detail. So the way we came up with that list that we approved in December.

The RESTORE Act requires that as a new federal agency, we can only award dollars to one of the 11 members, so we can't give a grant or funding directly to someone that's not one of the five states or

federal agencies. Now, other entities can't get those dollars if one of the state of Louisiana, for example, subs out some work or the Department of the Interior subs out some work, but we're limited to that universe. For that reason, we told our members the submission window is open, each state and federal agency can submit up to five projects. They did, all entities, except the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard said we're going to submit this entity in other ways. We ended up getting fifty proposals in, which ended up being very complex proposals. These have all been on our website for some time, so you may have seen these. They had about 380 different ideas, different discrete pieces in those 50 proposals. It was a very complicated undertaking to analyze. We looked at eligibility criteria, the budget, and consistency with our requirements. Best available science was very important to us, so we created a review panel to look at all the proposals and each proposal was examined by three scientists, external to our organization. One scientist from the state in which the proposal was put forward, another from elsewhere in the Gulf, and another from outside the Gulf. We got that and John Ettinger led our environmental compliance review of all these projects.

As that new federal agency, we can't put any money out in the world unless all the other relevant requirements are met. We looked at them all, we got all this data, and there are context reports that were created from this. We put it all on our website because of transparency and public engagement is very important to this organization. We came up with this initial list, this initial attempt to go Gulf-wide. There are a couple points that I'll stress here. We were doing all of this work while the BP litigation was ongoing, and we didn't know there was going to be a settlement. We knew, that at some point there would be billions of dollars, but we didn't know when or how much. We knew whatever we did then was going to be foundation, to do something that we can continue to build on. That was really our organizing philosophy. High leverage was point number two, so 20.8 billion dollars is a lot of money, but it isn't enough. It's not even close to enough or close to what the state Master Plan calls out. We know from the onset that we need to get the biggest restoration bang for our buck that we had. Of the 160 or 180 million that we put out back in December, if all those projects are carried out, that 180 million is actually 1.27 billion because of the highly leveraged nature of these projects. We're proud of that number, but we want to increase that ratio as we go.

As I mentioned, we chose to focus on ten key watersheds and the reason we picked the watershed or estuary approach is because we weren't sure of another organizing way to look across the gulf. As we looked across the Gulf, we identified these watersheds and we looked at what the key ecological stressors were in each of those watersheds. Then we decided what we would propose to do about it. Starting off in South Texas, starts off in Laguna Madre area. We identified this area as the only hyper saline coastal lagoon in North America. It's just a beautiful area of the country. The stressors there involve habitat fragmentation and development. We're doing some strategic land acquisition in the area down in this lower part as well as up here we're plugging 11 abandoned oil and gas wells. Now it zooms up to number two, Matagorda Bay Area of Texas, another beautiful area with rare or endangered species. Again you see habitat fragmentation as a key stressor and here we're doing some strategic land acquisition. We're partnering and leveraging NFWF dollars from an investment that was made there. Next, it zooms up to Galveston Bay and Houston area. You can see it's a major urban area, that's the main stressor there, water quality and quantity issues and development. Here we're partnering with the Bayou Greenways Initiative, so we're investing in some riparian buffers that if we purchase them they will help with water quality issues, since that water flows into Galveston Bay.

Next, we zoom over home. I'm not going to say too much about the Mississippi Delta, I'll actually get into the projects right now. I don't need to tell you why this is an important part of the world or what the stressors are here. You know it all. We are investing in four projects that are in the master plan. A project to do some important work in the lower river as well as a project in Bayou Dularge

as well as backfilling of canals in Jean Lafitte. Now, we'll zoom over to the Mississippi Sound and I don't think I need to say a whole lot about it. You know the value of the oyster industry and some of the other things there also the habitat fragmentation and the various stressors. So here we're investing in some strategic land acquisition, also Mississippi Sound Estuary Program as well as some important education and outreach work. That's a key piece that's important for us, that the next generation understands why we're doing this and why ecosystem restoration is so important.

Next over toward Alabama and Mobile Bay, here again is a key fishing industry, a lot of tourism. The stressors include shoreline hardening and development. Here we're doing some SAV restoration as well as investing in some really important monitoring projects. Now, getting towards the end, zooming over to the panhandle of Florida, we are going to create a new estuary program in the panhandle of Florida. EPA and the state have not yet decided exactly where that NEP will be established. It will be one of the areas along the panhandle. Now, zooming into the Pensacola Bay area, you can see from the map that this area faces urban stressors. You've got your beautiful beaches and pristine water. Water quality issues there are well known, and we're investing in some storm water/waste water treatment work as well as a few other things in the bay area. Next, zoom over to Apalachicola. Water quality issues, water quantity of course, they're very poor. There we're doing some BMP's (Best Management Practices) focusing on working with landowners and trying to get these water quality issues. Similar story over at Suwannee, the largest continuous sea grass beds in the U.S. It's a beautiful area that again faces these water quality and quantity issues, the water wars that they're having. We're again working with private land owners for irrigation efficiencies and other BMP's. Then finally, our last watershed, Tampa Bay, one of the largest. Part eco-tourism and fishing industry, we're posting that list and now going to really be supporting a lot of the work in Tampa Bay. NEPs had great success the last few decades, as well as some hydrologic restoration in Preserve area in Tampa. I'm going to say a few more words about some of the things we're trying to do foundationally from that perspective.

I had to opportunity to really get to know and work with my equivalent up in Alaska for Exxon and that is the executive director there and I asked her if you could go back in time what would you do at the beginning? Because we're at the beginning of this process, we know it is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. One of the first things she said was, "Establish common monitoring protocol." If you could do anything from the beginning that is what she would argue to do. That is something we've taken very seriously and are doing right now. We're proposing to create as best we can a common set of monitoring protocol across the Gulf. So we've established a Gulf wide committee and this is something where the restore council has not been elected king or queen of Gulf Restoration, we can't tell people how to monitor, but we are certainly for our grants going to require a common set of metrics. NFWF and NRDA, we're working very closely with them and so our hope is that we're able to just collectively say that when it comes to gulf restoration here are the protocols, here is what we propose to do.

We're excited about that work, we're also investing in a DOI tool to prioritize parcels for future land conservation as well as a conservation core concept. The idea there is that we would train people from the gulf to take the restoration jobs to actually do this sort of work. So, essentially it would be chapters in the 5 states. All slightly different targeted to this issues and challenges of a particular state and within that program there is an element of about \$500,000 targeting tribal use. To get use from 1/3 of the recognized tribes involved in that program. That was a whole lot about the Gulf wide perspective, now we're going to zoom in on what we're doing in Louisiana.

The first four things up here are planting projects that are in the state Master Plan that we agreed to fund, West Grand Terre that our RESTORE Council's contribution to what we were talking about

early. Our piece of contributing that barrier islands are here for a long time, go and try Biloxi marsh, living shore line, you know about those I won't dwell on it. Maurepas swamp diversion that's been in the works for a very long time, we're putting \$14 million into planning to move forward. I will dwell for a moment though on this lower most Mississippi River management program because that's something we're very excited about. How we did it, I don't know, I think John deserves a lot of credit for this, but sometimes we make peace between the State and the Corps on a particular issue that is looking at the lower river and thinking about it from a holistic perspective. So, of course, in that navigations interests are there, but how do we also think about it and harness it for ecosystem restoration purchases? It's a 50/50 split between State and Corps. John and our team are going to be very involved in this project, we're really excited about it. It's the kind of thing back to the foundational concept, that if we can invest in that now and get that piece right, then you'll have a lot of fruits for future work. We're also doing 60 and a half miles of back filing of abandoned canals in Jean Lafitte which is a very exciting project you know we're ready to turn dirt immediately. We're excited to see some real progress there. Over in Bayou Dularge, one of the things we told all the federal members of our council was that they could put forward projects on behalf of federally recognized traps. This project was very important to the Chitimacha, Louisiana so it is a project a lot of folks are excited to see. I think it was on the CWPPRA list for a period of time, didn't make it to the final piece there. It did make it to the finals for us. I'm not going to dwell on some of this other stuff.

Before that, the other thing I just described was finalized back in December. We did a lot of public outreach around it, held meetings all across the gulf. Got a lot of really good feedback and very supportive comments. People liked this water shed estuary approach we were adopting. They wanted to see more incrementation ready projects, we all do. We try to explain as best we can is that if \$500 billion fell from the sky tomorrow, if you don't have the planning, engineering design, NEPA work, all that stuff done you can't turn dirt. So, we are heavy on the planning for this work, should also say that just because the restore council agrees to fund the planning for a project doesn't necessarily mean we agree to fund it all the way through to implementation. That is a familiar concept to a lot of planning projects. People like to see habitat conservation, water quality, and quantity work; everyone wants to see more of it. There is a lot of appreciation for the importance of science and monitoring. We got a lot of feedback on lots of some specific projects mostly positive. People really want to see the next iteration of our comprehensive plan. Back in 2013, we approved a Comprehensive Plan, that a pretty high level as goals and objectives puts 100 thousand foot line. We now, in 2016, are looking to update that plan, making it more specific. Now that we know about the BP money, how it is going to come in, time horizon, that gives us the opportunity to do some more detailed planning. Moving forward with that, we'll like to see more dirt turning and we as a council will be issuing grants for approved projects to the states and do interagency agreements with the federal agencies to get this money out and get the dirt turning. That's bucket two, I'll give the very brief overview of bucket three now.

Bucket three was that spill impact component and here we had to do a federal rule. The RESTORE Act gave us three factors to consider and we had to come up with a rule that bottom line of it was a percentage. The percentage amounts to how much each state will get from that bucket for their work. We've had three elements. We approved that rule on December 9. All this stuff was heavily considered and litigated among our council members. The first factor said 40% of the waiting goes to miles of oil shoreline, what does that mean? Does that mean according to stat data, rad data, rapid assessment technique data, in the end we figured it out though we should consider rad and we turn to the coast guard on our membership and say how much did each state get and they provided us with that data. Second factor looked at the relative distance between the states, miles of oil shoreline, and the rig and looked at the nearest and farthest point at an inverse proportion and 20% based on the

population in the coastal counties across the state. By the end we came up with a formula that looked as all those factors. Louisiana came in first, getting 34 1/2%, Alabama 20%, Florida 18%, Mississippi 19% and Texas with 7 and half. Now that the truth, states can submit their state expense plans. For all the states we have made planning dollars available so now Florida and Mississippi are working to take advantage of that planning money. The rest of the states, particularly Louisiana, not much planning needs to be done to do this. I would expect to see the Louisiana state expenditure plan come forward within the very near future. That was I know a lot of talking, I'll stop there. Thank you again for your interest in this work and be happy to take any questions or comments.

Al Levron: What is bucket three? The amounts available for each parish, going to be available?

Justin Ehrenwerth: For the parishes, that's really right here. The parish amount is here. That's a rule that the Treasury Department has done. The amount that each parish is to receive has all been calculated.

Al Levron: The first allocation, the most recent spill?

Justin Ehrenwerth: The majority of money is really going to go to CPRA. They will have a matching program that they have been talking about. They haven't formally submitted their state expenditure plan to us yet. Is anyone from CPRA here? You want to comment on it?

MC Member: I'll just say my understanding is that's going to be finalized in the expenditure plan. It's gotta be approved by them, and then we'll start to disseminate those funds.

MC Member: Months? Years?

MC Member: Based on some of the conversations I've had, what you heard Jason say today is that it's in that 2017 annual plan. We want to put those dollars in place, but as he said it's because we have to get approval. It's kinda still questionable.

Justin Ehrenwerth: What I can say in terms of it is that once CPRA submits the plan, we only have 60 days to review it, so we want to and hope to even do it in under 60 days.

MC Member: I know if you talk to Simone with Restore or Retreat they put together a nice table with all of the breakdown of what the parishes...

MC Member: Right here...

MC Member: As I understand it, from the state to that, they had put some parameters on the matching program. They actually had worked through definitions on some weights and things. I know it got tricky when they submitted their multi-year implementation plan because it was for trans-ocean. I think they're hoping to roll out some of it, maybe even in a pilot form to see how it goes, maybe even this year. I think they're working on it and would like to see that match program move forward.

Justin Ehrenwerth: I don't want to unofficially get ahead things, but I'll say from our perspective when the state does submit the plan that has the matching program, from our policy perspective, it just seems really smart to try and incentivize everybody working off of the same script. It also falls into that leveraging thing that is so important to us as a council. We're excited to see it, obviously we're informal talking about this at CPRA and we're excited to see that come forward.

Susan: Justin, there has been some questions asked by some of the other NEPs along the Gulf Coast. You showed in your puzzle there is a new NEP plan in Florida. How did the RESTORE Act Council discuss how they were going to get funding, just to initiate cause usually it is several million dollars to initiate and then an allocation each year.

Justin Ehrenwerth: What we've talked about, we called it 'NEP like' program because it wouldn't be official NEP with congressional elements. I should have stressed that aspect of it. The idea is that we'd have approximately \$2.2 million to get it started. This is one of the tricks, there is not any commitment from the restore council of continued funding for that NEP like program once it is established. That was something everybody discussed with EPA, the state of Florida and we go into it with our eyes wide open. Obviously, we you support something with planning you want to see that piece successful, but just like we have not made a commitment to funding for dollars for implementation for projects we have funded, the planning we have to say the same thing.

Dean Blanchard: Justin, in Louisiana, is there any avenue for projects that don't fit under the state master plan to receive funding?

Justin Ehrenwerth: Yes, so the projects that are four are at the Master Plan and three are not. What CPRA said previously, they don't want to see any project that is inconsistent with the Master Plan. The Department of the Interior was the council member that put forward the back filling in Jean Lafitte. While that wasn't specifically in the Master Plan, CPRA said that is consistent with, we would be supportive of that. Same for Bayou Dularge, same with the lower river proposal. Short answer is yes, now I never imagined a scenario in Louisiana, really any other state, where a project gets successfully funded by us over the objection of the state because the Governor is on the board and we try to operate by consensus. Theoretically, it is possible you have people voting different ways, but I don't think that is likely. Yes, but I would think and we'll see what John Bradberry and others continue to think this way, focus on Master Plan projects and others that are consistent with.

Dean Blanchard: And that project would have to go through one of those federal agencies?

Justin Ehrenwerth: That's right. Again, it is theoretically possible that CPRA would fund something inconsistent with the Master Plan, not in the Master Plan, but I doubt it without being presumptuous.

Susan: I think that is something everyone needs to be very well aware of when Justin is talking. There is very organized process to getting things funded. You know we want people to understand that you have to follow this process.

Justin Ehrenwerth: Yeah, it's a great point. I'll just add to that. One of the things that a lot of people originally when we started talking to folks were very annoyed with us about is, why are you only giving money to a state or federal agency that are on the council. Can't you give some grant money directly to good organizations that are on the ground doing things and the answer was the law just doesn't let us. It can happen, but it has to go through either a state or federal agency that is on the council. So when people have asked me, how do we maximize our opportunity to get some restore dollars, I've always said talk to, you got 11 people to talk to. Of one of the states or one of the federal agencies on the council, if they pick up your idea and bring it forward then we the council can consider it. If they don't bring it forward, we can't. We can always say to a state or federal agency as the council entity there is this great idea out here, check it out, but ultimately it requires them sponsoring the concept.

MC Member: So Justin, do you think you said you had a prioritized 12 that just couldn't make the list? Do you feel like that when you do get your larger sum, they might be next up or would you go forward more with the ones you did fund first because that was only probably some planning and engineering and design? How will you kind of figure that out with the bigger sum?

Justin Ehrenwerth: It's a great question. So, this is where everything starts to get complicated. With that initial funded priorities list we had two categories. Category one which were implementation ready, we approve. If its dirt turning, dirt can turn if it is planning obviously it ready to go. Projects in the second category, which is about \$20 million or so. We said we love these projects, we want to fund them, but we are not ready to consider them officially. What that meant in a lot of cases was that the NEPA wasn't done or something in the environmental compliance wasn't done. We don't need any money from BP to get those projects funded. We have the money now with Transocean to get those projects funded. What we need to move them, I call it graduating from category 2 to category 1, is in vast majority of cases just to see that environmental compliance documentation complete. The council will look at it and give it thumbs up or thumbs down because sometimes we learn something going through that process, but John you're the true guru. Is there anything you'd want to add?

John Ehrenwerth: This year we'll probably be looking at the environmental compliance for some of these projects.

MC Member: So it was more of a case of you were ready, but they're not ready. Then when more money comes online, will you fund the initial funded priority list first? Or will you seek more input, that's what I'm trying to figure out.

Justin Ehrenwerth: It's kind of a two-step process, so think about that first initial funded priorities list, category 1 and category 2. We like those projects. The ones in the first category, they're good, and they're going. The ones in the second, we don't need another penny from BP. We're going to think about those, really almost as an item to independently spend the BP dollars. We want to see those projects, if possible, graduate. Once we have the BP dollars, as those come online we will probably look at all the projects that have been submitted, all those ideas, and the state agencies could pick up something that didn't make the cut and say we want to resubmit it. They might say what we submitted originally, that was under the universe of Transocean money, now that we have BP, we don't even want to bring those ideas forward, and we want to do bigger. I guess I'm not really answering the questions because we don't truly know the answer.

MC Member: It's kind of a new game, right?

Justin Ehrenwerth: Yes, it's a new game where old ideas could be brought forward again or those could be all gone. My guess is that it will be some combination. Some of the old ideas that didn't get funded will still be brought forward, and probably some new and potentially larger projects will be brought forward as well.

Susan: I have one favor to ask you, when you went around the Gulf you said like Galveston Bay, Mobile Bay, when you go and make your presentation in the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary, you've got three projects in our estuary. It doesn't matter who's getting our money. The work is getting done in the estuary, so we want people to know that we're an active NEP too.

Justin Ehrenwerth: That's a good point we refer to it officially as the Mississippi River Delta Watershed. That's what we've been referring to it as, but what we might do, we don't know. We can

either stick with the 10 key watersheds that we already identified or we could go more specific or have a larger number of watersheds or a smaller number. I'm pretty confident in saying that coastal Louisiana will continue being and must be a key element of whatever this council decides to do. I take your point and we'll work it.

Susan: We appreciate that. Anyone else? Al had to leave he had an afternoon meeting. Does anyone else have any additional questions for Justin? Let's show him our appreciation.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Susan: Being that Al left, I guess I am to finish the meeting. Any new business? Chris y'all have something, and Chief Naquin?

Kris Peterson: Chief Naquin: With the work that has been talked about as far as the Master Plan and everything that has been talked about. Over the last two years, the lowlander center as well as the tribe of Isle de Jean Charles has worked on a proposal to cut on the resiliency competition that took place. As you noticed, the state of Louisiana and New Orleans received a big portion of what was being offered in the national competition. A million dollars of that is coming to this area so that we can have a model project unifying all the best practices of what many of your agencies around the table proclaim to be the best practices and the best science. We're going to put that together in a disaster resilient coastal project that is going to have zero impact, clean water, zero run off of water, clean air, land restoration, proper trees for bird migration, and all that kind of thing. It's going to be the future goal of the tribe of Ilse de Jean Charles with more than 100 families and an economic driver. All of that is going to become a model community that people from around the world are going to be coming in to study, to look at, and to learn from with our universities and so forth. We just got word this morning that it's being talked about at the white house and that this is going to be a poster child for coastal communities that are not big cities like Miami or Los Angeles, but communities like ours. So thank you all.

MC Member: I can't top that, but I just want to say something. Be careful what you read. Susan said they aren't going to say anything until they go to Washington and talk to EPA, and then they're going to tell us the next step. People always want to know what we're doing and how we're preparing for it. We are preparing for the money to come in, but so far we have nothing, so just pray for us.

Jonathan: I just want to talk briefly about the Wetlands Youth Center that Alma mentioned earlier. The products of that program, two years ago, the kids decided that they wanted to present a CWPPRA project, and so last year they worked with NRCS and Ron to present the Bayou Dularge Ridge restoration project for CWPPRA consideration. They great really great marks in the beginning and followed it through that process and it wasn't selected. Then as Justin just mentioned it was selected through the restore act and so now the kids are plugged into following what your work is because they're excited that eventually they're going to get in a boat and see the results of that project even though it wasn't them through CWPPRA. Then these past couple of weeks they presented Terrebonne Bay marsh creation project in North Terrebonne Bay. They're really involved in that process, it's a messy process, and it's confusing. They're learning as they go through it.

Then also the Bayou Terrebonne cleanup is going to be March 12, the same day as the Lafourche cleanup. That is a result of the last wetlands youth summit. This one is going to be on the 5th, not

sure what the kids are going to come up with, but it always results in me having to do a lot more work. If you know any high school students interested, please put them in touch with us. Thanks to Alma because we couldn't do any of that without her.

Susan: Any other new business? Ben?

Ben: I haven't got to talk with Alma or Seth, but I think this is the last time we meet before the Bayou Lafourche cleanup. One of the things that we can't have enough of is boats, so if any of your companies or agencies have boats that will be available to use on March 12th it would be a huge help. The large masses of trash are from the boats that are actually in the bayou. Any help anyone can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Susan: Ben and the Freshwater District are a partner. Any other new business?

7. ADJOURN

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.