Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #78 Roll Call

Plantation Suite – NSU Student Union

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, February 9, 2017

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** |
| XXXXX | Alma RobichauxAndrew BarronDean Blanchard Dean CooperDelania LeBlancKristy Monier | XXXXX | Matt BenoitMichael MassimiNatalie WatersNicole BabinRichard DeMaySeth Moncrief | XXX | Siva NunnaSusan Testroet-BergeronSteve Mathies, Director EmeritusKerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus  |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | ***Member*** | ***Alternate*** |
| American Sugarcane League |  | Herman Waguespack |  | John Constant |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District |  | Hugh Caffery |  | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana |  | Kimberly Reyher |  | Deb AbibouGiovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | X | John Walther |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority  |  | Chip Kline | XX | Austin Faldbaum Brad MillerBren HaaseCarol Parsons RichardDaniel DearmondDarin LeeElizabeth ShoenfeltRobert RoutonHonora BurasJason LanclosJoseph “Wes” LeBlancKarim Belhadjali Michael EllisKenneth BahlingerNatalie Peyronnin Rudy SimoneauxThomas McLainJim Pahl |
| Commercial Fisheries |  | John Tesvich |  | Peter VujnovicchClint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission |  | Chett Chaisson | X | Davie BreauxJoni Tuck |
| Iberville Parish |  | John Clark |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish |  | Marnie Winter | XX | Jason SmithSeamus RileyMatt Sevier (BTEF-BM) |
| LA Association of Conservation District |  | Ruben Dauzat |  | Brad SpicerJerome Cantrelle |
| LA Association of Levee Boards |  | Dwayne Bourgeois |  |  |
| LA Department of Ag & Forestry | X | Joey Breaux | X | Carrie CastilleCaitlin LambertFaran DietzJeremy Rodriguez |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism |  | Debra Credeur |  | Karen LeathemLinda Smith |
| ***Management Conference Member*** |  | ***Member*** |  | ***Alternate*** |
| LA Dept. of Economic Development |  | Paul Sawyer |  | Anne Perry |
| LA Department of Education |  | Jill Cowart |  | Lydia Hill |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | XX | Aimee PreauCrisalda Adams | X | Jonathan McFarlandJohn Jennings |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | X | Chasity CheramieMichael Bourgeois |  | John WilliamsDavid Baggs |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | X | Charles Reulet |  | Don HaydelSara KrupaRobert WilliamsonTori O’MalleyRod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries |  | Brady CarterJeff Marx |  | Mark SchexnayderChris SchiebleKristen Thibodeaux |
| LA Forestry Association |  |  |  |  |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association |  | Randy Robichaux |  |  |
| LA Landowners Association | X | Tim Allen | X | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association |  |  |  | Ed LandgrafMelissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office |  | Brian Wynne | X | David GisclairKarolien Debusschere |
| LA Science Teachers Association |  | Shannon Lafont | X | Tera LaPrarieNathan CottenNicole CottenJean May-BrettNatalie Lirette |
| LA Wildlife Federation | X | B.J. Barney CallahanBob Stewart | XX | Rebecca TricheStacy Ortego |
| Lafourche Parish | X | Jimmy Cantrelle | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant |  | Rex Caffey | X | Julie FalgoutDianne LindstedtEmily Maung-DouglassDon Davis |
| LUMCON |  | Dr. Craig McClain | X | John ConoverMurt ConoverNancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | X | Richard Hartman |  | Mel LandryTwyla Cheatwood |
| Nicholls State University |  | Dr. Bruce MurphyJeanne Murphy  | XX | Gary LaFleurQuenton Fonteno |
| Plaquemines Parish | X | Vincent Frelich Robert Spears |  | Scott RousselleKrista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish |  | J.A. Rummler |  |  |
| Sassafras LA |  | Alex Naquin |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | X | Kevin BelangerMartha Cazaubon |  | Cullen CuroleArianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council |  | Vic Lafont |  | Simone Maloz |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | X | Jonathan Foret | XX | Angelle PercleSamantha Hicks |
| ***Management Conference Member*** |  | ***Member*** |  | ***Alternate*** |
| St. Charles Parish |  | Earl Matherne |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | X | Al Levron |  | Mart Black |
| The Nature Conservancy | X | Jean Landry |  | Nicole LoveKaren Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | X | Angela Rathle |  | Allyn RodriguezMark FordJulie WhitbeckAlexa RomersaNuri MelanconClare ListerRebecca Flourney |
| US Coast Guard | X | Kelsey Holford |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | X | Susan Hennington | X | Barbara KleissMark WingateCheri PriceSarah BradleyBrad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | X | Doug Jacobson |  |  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service |  | Ronnie Paille |  | John SavellJeff WellerBrad Rieck |
| USDA/NRCS |  | Quin Kinler | XX | John BoatmanRyan Johnson Alton JamesAndrea Moore HarrisArnelis CrespoRussell RichardScott Edwards |
| USGS |  | Scott Wilson | XX | Cole RuckstublKate SpearMirka Zapletal Melissa CollinNikki CavalierPhil TurnipseedVictoria Segrera |
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| ***Guest Organization*** |  | ***Guest*** |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | X | Earl Melancon |  | Nolan Falgout, IIIMatt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | X | Christy Naquin |  |  |
| Bayou Grace |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler | XX | Jenny DupreAnne Parr |
| Bayou Land RC & D |  | Dr. Colleen Butler |  | Jennifer Roberts |
| Bayou Some Fun |  | Dottie Hartman |  |  |
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | X | Bruce Baird |  |  |
| Conoco Phillips |  | Betsy Brien |  |  |
| CRIA |  | Chris Adams |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | X | Dan Boudreaux |  | Bridgete Mire |
| Ducks Unlimited |  | Leslie Suazo |  | Joe Fifer |
| Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities | X | Morgan Crutcher |  |  |
| Grand Isle Port Commission |  | Wayne Keller |  |  |
| Gulf Coast Eco System Restoration Council |  |  |  | John Ettinger |
| Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw |  | Chief Albert P. Naquin |  |  |
| Lori LeBlanc LLC |  | Tyler Gray |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed |  | Tara Richard |  |  |
| Low Lander Center  | X | Kristina Peterson | XXXXXX | Hilary NaquinJoshua BErston RobertsDevin FoilJohn McCandleesPaul Natthews |
| LSU |  | Loren Hull |  |  |
| Moffatt & Nichol |  | Jonathan Hird |  |  |
| Nicholls State University |  | Alex ArceneauxJenny Schexnayder | X | Keri TurnerAllyse Ferrara |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves |  | David Cavell |  |  |
| Pan Am Communication | X | Lenny Delbert |  |  |
| Port of Morgan City | X | Cindy Cutrera |  |  |
| Public Schools |  | Tina Galler |  |  |
| RES |  | Frank Cuccio |  |  |
| Restore Council |  |  |  | John Ettinger |
| Restore or Retreat |  | Simone Maloz |  | John Lambardo |
| Royal Engineering |  | Shelley Sparks |  | Kirk Rhinehart |
| Ryan Productions |  | Andre’ Lyons |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company |  | Andy Wellbaum |  | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant |  | Donald Spahr |  |  |
| St. John Parish |  | Evelyn Campo |  |  |
| TLCD |  | Angela Rains |  | Darin Guidry |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) |  |  |  | Melanie SandKatherine NorwoodBennett Alldredge |
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| ***Guest Organization*** |  | ***Guest*** |  | ***Guest*** |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory (Guest Speaker |  | Martin O’Connell |  |  |
| University of Arizona |  | Victoria Phaneuf |  | Morgan Lundy |
| VISTA | X | Katie DeHart |  |  |
| WYES TV | X | Marcia Kavanaugh |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference #78**

1. Meeting was called to order by Al Levron, BTNEP MC Chairman at 9:30am.
2. Management Conference members and guests were asked to introduce themselves by stating their name and

affiliation. Those who had not checked in at the door where asked to do so.

1. Reading and Approval of Minutes for MC Meeting #77 – November 3, 2016

A motion was made by Tim Allen and seconded by David Gisclair to dispense with the reading of the Management Conference #77 minutes and to accept them as submitted. Motion carried.

1. The agenda was amended to vote on 2 new groups to join the Management Conference.
2. Lowlander Center – Kris Peterson representing – Approved unanimously by the Management Conference.
3. Cajun Music Preservation Society – Quenton Fontenot representing - Approved unanimously by the Management Conference.

**2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

1. Personnel Changes – BTNEP’s Coastal Bird Coordinator, Emily Clark has resigned.
2. Susan Testroet-Bergeron made an announcement that 26 of the 28 National Estuary Programs came to Louisiana December 9th for Association of National Estuaries Programs fall meeting and the Restore Americas Estuary Meeting in New Orleans. BTNEP took them out to Barataria Bay. They were shown CWPPRA projects and the National Park Service, Barataria preserve. A dinner was held at Spahr’s following. It was a huge success.
3. Richard DeMay and the bird team continue to do Piping Plover surveys along the coast. These surveys will continue on the Caminada Headlands to look at the effects of the restoration project on the piping plover population.
4. Michael Massimi completed 50% of the Barataria-Terrebonne Canoe Paddle Guide.
5. Matt Benoit purchased 13 canoes for the Program through the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. A trailer was also built to haul the canoes for BTNEP volunteer events.
6. Siva Nunna completed 8 Bayou Folse sampling events and attended several educational events. A report was completed and submitted to DEQ
7. Kristy Monier finished the 2016 Annual Report and an Estuary Artworks Calendar.
8. Alma Robichaux won an award from LSTA for Distinguished Informal Science Educator of the year. She took 24 teachers out for Eagle Expo to view the eagles. The Marine Debris Education and Prevention Program received a GOMA Gulf Star grant to continue the work with NOAA Marine Debris Study. Also received a grant to investigate microplastics in the sediments. The Bayou Lafourche Cleanup will be on Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 8am-12pm.
9. Seth Moncrief worked with University of Buffalo the week of January 23-27th. The group stayed with Bayou Grace. On Monday, they went to LUMCON, Tuesday – Terrebonne Parish Christmas Tree Project, Wednesday – NSU Farm, Thursday – Barataria Preserve, and Friday - Fourchon Ridge where they planted 250 trees.
10. Dean Blanchard stated that BTNEP Completed the Semi-Annual Review with a passing review. Preparing the Performance Evaluation which is completed every 5 years.
11. Andrew Barron introduce partners from DEQ that were in attendance. He also reported that the Tidal Graph Calendars were in and being distributed.
12. Earl Melancon, President of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program reported that the $340,000 was funneled through the BTEF in 2016.
13. Media Interviews

All media events were listed in the agenda.

1. Meetings

 All program meetings were listed in the agenda.

1. Projects Status

All projects initiated and completed were listed on the agenda.

**3. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Reminders − \***April 27, 2017 – Cotillion Ballroom @ NSU Student Union (\*date changed from May 4, 2017)**

**(April 27, 2017 meeting rescheduled to April 25th due to conflict)**

 − August 3, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

 − November 2, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. **Randy Moertle – Point an Fer Marsh Creation**

Randy Moertle asked the Management Conference to support keeping the Point Au Fer Marsh Creation Project in the 2017 Master Plan. He showed a map of Point au Fer and described its importance in protecting Morgan City. He commented that if a project is not in the Master Plan it cannot get funded through CWPPRA. He again asked the Management Conference to comment to leave the Point Au Fer Project in the 2017 State Master Plan.

1. **CPRA 2017 Coastal Master Plan – Bren Haase**
* Slideshow is available at [www.btnep.org](http://www.btnep.org)
* It is required by law to update the State Master Plan every 5 years. The new plan is a $50 billion/50-year plan.
* Evaluation of 209 projects (135/restoration, 54/non-structural, 20/structural) totaling $150 billion.
* Evaluation is done by considering restoration benefit with/without project.
* Draft plan has 120 Projects
1. Key Questions Slide and CPRA Responses
* Diversions and Water levels
	+ Lafitte would not be affected by diversions
	+ Water levels on GIWW would not be affected by diversions
	+ Did **not** evaluate the cumulative effect of all the freshwater diversions flowing
* Diversions and Fisheries –
	+ Looked at habitat suitability and biomass of brown/white shrimp and oyster.
	+ Habitat suitability decreased but biomass increased.
	+ Coastwide, habitat suitability goes up but biomass decreases. Both are minimal change.
	+ At year 50 – both are higher that they are today.
* Diversion Operation
	+ There is no operating plan for Mid-Barataria right now.
	+ Note from MC: It may/may not be possible to run 5000cfs continuously because of gravity
* Diversion Location
	+ Ama was criticized by MC as a bad location for a diversion since Davis Pond is so close to it.
	+ Bren Haase noted that no specific location has decided on as of yet.
	+ Cost/performance was criticized since only 1000 acres was projected to be created and the cost is $1 Billion.
* Other
	+ Bayou Lafourche was referred to as a sediment diversion when it is a freshwater diversion. Haase answered that all diversions were classified as sediment diversions.
	+ Marsh Creation Negatives – Models show losses and doesn’t take into account altering of hydrology in existing areas
	+ Project Overlap – It is looked at how project interact but not overlap.
	+ High/Low reporting – High results reported.

There are 4 Lower River Diversions – Mid/Lower Barataria and Mid/Lower Breton

Questions from Management Conference:

1. Susan Testroet Bergeron asked CPRA representative Bren Haase if he felt like BTNEP needed more input into the master plan since the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Basins were the most affected. She suggested BTNEP needs a ‘larger’ voice at the table. Bren Haase agreed and thought this was a great idea.
2. Earl Melancon, member of the Coastal Round Table, suggested that CPRA needs to communicate better about the operational plans for the diversions. He asked if they have an operational plan to which Bren Haase replied “no”. Mr. Haase stated that there is no defined operational plan for the Mid-Barataria Diversion. It was stated that the COE would require a fairly detailed plan during permitting. Earl Melancon asked what was submitted to the COE. Mr. Haase replied that the permit application was submitted but not a operation plan. He stated that that would be a work in progress as they learned more information.
3. Rick Hartman stated that there is a cooperative agreement with the COE and a 3rd party contractor to do the Environmental Impact Statement. They will need public input on the EIS and public meetings. No operational plan as of yet. Estimated EIS won’t be done until as late as 2020.
4. Darin Lee stated that the permit is for comment and a proposed operational plan should be developed.
5. Rick Hartman stated that the Adaptive Management Plan would advise how operation will be controlled in the future.
6. Bruce Baird asked if CPRA would develop responses to all the comments. Bren Haase responded that all comments were documented and will be published. Bruce pointed out the problems with running the Davis Pond Diversion during the oil spill. He stated that that was 100% mortality to oysters in Barrataria Bay and any operational plan or project should have to pass the ‘straight-faced’/common sense test before being put into action.
7. Bruce also said that the amount of land the plan is suggesting will be built with the diversions is unrealistic. Looking at the natural process of the Atchafalaya, the plan is showing 29 times more land with 1/24 of the water. He also said that 50% more biomass of fish/oysters/shrimp in 50 years is not a realistic projection.
8. Michael Massimi stated that the stakes are high and not using the straight faced test would lead to spending $1 billion on a diversion where it could be used to build lots of land. (referring to Ama diversion)
9. Susan Testroet Bergeron urged that the $1 billion dedicated for Ama be used to do more projects in Terrebonne Parish. She stated that Davis Pond Diversion is already in the proposed area. AMA is just a study project and should not be considered in the plan. CWPPRA will only consider projects in the plan for funding. Put real projects in instead of study projects.
10. Rick Hartman pointed out that Marsh Creation projects in the 2012 State Master Plan had to have an outside system source. He thinks that all structural activated such as levees should have a marsh creation in front of it to protect the structure. Getting the material from outside the system is not cost effective.
11. Darin Lee stated that freeing up theoretical money in the Master Plan may raise expectations that will never happen.
12. Bren Haase agreed with Darin saying that they could put a polygon on Terrebonne Bay rim and then they can’t build it.
13. Kris Peterson stated her concern about digging deep borrow pits and leaving the holes which has a direct impact on the protection you are putting in. Bren Haase answered that that is why they like to get sediment from outsi8de the system instead of just moving it around.
14. Davey Breaux asked that the sediment that is dredge by Port Fourchon be used beneficially.
15. Port of Morgan City representative, Cindy Cutera agreed that material dredged from the Atchafalaya should be used beneficially. She suggested it be used on Point au fer and the cost/acre would decrease by using sediment from within the basin.
16. **BTNEP CCMP Update – BTNEP Staff**
* Slideshow is available at [www.btnep.org](http://www.btnep.org)
	+ The Introductory Chapters of the revised CCMP were explained by Susan Testroet-Bergeron
	+ General changes: 51 action plans to 35 Action plans.
	+ Attached to minutes is the List of 1996 Action Plans and Description of Changes Related to New BTNEP CCMP Action Plans 2017.
	+ There was a unanimous consent of all changes to CCMP by the Management Conference.
	+ Doug Jacobson explained the process of revising the CCMP in order to update. He noted the process is overseen by a rubric with a specific process.
	+ Susan noted that there is a March 15th deadline for comments and that she would put the link to the website on our webpage.
	+ Kristy Monier stated that over 100 hours have already been put into updating the CCMP.

**9. New Business** – NONE

**10.** **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Angela Rathle and seconded to adjourn by Kelsey Holfard. Motion carried.

 The meeting adjourned.