Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #79 Roll Call

National Park Services

9:30 a.m. – Tuesday, April 25, 2017

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Dean Cooper  Delaina LeBlanc  Kristy Monier | X  X  X  X  X | Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief | | | X  X  X  X | Siva Nunna  Susan Testroet-Bergeron  Steve Mathies, Director Emeritus  Kerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus | |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | | ***Member*** | | | ***Alternate*** | |
| American Sugarcane League | | | | X | Herman Waguespack | |  | John Constant |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | | | |  | Hugh Caffery | | X | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | |  | Kimberly Reyher | |  | Deb Abibou  Giovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority | | | |  | Chip Kline | |  | Austin Faldbaum  Brad Miller  Bren Haase  Carol Parsons Richard  Daniel Dearmond  Darin Lee  Elizabeth Shoenfelt  Robert Routon  Honora Buras  Jason Lanclos  Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc  Karim Belhadjali  Michael Ellis  Kenneth Bahlinger  Natalie Peyronnin  Rudy Simoneaux  Thomas McLain  Jim Pahl |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | |  | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Chett Chaisson | | X  X | Davie Breaux  Joni Tuck |
| Iberville Parish | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish | | | |  | Marnie Winter | | X | Jason Smith  Seamus Riley  Matt Sevier (BTEF-BM) |
| LA Association of Conservation District | | | |  | Ruben Dauzat | |  | Brad Spicer  Jerome Cantrelle |
| LA Association of Levee Boards | | | |  | Dwayne Bourgeois | |  |  |
| LA Department of Ag & Forestry | | | |  | Joey Breaux | | X | Carrie Castille  Caitlin Lambert  Faran Dietz  Jeremy Rodriguez |
| LA Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism | | | |  | Debra Credeur | |  | Karen Leathem  Linda Smith |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| LA Dept. of Economic Development | | | |  | Paul Sawyer | |  | Anne Perry |
| LA Department of Education | | | |  | Jill Cowart | | X | Lydia Hill |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | | | | X | Aimee Preau  Crisalda Adams | |  | John Sheehan  Jonathan McFarland  John Jennings |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | | | |  | Chasity Cheramie  Michael Bourgeois | | X | John Williams  Kathy LeBlanc |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | | X | Charles Reulet | |  | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley  Rod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | |  | Brady Carter  Jeff Marx | |  | Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble  Kristen Thibodeaux |
| LA Forestry Association | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| LA Independent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  | Randy Robichaux | |  |  |
| LA Landowners Association | | | |  | Tim Allen | | X | Randy Moertle |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association | | | |  |  | |  | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | | | |  | Marty J. Chabert | | X  X | David Gisclair  Karolien Debusschere |
| LA Science Teachers Association | | | |  | Shannon Lafont | | X | Tera LaPrarie  Nathan Cotten  Nicole Cotten  Jean May-Brett  Natalie Lirette |
| LA Wildlife Federation | | | |  | B.J. Barney Callahan  Bob Stewart | |  | Rebecca Triche  Stacy Ortego |
| Lafourche Parish | | | |  | Jimmy Cantrelle | | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | |  | Rex Caffey | | X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Don Davis |
| Lowlander Center | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | |  |  |
| LUMCON | | | |  | Dr. Craig McClain | | X | John Conover  Murt Conover  Nancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | | X | Richard Hartman | | X | Mel Landry  Twyla Cheatwood |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Bruce Murphy  Jeanne Murphy | | X | Gary LaFleur  Quenton Fonteno |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | |  | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | | X | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council | | | |  | Vic Lafont | |  | Simone Maloz |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | |  | Jonathan Foret | | X | Angelle Percle  Samantha Hicks |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | | X | Al Levron | |  | Mart Black |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | |  | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | |  | Angela Rathle | | X | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Alexa Romersa  Nuri Melancon  Clare Lister  Rebecca Flourney |
| US Coast Guard | | | | X | Kelsey Holford | |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Susan Hennington | |  | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Sarah Bradley  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | William “Bill” Honker | |  | Doug Jacobson |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck |
| USDA/NRCS | | | |  | Quin Kinler | | X  X | John Boatman  Alton James  Samuel Terry |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | |  | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Nikki Cavalier  Phil Turnipseed |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X | Earl Melancon | |  | Nolan Falgout, III  Matt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | | | |  | Christy Naquin | |  |  |
| Bayou Grace | | | |  | Mary Gueniot Biegler | |  | Jenny Dupre  Anne Parr |
| Bayou Land RC & D | | | |  | Dr. Colleen Butler | |  | Jennifer Roberts |
| Bayou Some Fun | | | |  | Dottie Hartman | |  |  |
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | | | |  | Bruce Baird | |  |  |
| Conoco Phillips | | | |  | Betsy Brien | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | | X | Dan Boudreaux  Garrett Ohlmeyer | | X | Bridgete Mire  Abby Tabor |
| Ducks Unlimited | | | |  | Leslie Suazo | |  | Joe Fifer |
| Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities | | | |  | 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 | |  |  |
| LSU | | | |  | Loren Hull | |  |  |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder | | X | Keri Turner  Allyse Ferrara |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | | X | David Cavell | |  |  |
| Pan Am Communication | | | |  | Lenny Delbert | |  | Lenny Delbert Jr. |
| Port of Morgan City | | | |  | Cindy Cutrera | |  |  |
| Public Schools | | | |  | Tina Galler | |  |  |
| RES | | | |  | Frank Cuccio | |  |  |
| Restore Council | | | |  |  | |  | John Ettinger |
| Restore or Retreat | | | |  | Simone Maloz | | X | Victoria Segrera |
| 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 Sand  Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Victoria Phaneuf | |  | Morgan Lundy |
| VISTA | | | | X | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Vincent Guillory | | X | Marty Bourgeois |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| BTNEP Intern. | | | | X | Alexis Rixner | |  |  |
| BTNEP Student Workers | | | | X | Justin Homer | | X | Maci Schexnaydre |
| Thomassie Construction | | | | X | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
| Cajun Music Preservation Society | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference #79**

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 were asked to do so.

1. Reading and Approval of Minutes for MC Meeting #78 – April 25, 2017

A motion was made by David Gisclair and seconded by Herman Waguespack to dispense with the reading of the Management Conference #78 minutes and to accept them as submitted. Motion carried.

**1. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

1. Personnel Changes – Over the summer the regular interns will be on leave, two interns that Seth has been working with will be coming to help BTNEP. Seth explains that two students Megan and Kristy from Colorado College received a grant for room and board. They will stay in Louisiana for two months, 240 hours each for the summer and they will spend it all with BTNEP.
2. Alma introduced Victoria Sangrera who was just crowned Miss Louisiana of the United States
3. Victoria Sangrera introduced herself and explains that her platform is Heal the Habitat: which is basically parallel to the work BTNEP does and bring awareness to save the environmental health, especially with the younger generation. She also wants to do small scale planning and community events to get the youth and adults involved.
4. Alma and Susan introduce the interns from Nicholls State: Alexis Rixner and Justin Homer
5. Michael discussed the Phragmites Scale Invasion: An invasive insect has been introduced to the birdsfoot delta in lower Plaquemines Parish. It seems to be specialized in consuming *Phragmites australia*. It is doing a lot of damage to large amounts of the plant in the area. Whether the areas will recover or not is not yet known. LSU Ag Center is part of a multi-agency team working on research in order to assess the damage done so far and determine next steps. Currently the scale appears to be limited to the birdsfoot. Burnings have been suggested, however the area being infected is very large, so this is probably not the best choice. There is a parasitoid that does affect the scale, this may be a possible source of bio control, but it must undergo further research.
6. Alma – Bayou Lafourche Cleanup: Many partners contribute in kind or by contributing finances. There were about 990 people signed up, and about that many people came out. There were 10-12 sites that covered 160 miles along Bayou Lafourche. The citizens have not been trained completely with the data cards, so they are not taken extremely seriously, but they do give a good idea of what some of the main items found are. 12,909 pieces of shoreline and recreational items were found with a total of 17,000 pieces. The count of pieces is down from last year, but the tonnage from the dumpsters are not changing. This could possibly be from having more people and more equipment to get heavier pieces. Solutions were posed for items that were popular (e.g. education outreach to cut down on campaign signs). See web for PowerPoint presentation.
7. Seth – Volunteer Event Last Week: On Friday 16 participants from Shell helped with a planting in Port Fourchon Ridge. 398 two-year old trees were planted in just over 2 hours. It was an Earth Day inspired event.
8. Matt – about 10 different species that we grow out for the ridge. He mentioned all of them are beneficial to the Neo-tropical migratory birds.
9. Richard – Spring Work: Work is ramping up because a lot of birds are coming in for the spring breeding season. A crowd from Corpus Christi Bay National Estuary Program they are down on Grand Isle. They are capturing Red Knot and apply nano tags. We are also ramping up our work on the old Exxon site now the Entergy XXI on Grand Isle. The Prothonotary Warbler trails we now have 4 different trails site, Lockport Boardwalk, Mandalay, Brownell Memorial Park. We are very busy this time of the year putting out and monitoring nest boxes.

Susan noted that some of the work that Richard is doing is now being funded through a settlement through Department of Justice that went through our Foundation.

1. Susan then discussed that the Louisiana Science Teachers have rewritten the state’s science standards and have done a very good job. Standards have gone before the BESE Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, not sure where they stand right now but the BESE Board approved them as written. Lydia noted that the BESE Board was going to share them with the Louisiana state delegation during this legislative session.
2. 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.

**2. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

* August 3, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union
* November 2, 2017 – Plantation Suite @ NSU Student Union
* February 2018 – Location and Date TBD
* May 2018 – Location and Date TBD

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**BTNEP 2018 Workplan**

Susan mentioned that possible funding changes should be discussed in coordination with the review of the 2018 EPA Workplan. She stated that the current budget memo noted that there will be no funding for any of the National Estuary Programs. She mentioned that this is a scaffolding budget.

Joni said that as the Port Commission, they have been a long-standing member of the management conference; and a lot of the value from the Program She suggested that other members of the MC had a similar experience. She noted that the GLPC talked to our delegation and our delegation staffers and also did a letter of support, supporting NEP funding request specifically BTNEP. She mentioned that GLPC was happy to share it with this group if anyone wants it. She stated that GLPC can’t say enough about what the program has done for us over the years the value they brought, the additional partners and funding that they brought like at the Maritime Forest Ridge and marsh restoration and the expertise and support that GLPC gets on an executive level as well as we are developing the next generation of our mitigation and restoration portfolio.

Gary LaFleur requested Joni to send that letter to everyone. Gary asked to confirm that the budget was not completed yet and that it was not too late to write letters. Gary asked for a draft letter to be sent to BTMC members.

Al Levron called on David Cavell. David Cavell said that this is a skeleton budget that was proposed to Congressmen and from there Congressmen have the opportunity to go in a fund certain issues and fund programs or put money back in to budget for certain issues or programs.

Earl talked about Sea Grant and said they are in the same boat with the National Estuary Programs. Earl mentioned that if any members have a relationship with Sea Grant and would like to support Sea Grant, letters would be appreciated.

Earl asked Susan to forward any requests to him and he asked if people didn’t know how to contact him about Sea Grant they could contact the BTNEP office.

Julie Falgout, noted that LA Sea Grant could also be sent to her and she would print them and see that they are brought to Washington D.C. next week when Sea Grant travels there.

Aimee Preau stated that EPA Section 319 also zeroed out. These funds are used for non-point pollution remediation.

Gary Lafleur said that the thing about BTNEP is that they help to protect the land and industry. They protect our environment.

Kerry St.Pe’ asked if Shell had written a letter. Susan noted that they asked her to send them a template to work of off.

Susan reminded the MC that before the budget discussion she wanted to be sure the BTNEP MC had an honest discussion about what money might be available or might not be available. When we look at the budget we will tell you how will organize it this year.

Steve Mathies noted that that letters are really good for our congressional delegations but what is really good is when you have 2 or 3 people that sit there and represent different constituents, as you normally don’t think that would go together. Like the port guys and the environmental guy or oil and gas guy, sitting down with that Congressman when they come on the weekend and let me take 30 minutes and you will totally understand this we’ll get the CCMP and the same groups of people and that signed that and say here we are 20 years later we’re still together and still moving forward.

David Cavell noted that the next date the Congressman would be back was May 8.

Kristina Peterson asked that the dates for recesses be put out so they could plan to meet with Congress. Kris asked for a draft of the letter to be sent to the BTMC.

Susan said it was time to talk about the BTNEP Workplan. She noted that if BTMC members didn’t have a copy there are copies out on the sign in table and also stated that if you’re a management conference member you should have a draft copy.

Susan stated when EPA recently directed the NEP to plan for 600 thousand dollars.

Dean again reminded everybody to take out his or her draft workplan. Susan mentioned that the water quality action plan team, cultural heritage, migratory bird, invasive species, and education action plan team developed this draft workplan using a specific process. The layout of this workplan goes through each project and the description and the last page is the chart summary

Dean then reviewed the proposed plan item by item:

LUMCON Indirect cost they take 10%

Personal Salary and Fringe

NSU Rent cost

Administrative Operating Services

Administrative Funds for Supplies

Layout of the 2019 Tidal Graph Calendar

Project managers were then asked to review each of their Action Plan Team Projects.

Projects were listed and discussed as follows:

Development of Blue Bird Trail in Upper BTNEP

Richard DeMay

Passive Array of VHF Radio Telemetry Towers in the BTNEP Region Year Two

Richard DeMay

2018 Wetshop – Louisiana Wetland Education Teacher Workshop

Alma Robichaux

2018 Creating Sustainability in our Schools

Alma Robichaux

Teaching Responsible Earth Education - Earth Keepers Training

Alma Robichaux

Pilot testing and Protocol Development of Apple Snail Suppression at Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

Michael Massimi

Assessment of Armored Catfish Presence in Bayou Lafourche and Lake fields

Michael Massimi followed by a long discussion about the armored catfish. Quenton explained that for this small amount of money this was primarily a survey.

Preparing for Biological Control of Chinese Tallow on Louisiana

Michael Massimi

Pointe-Au-Chien Tribe Intergenerational Cultural Camp

Seth Moncrief

The Louisiana Swamp Stomp Festival

Seth Moncrief

Andrew noted that he was working with DEQ on water quality in Bayou Folse and had two proposals that he would fund with other money.

2018 From H2O - A Water Quality Workshop for Teachers would be funded with older EPA funds

Delivery of Agricultural Technical Assistance to Bayou Folse Watershed Complex – State or BTEF funds

Dean provided the BTMC with a list of different projects and programs that go through the Foundation or are funded with other funds such as CPRA or DOJ.

Al Levron asked for the motion to accept the 2018 workplan. Motion made by David Gisclair and seconded by Herman Waguespack. Anyone with comments for opposition. None. Motion carried.

Susan suggested that the motion would be that the management conference would allow the BTNEP Staff to minimize the budget by removing projects of lesser priority as identified by the Staff. Motion Herman Waguespack and seconded by John Conover. Al noted motion passed without opposition to approving the 2018 Workplan.

Dean thanked the BTMC for approving the 2018 Workplan with the option for modifications based on funding.

Earl explained “Give NOLA Day” and how the money goes to BTNEP.

Alma asked to deviate from the agenda to discuss floor map for education outreach. She presented 2 versions of the map to see which one was preferred. It was decided that the coloration of version 2 with the boundaries from version 1. She agreed to work with members of the BTMC who are interested in preparing the right visual for the map.

**DEQ Water Quality Improvement Project Related to Bayou Folse** –

Andrew discusses DEQ Water Quality Improvement Project – Bayou Folse Water Shed Project. He explained the parameters that were being measured and discussed the early data. PowerPoint presentation is available on website.

**4. New Business** –

**BTNEP Program Evaluation**

Susan noted that the BTNEP program evaluation from EPA will be coming up this summer. Susan asked for a few members of the management conference to volunteer to talk with EPA during June 19-22, 2017. Several members offered to help BTNEP with the Program Evaluation. Susan noted that she would be contacting members of the BTMC with additional information as it became available.

**5. New BTNEP Map Review**

Andrew told the BTNEP MC that BTNEP is working on a new map to replace the old TM and to aid with the new revised CCMP. She also asked for feedback on the version presented at the meeting. People were asked to review the map during lunch and provide comment to Andrew and Siva.

**6. Announcements**

Al asked if there were any announcements.

**New BTNEP Fact Sheets**

Susan noted that BTNEP was working on creating fact sheets for program activities. She shared copies with the group and thanked Rick Hartman for his encouragement to create the new documents.

**Chauvin Folk Art Festival**

Gary Lafleur shared about the Chauvin Folk Art Festival in Downtown Chauvin. It is Sunday April 30, 2017, same day as the Blessing of the Fleet.

**7.** **ADJOURN**

Al asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Joni Tuck and seconded to adjourn by David Gisclair. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.