Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #83 Roll Call

Century Room under the Stadium

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, May 3, 2018

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Dean Cooper  Delania LeBlanc  Kristy Monier | X  X  X  X  X  X | Matt Benoit  Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief | | | 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 | | | |  | Herman Waguespack | |  | John Constant |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | | | |  | Hugh Caffery | |  | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Cajun Music Preservation | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | |  | Kimberly Reyher | |  | Deb Abibou  Giovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority | | | |  | Chip Kline | | X | 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 | Davie Breaux  Joni Tuck |
| Iberville Parish | | | | X | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish | | | |  | Marnie Winter | | X  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 | |  | Carrie Castille  Caitlin Lambert  Faran Dietz  Jeremy Rodriguez |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| 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 | | | |  | Jill Cowart | | X | Lydia Hill |
| LA Department of Environmental Quality | | | |  | Aimee Preau  Crisalda Adams | |  | John Sheehan  Jonathan McFarland  John Jennings |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | | | | X | Kathy LeBlanc  Michael Bourgeois | |  | John Williams |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | | X  X | Charles Reulet  Sara Krupa | |  | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley  Rod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Willie Cheramie  Jeff Marx | |  | Brady Carter  Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble |
| 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 | David Gisclair  Eva Windhoffer  Karolien Debusschere |
| LA Science Teachers Association | | | |  | Shannon Lafont | | X | Tera LaPrarie  Nathan Cotten  Nicole Cotten  Jean May-Brett  Natalie Lirette |
| LA Wildlife Federation | | | | X | B.J. Barney Callahan  Bob Stewart | |  | Rebecca Triche  Stacy Ortego |
| Lafourche Parish | | | |  | Jimmy Cantrelle | | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | | X | Rex Caffey | | X  X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Don Davis  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | | X | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | | X | Dr. Craig McClain  John Conover | | X | Guillaume Rieucau  Murt Conover  Nancy Rabalais |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | |  | Twyla Cheatwood  Richard Hartman | | X  X | Mel Landry  Alexis Rixner |
| Nicholls State University | | | | X | Dr. Jay Clune | | X | Gary LaFleur  Chris Bonvillain |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | | X  X | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | | X | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Cullen Curole  Arianna Choudhuri |
| South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) | | | |  | Vic Lafont | | X | Simone Maloz  Victoria Sagrera |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | |  | Jonathan Foret | | X | Angelle Percle  Samantha Hicks |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | | X | Ivy Mathieu |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | |  | Mart Black | |  | Jennifer Gerbasi |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | | X | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | | X | Angela Rathle | |  | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Alexa Romersa  Nuri Melancon  Clare Lister  Rebecca Flourney |
| US Coast Guard | | | |  | Kelsey Holford | |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Sarah Bradley  Susan Hennington | | X | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Kaityln Carriere  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | Doug Jacobson | |  |  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | | X | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck  Bryan Pember |
| USDA/NRCS | | | |  | Quin Kinler | | X  X  X | John Boatman  Alton James  Samuel Terry  Lacy Bellanger |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X  X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Phil Turnipseed  Sinead Borchert |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Aqua Safety-First Community Program | | | |  | Woodrow Parker | |  |  |
| Atchafalaya NHA | | | |  | Steven Fullen | |  | Justin Owens |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | |  | Earl Melancon | |  | Nolan Falgout, III  Matt Sevier |
| Bayou Country Children’s Museum | | | |  | Christopher Gergeni | |  | 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 | | X | Victoria Phaneuf |
| Conoco Phillips | | | |  | Betsy Brien | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | |  | Dan Boudreaux  Garrett Ohlmeyer | |  | Bridgete Mire  Abby Tabor |
| Ducks Unlimited | | | |  | Leslie Suazo | |  | Joe Fifer |
| Farm Bureau Insurance | | | |  | Robert Adams | |  |  |
| 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 | | | | X | Tyler Gray  Katie DeRoche | |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | | X | Stephanie Beaugh | |  | Christy Kane |
| LSU | | | |  | Dr Benjamin Springgate  Loren Hull | |  | Jennifer Sato |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder  Keri Turner | |  | Allyse Ferrara  Andria Ostrowski  Kellyn LaCour |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | |  | David Cavell | |  |  |
| Pan Am Communication | | | |  | Lenny Delbert | |  | Lenny Delbert Jr. |
| Pointe Au Chien | | | |  | Donald Daedar | |  |  |
| Port of Morgan City | | | |  | Cindy Cutrera | |  |  |
| Public Schools | | | |  | Tina Galler | |  |  |
| RES | | | |  | Frank Cuccio | |  |  |
| Restore or Retreat | | | |  | Simone Maloz | |  | Victoria Segrera |
| Royal Engineering | | | |  | Shelley Sparks | |  | Kirk Rhinehart |
| Ryan Productions | | | |  | Andre’ Lyons | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | |  | Ian Voparil | |  | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  |  |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | |  |  |
| The Water Institue of the Gulf | | | |  | Scott Hemmerling | | X | Monica Barra |
| TLCD | | | |  | Angela Rains | |  | Darin Guidry |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) | | | |  | Melanie Sand | |  | Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| US Geological | | | | X | Jacoby Carter | |  |  |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
| BTNEP IT | | | | X | Jason Russell | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Darryl Hambrinck | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Ivy Mathieu | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | Doug Daigle | |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #83 Final Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Quenton Fontenot, BTNEP MC Chairman, at 9:30am.
2. Management Conference members and guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves by stating their name and affiliation.
3. Dr. Jay Clune, president of Nicholls State University, was introduced. He greeted the Management Conference and spoke about proposed improvement to South Babington hall and the Nicholls farm. He went on to emphasize the promotion of synergy between Nicholls and those affiliated with BTNEP and the Management Conference.
4. The floor was opened for comments on the Reading and approval of Minutes the February 2nd MC#82 meeting.

Dr. Quenton Fontenot motioned to accept the minutes as written.

Dr. Rex Caffey motioned to accept the minutes as written.

Angela Rathle seconded the motion.

1. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
   1. Susan Testroet-Bergeron opened the summary of program activities by announcing Quinn Lapeyrousse’s resignation. She said that he is moving on. She held a moment of silence for a former intern Gerald Lombardo who had passed away.
   2. Siva Nunna said that the 6th quarterly report on the Bayou Folse Watershed was submitted to the LDEQ, and work is being started on the second phase of the contract.
   3. Natalie Waters said that the Prothonotary Warbler project is underway for the season, and she updated the conference on the state of the osprey nesting platforms.
   4. Delaina LeBlanc announced that tracking work was continued with Red Knots about a week ago.
   5. Alma Robichaux announced that there were a record number of volunteers and a record amount of trash collected (estimated 30 Tons) at the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup for this year. She expressed the need for a designated drop off location for tires.
   6. Kristy Monier announced that Paddle Bayou Lafourche was a success this year with 103 participants total for the 4 days of the event.
   7. Dean Blanchard talked about the EPA/NEP meeting in Washington, D.C. that he and Susan attended. They updated them on BTNEP’s events for this year and the growing support for BTNEP’s base funding of $600,000 and a national competitive grant program for $4 million.
   8. Richard DeMay talked about the expansion of a Blue Bird trail south from Pointe Coupee Parish into northern Iberville Parish with between 30 and 40 nest boxes. He also mentioned that the first breeding bird survey of the Caminada Headlands for the year was held, and there will be another one in early June. He hopes to soon combine all of the collected information into a report.
   9. Seth Moncrief talked about the groups that have volunteered in the past month including the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri. He also spoke about the planting with 35 participants from Shell on April 20 in which they had 1,100 plants in the ground in an hour.
   10. Michael Massimi spoke about the Grand Isle State Park project to remove Chinese Tallow trees – a 2 year project that they are about halfway through.
   11. Andrew Barron announced that he and Siva Nunna finished up their 6th quarterly report with the Bayou Folse project and are working on their new contract with LDEQ which involves sewage surveys in the Bayou Folse watershed. He also mentioned that he conducted some Master Naturalist and plant ID courses this quarter.
   12. Susan Testroet-Bergeron announced that there will be new publications coming out on ducks, improving water quality, invasive species control, and paddling. She also mentioned that the CCMP is out for public review.

1. **UPCOMING DATES**
   1. From H2O – LUMCON, May 28-May 31
   2. State of the Coast Conference – New Orleans, May 30-June 1
   3. WETSHOP – Grand Isle July 9-13, 2018
   4. Next Management Conference – Plantation Suite in the Nicholls Union, August 2nd.
   5. Fall Management Conference meeting – November 1st, location TBD
2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   1. BTNEP Annual Work Plan – Dean Blanchard, BTNEP Deputy Directory & BTNEP Staff

Dean Blanchard read through the work plan breakdown of the usage of the $600,000 federal grant from the EPA and the matching amount from state funds. He mentioned that the higher education budget cuts that might be imposed on the state side of that funding is being covered by the federal side. He covered all of the projects and workings on which the funds are used and allowed the project managers to talk about their respective projects:

* + 1. Seth Moncrief spoke about the tidal graph calendar for which he procured the content and deGravelles & Associates did the design work. It was mentioned that the printing costs for the calendar and other publications come out of the administrative operating services. There may have to be a shift to more online than print copies of the publications in the future due to this. This year 20,000 calendars were printed at $1.25 apiece. Donors are being sought out to help with the costs.
    2. Andrew Barron spoke about the From H2O teacher workshop at LUMCON. It started in 2000 and is focused on water quality education. There is a direct relationship between the amount of attendees and the money spent on the program. He spoke about other project proposals that he had including one on algal blooms that was out of BTNEP’s project area and one on litter traps that they will try to undergo without the use of external funding.
    3. Richard DeMay spoke about BTNEP’s partnership with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to create an array of telemetry towers along the Louisiana coast to track tagged birds that migrate past them. He is working with Curtis Walker, the contractor of the project, to make it happen.
    4. Delaina LeBlanc spoke about Wilson’s plover project that also utilizes the aforementioned telemetry towers. This project will monitor the breeding population and measure stress levels on individuals.
    5. Alma Jackson spoke about the WETSHOP teacher workshop in Grand Isle that teaches about the habitats on the island. She also spoke about Teach Wild, a new workshop for students in partnership with Audubon aquarium teaching about marine debris. She then mentioned the marine debris education and prevention program involving high school students and citizen scientists.
    6. Michael Massimi spoke about the apple snail egg suppression project. It was found that high pressure water spray on the egg masses is a better and more economic option than oils, so that is what the project is moving towards.
    7. Seth Moncrief then spoke about the two proposed cultural heritage projects at the River Road African American Museum and the Chauvin Folk Art Festival.

Dr. Quenton Fontenot motion to approve the work plan, and the work plan was accepted by consensus. Susan Testroet-Bergeron mentioned that project managers are also working hard to get external donors to assist with the costs of additional projects. She shared a document detailing additional funds.

* 1. Agricultural Assistance in the Bayou Folse Watershed – Samuel Terry, NRCS

Samuel Terry presented about what National Resource Conservation Service is, what they do, and how they can assist the area’s landowners and producers. The NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance to their participants. They help to provide a conservation plan to the owners and farmers of the land to implement sustainable and environmentally safe and supportive practices. Their four programs EQIP, CSP, ACEP, RCPP work to establish conservation systems, support existing systems, provide easement programs, and partner with other conservation programs respectively. Through its programs, NRCS hopes to further the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and other natural resources. Applicants to the programs are presented with a plan and ranked based on the priority of the conservation potential in their land. The eligible applicants then receive funding and their conservation plan is implemented. The NRCS hopes to recruit more applicants in order to consequently increase the funds that they have available for their programs. Currently, NRCS is implementing a national water quality initiative (NWQI) in the Bayou Folse watershed complex to reduce the runoff of excessive nutrients into the water, consequently improving the quality of the water.

* 1. The Process of Treating Water in Lafourche Parish from Intake to Finished Drinking Water – Dirk Barrios, Lafourche Parish Water District

Dirk Barrios explained the process that the north and the south plant of Lafourche Parish water district go through to purify their drinking water using the conventional treatment system. The water is first pumped from Bayou Lafourche into a pre-sedimentation basin where the water travels through curtains where heavier sediment is allowed to settle. The water then goes into a mixer where flocculent chemicals use charges in the water to clump up the solid particles into flocs. To disinfect, chlorine dioxide, activated carbon, and fluoride are also added. The water then goes into a trough and then into the flocculation basin. Here it goes through a series of over and under baffles to also aid in floc formation and settling. The higher levels of water go into weirs and then go on to be filtered through a dual media filtration system. Chlorine and ammonia are added for disinfection. The purified water then goes into storage tanks and to distribution systems. This finished product meets state and federal requirements and is fully drinkable. He spoke about some of the problems that happened in the past, the explanation for them, and how they were solved.

* 1. Prothonotary Warbler Conservation and Monitoring – Natalie Waters, BTNEP Bird Conservation Coordinator

Natalie Waters spoke about the BTNEP prothonotary warbler conservation and monitoring project. The prothonotary warbler is a neotropical migratory bird. In spring, they typically arrive in North America in mid-march for their breeding season when the males will find cavities and establish territories of 0.5 to 3 acres. The males find potential nest cavities and displays at the nest cavities for females who decide where to nest. They have a relatively short incubation and nesting period, and they typically have two broods per nesting season. Males and females share feeding duties. They usually end their breeding season and migrate back to the mainly mangrove habitats of South and Central America in August. The prothonotary warblers are faced with problems such as habitat loss, pesticide use, changes in hydrology of their wetland habitat, nest parasitism (mainly brown-headed cow birds), and collisions with man-made objects. The species has had a cumulative decline of 42% since the 1960s. The prothonotary warbler working group was formed to develop a conservation plan and implement conservation actions that reverse population declines. BTNEP focuses on establishing nest box trails and monitoring their activity. These nest boxes have been shown to increase breeding density 5-6 fold. BTNEP also color banded birds for identification and partnered with Audubon Louisiana to use geolocators to map the species migration.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Planning for future implementation of Non-Structural projects in Houma, LA – Monica Barra,

The Water Institute of the Gulf

Monica Barra spoke about the Water Institute of the Gulf’s plan for organizing a series of workshops across communities of coastal Louisiana. One of their focuses will be the Houma area. They are looking to talk to residents, elected officials, homeowners, business owners, etc. to get a sense of the effect of the taxing of the non-structural programs that may be put in place. She announced that there will be a meeting on May 19 at the Wetlands Discovery Center to discuss this.

* 1. A resolution re-affirming BTNEP’s 2014 resolution supporting the Land & Water Conservation

Fund – Doug Daigle

In 2014 the Management Conference passed a resolution expressing support for the Land & Water Conservation Fund which was passed by congress in 1965 which takes a portion of offshore oil production revenues and directs it to projects that expand public access to outdoor recreation – can include anything from national parks to a neighborhood ballfield. Many projects in Louisiana are made possible by this fund. As a federal law, it must be reauthorized every few years. Therefore a motion was made to reauthorize, and it was accepted by consensus.

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. Louisiana Appleseed is a non-profit that works on identifying systemic issues and advocating for change particularly in areas that increase access to justice opportunity and education. Stephanie Beaugh announced that they have a new project called the protective property project in partnership with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Houma location to offer outreach and free legal services to people in Terrebonne and Lafourche parish. The legal services are specifically for people who live in homes that are inherited family homes but they do not have a clear title. This project is important for these individuals seeking assistance after coastal erosion issues and national disasters.
   2. LWF is accepting applicants to their Conservation Leadership Corps program. The program will assist in training the future generation of conservation leaders. This is available to high school seniors through college juniors.
2. **ADJOURNED**

Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was accepted by consensus. The meeting was adjourned.