Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #85 Roll Call

Plantation Suite near Student Union

10:30 a.m. – Thursday, November 1, 2018

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Dean Cooper  Delania LeBlanc  Matt Benoit | X  X  X  X  X  X | Michael Massimi  Natalie Waters  Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief  Siva Nunna | | | X  X | 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 | |  | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Cajun Music Preservation | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | |  | Kimberly Reyher  Emily Vuxton | |  | Deb Abibou  Giovanna McClenachan |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority | | | | X | Chip Kline  Stuart Brown | | X | Brad Miller  Bren Haase  Carol Parsons Richard  Daniel Dearmond  Darin Lee  Elizabeth Shoenfelt  Robert Routon  Honora Buras  Jason Lanclos  Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc  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 | | | | X  X | Chett Chaisson  Joni Tuck | | X  X | Davie Breaux  Mohan Menn |
| Iberville Parish | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish | | | |  | Marnie Winter | |  | Jason Smith  Seamus Riley  Matt Sevier (BTEF-BM) |
| 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  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 | | | | X | Kathy LeBlanc | |  | Lauren Comeaux |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | | X  X | Charles Reulet  Sara Krupa  Jessica Diez | |  | Don Haydel  Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Tori O’Malley  Rod Pierce |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Willie Cheramie  Jeff Marx  Gage Lasseigne | |  | Brady Carter  Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble |
| 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 | | | |  | Lori LeBlanc | | X | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office | | | |  | Marty J. Chabert  David Gisclair | | X | Eva Windhoffer  Karolien Debusschere  Tori Copeland |
| 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 | |  | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | |  | Rex Caffey | | X  X  X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Thomas Hymel  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | |  | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | | X | Dr. Craig McClain  John Conover | |  | Guillaume Rieucau  Murt Conover |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | | X | Craig Gothreaux  Richard Hartman | | X | Mel Landry  Alexis Rixner  Shannon Martin |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Jay Clune | | X | Gary LaFleur  Chris Bonvillain |
| Plaquemines Parish | | | | X | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark |
| Point Coupee Parish | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| Sassafras LA | | | |  | Alex Naquin | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | |  | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | | X | Pat Gordon  Stephanie Brunning |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) | | | |  | Vic Lafont | |  | Simone Maloz  Victoria Sagrera |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | | | |  | Jonathan Foret | |  | Angelle Percle  Samantha Hicks |
| St. Charles Parish | | | |  | Earl Matherne | |  | Kim Marousek |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | | X | Ivy Mathieu |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | | X | Mart Black | |  | Jennifer Gerbasi |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | |  | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | | X | Angela Rathle | | X  X  X | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Dusty Pate  Aleutia Scott  Lea Scott  Kimberly Cooke |
| US Coast Guard | | | |  | Capt. Blake Welborn  Kelsey Holford | |  | Liz Massimi |
| US Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Sarah Bradley  Susan Hennington | |  | Barbara Kleiss  Mark Wingate  Cheri Price  Kaityln Carriere  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | | X | Doug Jacobson | |  | Rachel Houge |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | |  | Ronnie Paille | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck  Bryan Pember |
| USDA/NRCS | | | | X | Quin Kinler  John Boatman  Arnelis Crespo | | X | Alton James  Samuel Terry  Lacy Bellanger |
| USGS | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X  X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Mirka Zapletal  Melissa Collin  Phil Turnipseed  Sinead Borchert  Kathy Ladner |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Aqua Safety-First Community Program | | | | X | Woodrow Parker | |  | Lee Hulsey |
| Atchafalaya NHA | | | |  | Steven Fullen | |  | Justin Owens |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X | 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 Ecosystem Restoration Council | | | |  | John Ettinger | |  | LaKeshia Robertson |
| Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw | | | |  | Chief Albert P. Naquin | |  |  |
| Lori LeBlanc LLC | | | |  | Tyler Gray  Katie DeRoche | |  | Melissa Cloutet |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | |  | Stephanie Beaugh | |  | Christy Kane |
| LSU | | | | X | Dr Benjamin Springgate  Loren Hull  Rebecca | |  | Jennifer Sato  R Eugene Turner |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder | |  | Allyse Ferrara  Keri Turner |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves | | | |  | David Cavell | | X | John Lombardo |
| Pan Am Communication | | | |  | Lenny Delbert | |  | Lenny Delbert Jr. |
| Pointe Au Chien | | | |  | Donald Daedar | |  |  |
| Port of Morgan City | | | | X | 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 | |  |  |
| Senator John Kennedy’s Office | | | |  | Mary Elise Schlesinger | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | |  | Ian Voparil | |  | Shelley Piehet |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | | X | Donald Spahr | |  | Brent Roger |
| St. John Parish | | | |  | Evelyn Campo | |  | Ivy Mathieu |
| The Water Institute of the Gulf | | | | X  X | Scott Hemmerling  Erin White | | X | Monica Barra  Bruce Yuill |
| TLCD | | | |  | Angela Rains | |  | Darin Guidry |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| UNO – CHART (Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology) | | | |  | Melanie Sand | |  | Katherine Norwood  Bennett Alldredge |
| UNO – Nekton Research Laboratory | | | |  | Martin O’Connell | |  |  |
| US Geological | | | |  | Jacoby Carter | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Ben McMahan | |  |  |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
| BTNEP IT | | | | X | Jason Russell | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Darryl Hambrinck | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Doug Daigle | |  |  |
| NOAA | | | | X | Shannon Martin | |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #85 Final Minutes – November 1, 2018**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Quenton Fontenot, BTNEP MC Chairman, at 10:30am.
2. Susan asked for a change in the agenda for the discussion items from “Marine Debris Prevention and Education Curriculum” designed by Dottie Hartman – and presented by Alma Robichaux-Jackson to Thomas Hymel “Fisheries Forward”.
   1. Joni Tuck motioned to accept the changes to the agenda.
   2. Angela Rathle seconded the motion
   3. Motion was approved by consensus.
3. Management Conference members and guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves by stating their name and affiliation. Members were reminded to be sure that they signed in once they arrived.
4. The floor was opened for comments on the reading and approval of minutes from the meeting.
5. Dr. Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as written.
6. Joni Tuck motioned to accept the minutes as written.
7. Gary LaFleur seconded the motion.
8. Motion was approved by consensus.
9. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
   1. Susan Testroet-Bergeron opened with a summary of programs by announcing that the White Boot Gala took place in the recent weeks.
   2. Susan Testroet-Bergeron stated that Alma Robichaux attended LSTA and the CAMO meeting took place earlier in the week. She thanked everyone who attended.
   3. Susan Testroet-Bergeron stated that ES&H hosted a golf tournament for BTNEP in September and it was very well received. ES&H will be giving a donation to the program.
   4. Susan Testroet-Bergeron also stated that there was a personnel change. Kristy Monier, the Media Coordinator for BTNEP, has resigned. She also stated that 3 new interns were hired.
   5. Michael Massimi showed a slide about a new invasive species – Purple Loosestrife
   6. Doug Jacobson gave an update on the CCMP noticing that comments would be provided soon.
   7. Susan also discussed the recent oil spill prevention meeting held at Nicholls
10. **UPCOMING DATES**
    1. Swamp Stomp Festival – November 3rd, 2018
    2. Clean Gulf Conference – November 13-15, 2018
    3. Sewage Treatment System Class – December 10-11, 2018
    4. Christmas Bird Count – December 30th, 2018
    5. Next Management Conference Meeting – February 7th, 2019
11. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
    1. 2023 State Master Plan for Coastal Restoration – Stuart Brown, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
       1. CPRA was formed after the 2005 major hurricanes. The Master Plan simply addresses how the state can best spend their resources to get the greatest benefit to reduce storm surge flooding and the ability to retain coastal wetlands. Some goals of the state Master Plan are to restore and utilize natural processes, main and restore coastal habitats, and preserving coastal heritage. The general process of the Master Plan is to identify candidates’ projects, model them to see how they perform, and then prioritize those projects. Mr. Brown stated that there will be a significant change in the coast in the next 50 years whether action is taken or not. CPRA wants to make it a priority to try to manage these changes to try to alleviate some of the ecological stressors or even limit some stressors to the individuals inhabiting those particular areas along the coast. Many of the stressors seen in the past 20-50 years, may not be the same in the years to come. The master plan addresses ways that CPRA can look forward and potentially design projects to combat future issues.
       2. Over the next two years the main focus will be new project development and updating the current models. He stated the need to update their environmental scenarios. He proceeded to show different models, such as differing levels of sea level rise, subsidence, storm frequency and intensity, and precipitation. As the science advances, they want to be able to incorporate new updates to their models to keep it as current as possible. In the past 2-3 years, there has been a lot of research done to tackle subsidence that has been conducted by CPRA and other organizations. He spoke about the flood risk and resilience program that was established under the previous master plan. They are coordinating with the watershed initiative to produce the economic impact assessment for different state agencies and capacity assessment for different parishes. Some examples include their capacity to implement non-structural projects, home elevation, and flood proofing which all feeds back into the master plan. The environment defense fund has been doing a study using CPRA’s ICM model working with the water institute. Together they want to figure out what are the future causes of loss or shifts in land loss. From there CPRA can step in and start trying to figure out how to plan for those future challenges. Some scientists at Purdue are looking at google street view to try to calculate how many homes have been mitigated, which is something that CPRA has been trying to get an accurate count on.
    2. Fisheries Forward – Thomas Hymel and Nicole Lundberg, LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant
       1. Thomas Hymel stated that Louisiana is one of the largest commercial fishing industries in the states, coming right after Alaska. Their concern is with local businesses. LSU Ag Center has two programs, named LA Fisheries Forward and the Louisiana Direct Seafood Program. LSU Ag Center, LA Sea Grant, and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries fund the LA Fisheries Forward program. The purpose of the LA Fisheries Forward program is to engage industries with local businesses with regards to seafood. Mr. Hymel stated that the university takes the work to the people. They take part in outreach and demonstrations to work with the locals hand in hand. They also participate in workshop and educational meetings, all while developing fact sheets, videos, and websites. They connect with locals on a personal level. At the moment, they are working on the charter industry then moving into the freshwater fishery world. They provide educational information to these individuals so they can learn how to connect with their industry better. LSU Ag Center now participates in direct marketing of seafood, which resulted in quality improvement, micro processing, and brand development. It’s easier than ever for customers to get their seafood as fresh as possible.
    3. National Park Service Citizen Scientist Partnership Project with BTNEP and BTEF – Angela Rathle, National Park Service
       1. This project was started because alone the National Park Service could only reach a certain amount of kids. Their goal is to educate kids in the Lafourche area about science. In order to reach a larger audience, they partnered with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. Kimberly Cooke and Lea Scott were introduced. They are in charge of the citizen scientist program. This program allows kids and work participants to come out and collect data for real research projects that are currently going on. Therefore, they are able to learn about wetland ecology and issues facing southeast Louisiana. Some of the program’s goals are to be a resource for teachers, schools, and communities. The citizen’s science program is focused on underserved populations. The program also wants to provide hands-on science curriculum to teachers across southeast Louisiana. Another goal is to partner up with different organizations so they can help one another to better serve students and teachers. Some of the things they provide are science clubs, summer camps, and volunteer programs. The citizen’s scientist program focuses a lot of their attention towards school programming for K-12, even for some universities. They take advantage of existing citizen scientist projects, for example nature’s notebook. They look at phenology changes and water quality along the Mississippi River. They create a program where students can collect data and upload them to those projects. That data is then contributing to national research programs.
       2. Programs are offered on the weekends to the general public. Some of the activities they are involved in include: frog watching, firefly watching, and water quality testing. During the summer, they provide summer camps to the local students. They also offer specific science camps at their sites, which students were allowed to go canoeing and go off trail in the swamp. It was mentioned that a goal for future summer camps is to provide environmental stewardship camps. For the volunteer programming, there is a team of about 10 people who provide about 250 hours annually to contribute data to nature’s notebook. They observe and monitor local plants and birds.
    4. Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel Deepening Project, Section 203 Study -- Draft Environmental Impact Statement -- Joni Tuck, Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission
       1. The Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission is in the process of deepening the channel into the port. The port is currently at -27 to -30 feet. Joni Tuck stated that they want to take it from -30 in the north to -50 in the south. The port was established in 1960 and since then has grown in the past 40 years. In the first couple of years of development, there was a much stronger wetland presence. She showed a slide that showed the current state of the port. Where there was a healthy, thriving wetland soon became a place of new development. To mitigate for the impacts of the new development, they have built about 1,000 acres of marsh north of the port. They are taking the initiative to not let anything go to waste. Any resources they use are being used beneficially. In addition to the land that they use to develop, they create more acres of marshes and ridge complexes. They are trying to accommodate the fact that vessels are getting bigger. Currently if there is work that needs to be done to a rig, the only place that can fully service that is in Texas. In the future, Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission hopes to add a deep-water rig repair refurbishment facility. By doing so, rigs wouldn’t have to be exported out of the country for heavy maintenance. This would significantly cut down on costs and add more jobs.
12. **NEW BUSINESS** 
    1. No new business.
13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
    1. Benjamin Springgate couldn’t make it because of the delay in time and will try to make it for the next meeting.
    2. Seth Moncrief announced some volunteer events coming up in December. Volunteers from Shell, Thibodaux Regional Medical Facility, and the Spanish Pass ridge will help out on the farm. In January and February of 2019, BTNEP is looking forward to doing more planting in Fourchon and are in need of more volunteer groups.
    3. Susan Testroet-Bergeron stated to the members that if they wanted to volunteer for the Spanish Pass project, they will be sending out dates.
    4. Shannon Martin announced that NOAA will be holding a half day workshop for national resource managers in the Barataria basin. The workshop will be in New Orleans on Monday, February 4th.
    5. Woodrow Parker stated that they will be hosting a health fair and water aquatics program on June 1st, 2019. It is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield.
    6. Barney Callahan announced that the LA Wildlife Federation is making plans for the government’s conservation awards program coming up in March.
    7. Dr. Arnelis Crespo is developing a project with colleagues from Virginia Tech and South Methodist University and are interested in studying the intersections between transportation networks.
    8. Julie Falgout announced that on December 4th and 5th, there will be an Oil Spill Workshop.
    9. Quenton Fontenot announced the next meeting will be on February 7th.
14. **ADJOURNED**

Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Kristina Peterson

Seconded by Joni Tuck.

Motion was approved by consensus

The meeting was adjourned.