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**Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**

Management Conference Agenda - Meeting #89

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 pm Thursday, November 7, 2019

Nicholls State University

Bollinger Suite (Plantation Suite), Nicholls Campus (in Student Union)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 9:30 A.M. – 9:40 A.M.
2. Welcome – Quenton Fontenot, BTNEP MC Chairman
3. Roll Call – Nicole Babin, BTNEP Office Coordinator
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes from MC #88 on August 1, 2019 Meeting
5. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES** - 9:40 A.M. – 9:50 A.M.
6. **Personnel Changes –** None
7. **BTNEP Meeting Report – July 15, 2019 to October 23, 2019**

## Susan, Dean, and Richard participated in a phone call with Alice Mayio, EPA Headquarters and Doug Jacobson, EPA Region 6 to discuss the CCMP

* BTNEP hosted its quarterly BTNEP Management Conference meeting. Presentations included:
  + “Adaptation: A Natural Way of Life” – Lenny Delbert, Pan AM Communications, Inc.
  + “Mississippi River High Water Event: Status and Impacts” –Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  + “Preliminary Assessment of Restoration Impacts in the Isles Dernieres, Terrebonne Parish, LA” - Darrin Lee, CPRA
  + “Hurdles with Nurdles: Gulf-wide Research Project” – Jace Tunnell, NEER
* Susan attended a meeting with Nicki Boudreaux to discuss upcoming publications including fact sheets, annual report, and marine debris lessons.
* Seth attended a webinar on Coastal Fish and Invertebrate Production.
* Alma attended a Louisiana Recycling Coalition conference call with South Eastern Recycling Development Coalition.
* Alma attended the Recycling Organization Council conference call.
* Andrew, Siva, Susan and Dean attended a BTNEP Water Quality meeting on the Bayou Lafourche area attendees included members of LDEQ, LSU Ag Center, LDH, BLFWD, SCPDC, and the Louisiana Rural Water Association.
* Delaina and Richard attended the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists meeting in Lafayette, LA.
* Matt attended the Terrebonne Coastal Zone Management meeting.
* Siva and Andrew attending a meeting with Kevin Belanger at South Central Planning and Development Council (SCPDC) about the home sewage improvement project.
* Alma and Susan attended the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District meetings.
* Natalie attended a meeting with Sondra Corbitt -Houma Area Visitors Center to discuss Chimney Swifts and pollinator gardens.
* Alma participated in several Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Embrace the Gulf Working Group calls.
* Susan worked with Ashley Everret, C-LEARN the Community Resilience Learning Collaborative and Research Network to help build a partnership with Nicholls State University.
* Siva, Andrew, and Susan meet with members of the National Park Service to discuss partnership activities.
* Alma had a phone conference with the Keep Louisiana Beautiful team about grant funding.
* Natalie meet with Kimber Ratcliff to discuss a pollinator garden at the St. Francis Vegetable Garden.
* Siva attended EPA webinar: Increasing Analytical Laboratory Preparedness.
* Natalie attended a meeting with Kevin Clement of the Thibodaux Parks and Recreation Center to discuss Chimney Swifts and pollinator gardens.
* Matt attended the Terrebonne Coastal Zone Management meeting.

## Matt attended the Dularge Ridge Planting meeting with Darin Lee and Brian Babin, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).

## Natalie attended a meeting with Cora Preston from the Monarch Joint Venture.

* Alma attended the Louisiana Recycle Coalition meeting to learn more about marine debris prevention.
* Alma participated in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference Call

## Siva attended webinar - Killer Heat in the United States: Climate Choices and the Future of Dangerously Hot Days

## Andrew and Siva attended a meeting with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) in Thibodaux to discuss presentation request on home sewage inspections

* Susan, Dean, and Richard met with The Water Institute of the Gulf to discuss restoration in Lower Plaquemines - next steps on supporting programmatic restoration planning

## Susan participated in the LA Sea Grant Site Review on the Water Quality Panel and the Education Panel

## Susan and Dean met with Craig McClain, Heidi Boudreaux, and Matt Isch of LUMCON to discuss possible upcoming increase in federal funding through EPA.

* Susan participated in the Coastal Center meeting at Nicholls State University.
* Natalie participated in the Monarch Conservation webinar.
* Alma participated in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference.
* Delaina attend the Red Knot Recovery Plan meeting
* Alma participated in the Plastic Free Gulf Coast meeting.
* Susan and Dean attended the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Board meeting
* Andrew attended the Louisiana Master Naturalists Board meeting.
* Alma will be attending the EPA Marine Debris Planning Session Conference call.
* Seth attended the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act Task Force (CWPPRA) project dedication celebration.
* Susan attended the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act Task Force (CWPPRA) meeting.
* Alma attended the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Marine Debris Conference.
* Alma participated in several Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Embrace the Gulf Working Group calls.
* Susan, Andrew, and Siva hosted a meeting with Angela Rathle to discuss BTNEP/BTEF/NPS partnership opportunities.
* Matt, Andrew, Dean, and Susan met with the Friends of Bayou Lafourche to discuss the value of native plants.
* Alma conducted several meeting to help partners prepare for the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Trash Free Waters grant.
* Andrew, Siva, and Dean met with NRCS to discuss the nutrient management projects in Bayou Folse and Bayou Lafourche Basins.
* Seth, Dean, and Susan met with White Car Marketing to discuss social media needs and outreach planning.
* Susan attended the Fletcher Technical Community College Coastal Studies event.

1. **Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips/ Volunteer Events – July 15, 2019 to October 23, 2019**

* Alma hosted a teacher training on Marine Debris Prevention and Education in Terrebonne Parish titled “Talking Trash to Teachers”
* Andrew presented introductory biology and geology at the Louisiana Master Naturalist Workshop.
* Delaina gave a presentation to the Terrebonne Bird Club on Red Knots and their value to the estuary.
* Siva was the guest lecturer for the Nicholls State University dietetics class.
* Alma exhibited at the Down the River Festival in New Orleans, LA
* Alma hosted the Marine Debris Education Prevention Program for the Micro School in New Orleans to Elmer’s Island for a Marine Debris Accumulation Study and a trash pickup.
* BTNEP in partnership with the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation (BTEF) participated in the 5th annual White Boot Gala to raise awareness about the estuary.
* BTNEP in partnership with Nicholls State University, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and several other groups cohosted the International Coastal Cleanup on Elmer’s Island on September 21st in conjunction with National Estuaries Week.
* Siva and Andrew conducted water sampling in the Bayou Folse watershed.
* Matt conducted a marsh survival survey near Port Fourchon.
* Alma and Delaina attended the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) annual fall conference.
* Matt attended a Plant ID Class
* Alma and Delaina presented at the ANEP Fall Conference during the Tech-transfer Session #1: Citizen Science and Environmental Monitoring Data: Management, Communication, and Application for Restoration - Using environmental monitoring data and citizen science to inform restoration activities. Strategies for storing, sharing, and disseminating data session
* Delaina gave a presentation to the Terrebonne Bird Club
* BTNEP Staff hosted the “Discover the Estuary” 1-Day Paddle on Lake Verret
* Siva exhibited at Fletcher Technical and Community College at the Working for Our Coast event.
* Susan and Natalie exhibited at the Jefferson Parish Coastal 101 event in Avondale.
* Matt and Seth hosted a volunteer event at the BTNEP Field Operations Center on the Nicholls State University farm.
* Andrew and Siva participated in the Swamp Life Festival in Iberville Parish to discuss water quality.
* BTNEP staff exhibited at the A+ Scholars event to raise awareness about BTNEP.
* Alma and Siva exhibited at Ocean Commotion hosted by Louisiana Sea Grant on the LSU campus.
* Siva and Alma exhibited at the Rougarou Festival in Houma in support of the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center

III MEDIA COVERAGE (For July 15, 2019 - October 21, 2019)

* *“Paddlers explore local watershed,”* – October 21, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Environmental group awarded two grants*,” – October 19, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Keeping the heritage alive,”* – October 11, 2019 ***leesvilledailyleader.com*** (Leesville, LA)
* *“Keeping the heritage alive,”* – October 11, 2019 ***beauregarddailynews.net*** (DeRidder, LA)
* *“Volunteers clean 3,000 pounds of trash from local beach,”* – October 5, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Swamp Life Expo puts spotlight on Atchafalaya Basin culture,”* – October 2, 2019***leesvilledailyleader.com***(Leesville, LA)
* *“Swamp Life Expo on Oct. 5 puts spotlight on Atchafalaya Basin culture, food and history,”* – September 28, 2019 ***theadvocate.com*** (Baton Rouge, LA)
* *“More than 150 volunteers turn out for Coastal Cleanup Day,”* – September 22, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Our opinion: Cheers, jeers, and tears,”* – September 21, 2019 ***dailycomet.com*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“WATCH: Graves Advances Legislation to Restore the Health of Lake Ponchartrain,”* – September 20, 2019 ***garretgraves.house.gov*** (Washington, DC)
* *“Apple Snails creep into local waterways; can bring illness,”* – September 18, 2019 ***StMaryNow.com*** (Franklin, LA)
* *“Company turns marsh-eating nutria into dog treats,”* – September 16, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“A rodent-like pest destroying the Louisiana coast finds new enemy in dog treat business,”* – September 7, 2019 ***usatoday.com*** (McLean, VA)
* *“Check out The Advocate’s Outdoors calendar for upcoming fishing tournaments and meetings,”* – September 7, 2019 ***theadvocate.com*** (Baton Rouge, LA)
* *“Outdoors briefs: Aug. 29, 2019 – Volunteers needed for Elmer’s Island cleanup,”* – August 28, 2019 ***dailycomet.com*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Money secured to construct Bayou Lafourche pump station,”* – August 28, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Volunteers needed for Elmer’s Island cleanup,”* – August 26, 2019 ***Daily Comet*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Volunteers needed for Elmer’s Island cleanup,”* – August 24, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Bill to could increase money for estuary program,”* – August 1, 2019 ***dailycomet.com*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Bill to could increase money for estuary program,” –* August 1, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Nutria-based dog treats back on the market,”* – July 29, 2019 ***dailycomet.com*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Nutria-based dog treats back on the market,”* – July 29, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Louisiana company uses invasive species as protein for eco-friendly dog treats,”* – July 24, 2019 ***PetFoodProcessing.net***
* *“Microplastics common in local waterways,”* – July 17, 2019 ***Daily Comet*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Microplastics common in local waterways,”* – July 16, 2019 ***dailycomet.com*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Microplastics common in local waterways,”* – July 16, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)

1. **PROJECT STATUS**

* Dean worked with all staff members to prepare leveraging and habitat data for the EPA reporting tool NEPORT. NEPORT catalogues habitat restoration efforts in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System and the leveraging of funds.
* Staff is working to finalize Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for EPA concurrence.
* Request for Contract Amendment “Pilot Testing and Protocol Development of Apple Snail Suppression at Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge” LUMCON Agreement No. BTNEP18-14, EPA Tracking No. EPA 2018-13, EPA Tracking no. for contract amendment EPA 2019-15
* Dean submitted all leveraging and habitat date to EPA via the reporting tool NEPORT. NEPORT catalogues habitat restoration efforts in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System and the leveraging of funds. EPA Region 6 is reviewing the data.
* Final Deliverable – “2019 Marine Debris Education and Prevention Program” EPA Grant Number CE-00666015, EPA Tracking Number 2019-14-OS, – Alma Robichaux
* Request for Payment and Final Deliverable – “2019 WETSHOP: Louisiana Wetland Teacher Workshop” EPA Grant Number CE-00666015, EPA Tracking Number 2019-12, – Alma Robichaux
* Provided EPA with a QAPP for armored catfish project.

**IV. SCHEDULE NEXT BTNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE MEETING DATE** –

9:50 A.M. – 9:55 A.M.

* Save the Date – February 6, 2020 – Location TBD, Nicholls State University
* Save the Date – May 7, 2020 – Location TBD, Nicholls State University
* Save the Date – August 6, 2020 – Location TBD, Nicholls State University
* Save the Date – November 5, 2020 – Location TBD, Nicholls State University

**V. OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND RELATED DATES** –

1. Christmas Bird Count December 28, 2019 – Delaina LeBlanc
2. “2020 Year of the Gulf “– Embrace the Gulf Activities

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS** – 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

1. “Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFWD) in partnership with CPRA and LDEQ as they begin innovative agreement for critical pump station;” Ben Malbrough, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFWD) (30 minutes)
2. “Understanding Migratory Connectivity of Red Knots *(Calidris canutus)* in Louisiana”, Delaina LeBlanc, BTNEP (20 minutes)
3. “Removal of Derelict Crab Traps;” Adam Songy, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (20 Minutes)
4. “Oil Spills and Birds: From Response to Restoration;” Eva Windhoffer, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (20 minutes)”

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

* Election of Management Conference Chairman - Susan Testroet-Bergeron
* Election of Management Conference Vice Chairman - Susan Testroet-Bergeron
* Resolution in support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to proclaim 2020 as the year to “Embrace the Gulf” and recognize the Gulf of Mexico’s importance to the United States of America. - Alma Robichaux

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IX. ADJOURN**