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**Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**

Management Conference Agenda - Meeting #90

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 pm Thursday, February 6, 2020

Nicholls State University

Century Room, Nicholls Campus (under Stadium)

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 #89 on November 7, 2019 Meeting
5. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES** - 9:40 A.M. – 9:50 A.M.
6. **Personnel Changes –**

* Susan Testroet-Bergeron has retired. Dean Blanchard is Interim Director as this time.

1. **BTNEP Meeting Report – October 24, 2019 to January 12, 2020**

* Matt attended the Terrebonne Coastal Zone meeting
* Natalie and Dean attended a meeting with the City of Thibodaux Public Works Department to discuss and implement the project "Development of Chimney Swift Nesting/Roosting Towers and Educational Kiosks"
* Delaina attended a meeting with Krista Adams to discuss potential Purple Martins monitoring and funding for estuary

## Andrew, Dean, Quenton Fontenot and Dr. John Doucet attended to discuss Wetland Assimilation project in the Bayou Folse Watershed.

* Alma attended a Conference Call with the Embrace Working Group
* Siva and Andrew attended a meeting with Kevin Belanger and Pat Gordon with South Central Planning & Development Commission to discuss about Bayou Folse and Bayou Lafourche Home Sewage Assistance projects
* Delaina attended a meeting with BIO info EXPERTS to discussion of study design for microbiotic bird samples for Gulf Coast Genomic Surveillance Collaboratory
* Alma attended the Louisiana Recycle Coalition Conference call
* Andrew attended the Louisiana Master Naturalist Greater New Orleans meeting
* Delaina attended a Conference call with USGS to discuss budget for Caminada-Whiskey Winter Bird Analysis
* Delaina attended the Gulf Coast Genomic Surveillance Collaboratory
* Alma attended Louisiana Recycle Coalition meeting
* Matt attended the Terrebonne Coastal Zone Management meeting
* Alma attended the Embrace Working Group Conference Call
* Alma attended the Bayou Industrial Group (BIG) meeting
* Delaina attended a meeting with Katie Brasted to discuss future bird work at Woodlands Conservancy
* Susan and Alma attended a meeting about the Wetlands Education Initiative and Partnership Project at the River Center in Baton Rouge
* Delaina attended a meeting with David Cassard for Thibodaux Christmas Bird Count Planning
* BTNEP Staff attended the LUMCON Sexual Harassment Training
* Alma attended the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District meeting
* Andrew and Siva attended the National Park Service Interagency Committee meeting
* Seth and Matt attended a meeting with Angela Rathle, National Park Service
* Nicole, Susan and Dean attended a Paddle Bayou Lafourche meeting with Ben Malbrough and Ryan Perque, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
* Susan, Seth and Dean attended a meeting with Nicki Boudreaux Strategic Communications
* BTNEP hosted its quarterly Management Conference meeting on the Nicholls State University campus. Presentations included:
  + “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)
  + “Understanding Migratory Connectivity of Red Knots *(Calidris canutus)* in Louisiana”, Delaina LeBlanc, BTNEP
  + “Removal of Derelict Crab Traps;” Adam Songy, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
  + “Oil Spills and Birds: From Response to Restoration;” Eva Windhoffer, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
* Susan attended the Nicholls Coastal Center Strategy Meeting
* Susan met with Emily Knobloch to discuss online outreach and social media strategies
* Susan and Dean participated in an ANEP Board of Directors meeting
* Susan and Natalie attended the Thibodaux City Council meetings in support of Chimney Swift project
* Susan attended the BTEF Board meeting
* Matt participated as a member of the Terrebonne Coastal Zone Management council
* Alma participated in an EPA Trash Free Waters Grant conference call.
* Susan met with Bonnie Mulholland; Academy to discuss a BTNEP/Academy partnership
* Susan met with Nicki Boudreaux to discuss the 2019 BTNEP Annual Report
* Delaina participated in a meeting with Bio Info
* Susan and Siva met with Emme Elliott to discuss BTNEP Water Quality project and possible contractor position.
* Alma met with the French Quarter Festivals leadership team to discuss EPA grant proposal.
* Matt presented at the Plaquemine Parish Coastal Zone Management meeting with a general BTNEP Presentation and discussion on the Spanish Pass USACE project.
* Susan met with Leroy Triggs, Nicholls student
* Susan and Nicole hosted the Nicholls Coastal Center -Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting
* Delaina attended the Purple Martin Conservation in Southeast Louisiana meeting
* Delaina attended the Red knot recovery meeting with USFWS in Lafayette

## Delaina attended the Caminada/Whiskey winter bird analysis meeting

* Alma attended the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District meeting
* Andrew, Siva, Dean and Susan met with USDA NRCS to discuss the use of restoration act funds in Bayou Folse watershed.
* Delaina hosted a benthic analysis meeting with Cliff Nunnally
* Alma attend the Bayou Industrial Group (BIG) luncheon where Dr. McClain was the speaker
* Andrew, Susan, Dean and Siva hosted a meeting to discuss Restoration Funds in the Bayou Folse Watershed with NRCS, NSU, DU, LDEQ, LGFC
* Susan and Natalie attended the City Council meeting
* Susan attended a meeting with WYES to discuss film, Lenny Delbert
* Delaina attended a benthic analysis meeting with Cliff Nunnally

1. **Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips/ Volunteer Events – October 24, 2019 to January 12, 2020**

* Andrew and Siva conducted Bayou Lafourche Water Sampling
* Matt conducted seed collection on Grand Isle
* Andrew and Siva conducted the LA Master Naturalist Intro Workshop
* Seth and Matt conducted a week long volunteer event with the University of Missouri “Mizzou Alternative Breaks”. Events for the week included plant nursery activities, Invasive species removal at Grand Isle State Park, and an educational paddle event in the Swamp/Bottomland Hardwood swamps of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary
* Alma attended and judged the Terrebonne Parish Science Fair
* Andrew and Siva conducted Bayou Folse Water Sampling

## Delaina collected samples of microbiotic bird for Gulf Coast Genomic Surveillance Collaboratory

## Delaina coordinated the Piping Plover Survey on Big Timbalier in Terrebonne Bay

* Andrew and Seth conducted Bayou Lafourche Water Sampling
* Andrew and Seth conducted Bayou Folse Water Sampling
* Andrew presented a Coastal Restoration presentation to the Louisiana Master Naturalist Program

## Alma conducted water samples from Elmer’s Island for Microplastic with Sofia Giordano

* Alma hosted the Marine Debris Education Prevention Program with Regina Chustz H.L. Bourgeois High School
* Delaina presented a Red Knot presentation to Thibodaux High School students
* Andrew, Kaitlyn, and Emily conducted Bayou Lafourche Water Sampling
* Andrew, Kaitlyn, and Emily conducted Bayou Folse Water Sampling

## Delaina attended the Thibodaux Christmas Bird Count

* Andrew and Siva conducted Bayou Folse Water Sampling
* Siva and Andrew conducted water sampling in the Bayou Folse and Bayou Lafourche watersheds.
* Matt conducted a marsh survival survey near Port Fourchon.
* Andrew lead the Louisiana Master Naturalist class in Grand Isle
* Susan and Chip Kline, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) presented at the Conservation Summit hosted by Shell Oil Company in New Orleans
* Susan presented at the Shell Oil Co. social investments international dinner in New Orleans at their Conservation Summit
* Alma hosted the Central Lafourche High School Junior ROTC students on Elmer’s Island for a beach cleanup and a lesson on marine debris prevention and education
* Alma hosted a marine debris prevention and education event for the students of Oaklawn Middle School on Elmer’s Island.
* Alma will be attending Coastal Day at Nicholls State University

III MEDIA COVERAGE (For October 22, 2019 – January 12, 2020)

* *“Cassidy Co-Authors Bill to Double Estuary Funding,”* – January 10, 2020 ***kpel965.com*** (Lafayette, LA)
* *“All eyes on eagles: Expo Set for Feb. 13-15,”* – January 8, 2020 ***St.MaryNow.com*** (Franklin, LA)
* *“Gov. Edwards Announces Boards and Commissions Appointments,”* – January 2, 2020 ***kadn.com*** (Lafayette, LA)
* *“Students to receive bottle refilling station to reduce plastic use,”* – December 12, 2019 ***dailycomet.com*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Students to receive bottle refilling station to reduce plastic use,”* – December 12, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“New towers to provide nests for bat-like bird in decline,”* – December 10, 2019 ***houmatoday.com*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District hires contractor to remove 12 derelict vessels,” –* November 6, 2019 ***Houma Times*** (Houma, LA)
* *“Nicholls Volunteers Collect More Than 3,000 Pounds of Trash,” –* October 24, 2019 ***Thibodaux Chamber Insight*** (Thibodaux, LA)
* *“Environmental group awarded two grants,” –* October 22, 2019 ***Daily Comet*** (Thibodaux, LA)

1. **PROJECT STATUS**

* Request for Payment – Audubon Nature Institute “Teach Wild: A lesson on Marine Debris” - EPA Grant Number CE-00666015 EPA Tracking 2019-13 – Alma Robichaux-Jackson
* Request for Contract – “2020 Louisiana Wetland Teacher Workshop” EPA Grant Number CE-01F68001 EPA Tracking 2020-19 – Alma Robichaux-Jackson
* Request for No Cost Time Extension – “The Water Institute of the Gulf” EPA Grant Number CE-00666014, EPA Tracking Number 2020-18 – Richard DeMay
* Request for Contract – “Census of Red Knots on the Chandeleur Islands and Grand Isle” USFWS Grant Award Number F19AC00712**–** Delaina LeBlanc
* Notice of Sponsorship - “2020 Environmental Education State Symposium” EPA Grant Number CE-01f68001, EPA Tracking Number 2020-16 – Alma Robichaux-Jackson
* Request for Contract – “2019 Chauvin Folk Art Festival” EPA Grant Number CE-00666015 EPA Tracking 2020-16 – Seth Moncrief
* Staff is working to finalize Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for EPA concurrence
* Request for Payment and Final Deliverable – “BTNEP Media Relations” EPA Grant Number CE-00666013 EPA Tracking 2017-18 – Seth Moncrief
* Request for Payment – “Pre-release baseline data on plant demography of Chinese tallow before Biocontrol Program is initiated ” Task 3 - EPA Grant Number CE-00666014 EPA Tracking 2018-15 – Matt Benoit
* Request for Payment – “Pre-release baseline data on plant demography of Chinese tallow before Biocontrol Program is initiated ” Task 4 - EPA Grant Number CE-00666014 EPA Tracking 2018-15 – Matt Benoit
* Staff is working to finalize Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for EPA concurrence.

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

9:50 A.M. – 9:55 A.M.

* Save the Date – May 7, 2020 – Century, 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. “2020 Year of the Gulf” Embrace the Gulf Activities
2. World Wetland Day; South Louisiana Wetland Discovery Center – January 31, 2020
3. Bayou Lafourche Clean up – March 21, 2020
4. Paddle Bayou Lafourche – April 2-4, 2020
5. Grand Isle Migratory Bird Festival – April 17-19, 2020
6. Deepwater Horizon; Anniversary Cleanup on Elmer’s Island – April 18, 2020

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

1. "Restoration Opportunities For The Louisiana Iris" Gary Salathe (30 minutes)
2. “Sustaining Culture in the Face of Land Loss” Maida Owens (30 minutes)
3. “Grand Isle State Park Chinese Tallow Removal and Restoration Project“ David Baker (20 minutes)

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IX. ADJOURN**