Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #89 Roll Call

Plantation Suite near Student Union

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, November 7, 2019 (Final Minutes)

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Delaina LeBlanc  Matt Benoit  Natalie Waters | X  X  X  X | Nicole Babin  Richard DeMay  Seth Moncrief  Siva Nunna  Susan Testroet-Bergeron | | | X | 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 | | X | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Cajun Music Preservation Society | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  |  |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | |  | Kimberly Reyher  Emily Vuxton | |  | Deb Abibou |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (CPRA) | | | | X | Bren Hasse  Greg Grandy  Brad Miller | |  | Darrin Lee  Kellyn LaCour  Alexis Rixner  Darin Lee  Elizabeth Shoenfelt  Robert Routon  Honora Buras  Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc  Michael Ellis |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | |  | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Chett Chaisson | | X | Davie Breaux |
| Iberville Parish Government | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish Government | | | |  | Lauren Averill | | X | Seamus Riley |
| LA Association of Conservation District | | | |  | Ruben Dauzat | |  | Brad Spicer  Jerome Cantrelle |
| LA Association of Levee Boards | | | | X | Dwayne Bourgeois | |  |  |
| LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry | | | |  | Joey Breaux | | X | Faran Dietz  Jeremy Rodriguez |
| LA Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism | | | |  | Debra Credeur | |  | Karen Leathem  Linda Smith |
| LA Department of Economic Development | | | |  | Paul Sawyer | |  | Anne Perry |
| LA Department of Education | | | |  | Jill Cowart | |  | Lydia Hill  Thomas Gresham |
| 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  Chance Wooton | |  | Lauren Comeaux |
| LA Department of Natural Resources | | | |  | Charles Reulet | | X  X | Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Mark Hogan |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | | X | Willie Cheramie  Jeff Marx  Gage Lasseigne | |  | Brady Carter  Mark Schexnayder  Chris Schieble |
| LA Forestry Association | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| LA Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities | | | |  | Chip Kline | |  | Morgan Crutcher  Charles Suteliff |
| 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 | | | | X | Marty J. Chabert  Jennifer Beall | | X | 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 | |  | Rebecca Triche |
| Lafourche Parish Government | | | |  | Jimmy Cantrelle | | X | Amanda Voisin |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant | | | |  | Rex Caffey | | X  X | Julie Falgout  Dianne Lindstedt  Emily Maung-Douglass  Thomas Hymel  Nicole Lundberg |
| Lowlander Center | | | | X | Kristina Peterson | |  | Dr. Shirley Laska  Dick Krajeski |
| LUMCON | | | |  | Dr. Craig McClain  John Conover | |  | Heidi Boudreaux  Murt Conover |
| US NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | | | | X | Craig Gothreaux  Richard Hartman | |  | Mel Landry  Alexis Rixner  Shannon Martin |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Dr. Jay Clune  Monique Crochet  Dr. John Doucet | | X | Chris Bonvillain  Gary LaFleur  Dr. Mary “Mitzi” Jackson |
| Plaquemines Parish Government | | | | X | Vincent Frelich  Robert Spears | |  | Scott Rousselle  Krista Clark  John Helmers |
| Point Coupee Parish Government | | | |  | J.A. Rummler | |  |  |
| South Central Planning and Development Commission | | | |  | Kevin Belanger  Martha Cazaubon | |  | Pat Gordon  Stephanie Brunning |
| South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) | | | |  | Vic Lafont | |  | 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 | |  | Ivy Mathieu |
| Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government | | | |  | Mart Black | |  | Jennifer Gerbasi |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | | X | Jean Landry | |  | Nicole Love  Karen Gautreaux |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | |  | ***Member*** | |  | ***Alternate*** |
| U.S. National Park Service | | | |  | Angela Rathle | |  | Allyn Rodriguez  Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Dusty Pate  Aleutia Scott  Lea Scott  Kimberly Cooke |
| US Coast Guard | | | |  | Capt. Blake Welborn | | X | Brian Black |
| US Army Corps of Engineers | | | | X | Sarah Bradley | | X | Kaitlyn Carriere  Danielle Keller  Amy Dixon  Brad Inman |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | | | |  | Doug Jacobson | |  | Rachel Houge |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | | | | X | Ronnie Paille  William Vermillion  Brigette Firmin | |  | John Savell  Jeff Weller  Brad Rieck  Bryan Pember |
| US Department of Agriculture’s – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) | | | |  | Quin Kinler  John Boatman  Arnelis Crespo | | X  X | Alton James  Samuel Terry  Lacy Bellanger  Joshua Anderson |
| US Geological Survey (USGS) | | | |  | Scott Wilson | | X  X | Cole Ruckstubl  Kate Spear  Melissa Collin  Phil Turnipseed  Sinead Borchert  Kathy Ladner  Jennifer Guidry  Kacie Wright |
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| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | | | | X  X | Gary LaFleur  Earl Melancon  Laynie Barrilleaux | | X | 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 | |  | Victoria Phaneuf |
| City of Thibodaux | | | | X | Archie Chaisson | |  |  |
| Conoco Phillips | | | | X | Ashley Golmon | |  |  |
| CRIA | | | |  | Chris Adams | |  |  |
| Daily Comet / Houma Courier | | | | X | Halle Parker | |  | 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 | |  |  |
| Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation | | | | X | Adam Songy | |  |  |
| Lori LeBlanc LLC | | | |  | Tyler Gray | |  | Katie DeRoche |
| Louisiana Appleseed | | | |  | Stephanie Beaugh | |  | Christy Kane |
| LSU | | | |  | Dr. Benjamin Springgate  Loren Hull  Nancy Rabalais | |  | Jennifer Sato  R Eugene Turner  Ashley Everette |
| Moffatt & Nichol | | | |  | Jonathan Hird | |  |  |
| Nicholls State University | | | |  | Alex Arceneaux  Jenny Schexnayder  Timothy Clay  Alexandra Alterman  Taylor Beck | |  | Allyse Ferrara  Keri Turner  Garland Lundy  Thomas Phillips  Ben Bates |
| 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 | |  |  |
| Senator John Kennedy’s Office | | | |  | Mary Elise Schlesinger | |  |  |
| Shell Oil Company | | | |  | Ian Voparil | |  | Shelley Piehet  Leonard Garrison |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant | | | |  | Donald Spahr | |  | Brent Roger |
|  | | | |  |  | |  |  |
| ***Guest Organization*** | | | |  | ***Guest*** | |  | ***Guest*** |
| The Water Institute of the Gulf | | | | X | Scott Hemmerling  Jessi Parfait  Erin White  Huy Ju | |  | Monica Barra  Bruce Yuill  Christine DeMeyers |
| 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 | |  |  |
| US Geological Survey (USGS) | | | |  | Jacoby Carter | |  |  |
| University of Arizona | | | |  | Ben McMahan | |  |  |
| VISTA | | | |  | Katie DeHart | |  |  |
| White Car Marketing | | | |  | Cody Blanchard | |  | Emily Knobloch |
| WYES TV | | | |  | Marcia Kavanaugh | |  |  |
| Thomassie Construction | | | |  | Thomas Thomassie | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Vincent Guillory | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Marty Bourgeois | |  |  |
| Southern University | | | |  | Veronica Manrique | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Darryl Hambrinck | |  |  |
|  | | | |  | Doug Daigle | |  |  |
| BTNEP Student Workers | | | | X | Kaitlyn Tabor | |  |  |
|  | | | | X | David Gisclair | |  |  |
| Bio Info Experts | | | | X | Susanna Lamer | |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #89 Final Minutes – November 7, 2019**

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. Nicole Babin also took role by sign in.
3. The floor was opened for comments on the reading and approval of the minutes from the meeting.
   1. Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to accept minutes as written and dispense with the reading of the minutes.
   2. Kristina Peterson motioned to accept as written. Gary LaFleur seconded the motion.
   3. Motion was approved by consensus.
4. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Susan Testroet-Bergeron started off discussing the BTNEP program activities by mentioning that Alma Robichaux and Delaina LeBlanc went to the ANEP Conference and represented BTNEP well. They both did very well in their presentations. She mentioned how Seth wasn’t present but he finished the 2020 Tidal Graph Calendar and Nicole sent it off to the printer this week. She then mentioned that BTNEP had a fall paddling event where they went down Lake Verret. She noted that the event was a wonderful experience through the swamp. She noted that BTNEP has two new grants from the US Fish & Wildlife Service; one to fund additional Red Knot research with Delaina as the project manager and Natalie got funding to do pollinator work. The MC was informed that the Christmas Bird Count will be on December 28th and that Natalie is working with the City of Thibodaux on Chimney Swifts and Chimney Swift towers. Susan shared that Alma did a teacher training on microplastics in Terrebonne Parish and that she recently got back from a Louisiana Science Teachers Association convention, was at Ocean Commotion at LSU, and represented BTNEP at the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. She shared that Seth participated in early September with Nicholls on the International Coastal Cleanup. The BTE Foundation hosted the annual White Boot Gala. Susan then mentioned that she and Natalie participated in the Jefferson Parish Coastal 101 event. She recognized Andrew and Siva who have been very busy working on the Bayou Folse homeowner sewage repairs assistance program and that they’re making good progress working with South Central Planning and Development Commission. They have also just started sampling Bayou Lafourche and they’re doing a similar project in Bayou Lafourche as in Bayou Folse. Andrew is working with NRCS within the next couple of weeks to support his work in Bayou Folse. She said Richard has been working on his climate ready estuary project. Susan mentioned that that was an overall summary of what’s been going on. She then stated that on the agenda, it showed that BTNEP has been in the media a lot lately and there’s a list of the different projects that’s been done at BTNEP.

Susan asked that the voting for a new Chair and Vice Chair be moved earlier up in the meeting. There was a unanimous consensus decision that Dr. Quenton Fontenot be re-elected for Chairman and Jean Landry be re-elected for Vice Chairwoman.

Quenton then moved on to the presentations and introduced Ben Malbrough.

1. **UPCOMING DATES**
   1. BTNEP Management Conference – February 6th, 2019
   2. Christmas Bird Count – December 28th, 2019
   3. 2020 Year of the Gulf Proclamation – Are due by January 1, 2020 for those organizations wishing to participate.
2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
3. “Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFWD) in partnership with CPRA and LDEQ as they begin innovative agreement for critical pump station” – Ben Malbrough, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District

Ben thanked Quenton and introduced himself as the Director of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District. He would talk about the update on the pump station project. He gave an update on who BLFWD is and where they came from. Ben showed a picture of the geographical boundary that BLFWD represents which is part of Ascension and all of Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne. They were established in 1950 by the Louisiana Legislature in order to provide freshwater to the purification facilities along the bayou. In the late 90’s early 2000’s BLFWD changed because of the push to expand Bayou Lafourche as a channel conveyance for the purpose of conservation and restoration of the estuaries of Lower Lafourche and Terrebonne. Ben then showed a list of the commissioners, which is a board of 12, for the BLFWD. He then mentioned that in the mid 1800’s Bayou Lafourche used to flow freely out of the Mississippi River. Between 10%-20% of the Mississippi River’s flow used to come down Bayou Lafourche. In the early 1900’s it was authorized for the head of Bayou Lafourche to be closed. A railroad track was built in the 1870’s. Once the bayou was closed off the structural stability of the bridge crossing was questionable so the crossing on Bayou Lafourche was filled in with an earth embankment and only had a 5x6 box culvert to allow the City of Donaldsonville to drain. This was adequate back then because there was no influx of water from the Mississippi River into Bayou Lafourche. In 1955 the Department of Public Works completed the creation of the pump station and added two more 100”D culverts through the railroad embankment.

Ben then mentioned that many people had their hand in on the Mississippi River reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project. The project was formulated in the early 90’s and was studied and analyzed extensively. Finally, in 2006, after DNR took it over, they released a report which is the Mississippi River reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche which laid out all of the project components that were required to get a minimum of 1,000 cubic feet per second of Mississippi River water into Bayou Lafourche. This is much more than the previous pumping station which had a capacity of about 400-450 cubic feet per second. The major component of this project was that the capacity of the existing pump wasn’t sufficient so they either needed to extend it or construct a new one. The railroad embankment didn’t have culverts that were adequate in size to convey the water of the existing pump station capacity so it definitely wouldn’t be adequate enough for an expanded pump capacity. The weir in Thibodaux was constructed around 1970 with the intent to protect the water supply for the City of Thibodaux as well as the sugar mills that drew water from Bayou Lafourche. The weir will need to be taken out as well as channel dredging. Throughout the years there has been several modifications naturally and man-made to the channel banks and bottom. The defining moment for the BLFWD was Hurricane Gustav. The bayou went septic for about 30 days and they realized it couldn’t happen again. The State of Louisiana had surplus money that was used to push forward with the first 5 miles of channel dredging which was the hardest. There was money from CDBG to help make modifications to the existing pump station with new technology. Ben mentioned that BLFWD is very fortunate for the State of Louisiana to allocate originally $20 million in their CIAP funds to continue the channel dredging that was completed in 2011. With that money they were able to dredge an additional 11 miles that took them from Belle Rose all the way down to Assumption High School. BLFWD has completed about half of the total dredging length. Another project they’ve completed was a saltwater control structure project where they had to modify the design due to budget cuts. In 2002 BLFWD put a saltwater barrier in company canal and in 2014 it had to be relocated further north. The structure can be operated in a salinity event and can be closed to create a reservoir on the north side. This is very critical because the South Lafourche water plant in Lockport is just north of this structure which is where all of Port Fourchon gets all of their bottled water. Ben proclaimed his excitement for this project.

Another project is the pedestrian bridge that’s across from Assumption High and was once an old train bridge. It posed as an operations issue to BLFWD because they couldn’t get their equipment under it. They were able to get the bridge built and the canal dredged. The Union Pacific railroad crossing was also on their to-do list. The time was right, the money was there, the right political pressures were there and the project fell into place.

BLFWD is currently working on their pump station project. They’re in the final design stage and they’re about complete. Ben then showed and explained a video of the new pump station design plans. The station will have truck access in order to make the process of fixing something that needs big equipment easier. The most important day for BLFWD is when they signed a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Department of Environmental Quality, CPRA, and the BLFWD. Ben then explained the funding for the $65 million pump station project. He also mentioned that BTNEP is why BLFWD was eligible for the grant and thanked everyone who helped them out. The funding is in place and can be in construction of this project in the beginning of 2020. The Thibodaux weir project can be started in the middle of 2020. This is important for recreational use to extend the play area. The last thing is the drainage project where they want to pump the water back into the bayou so that there’s no issue with water surface elevation fluctuations in Donaldsonville. A water control structure is being proposed and Ben explained the plans. Another project is the derelict vessel removal project being done with Lafourche Parish. A total of 12 vessels have been identified from Highway 182 in Raceland to around the intersection of the GIWW in Larose. The contractor is planning on starting right after Thanksgiving and will have everything out within 2-3 weeks. A section of Bollinger’s shipyard will be used to place these derelict vessels. The solid waste department with Lafourche Parish Government will be taking apart and hauling these vessels for over a year.

The total project costs for the completed projects was $54.5 million in improvements to Bayou Lafourche. The costs for the projects that are underway is estimated to be $70.5 million. From 2010 to the end of 2020 they made BLFWD partnerships with CPRA, DEQ, BTNEP, Lafourche Parish, and TRA to make about $135 million worth of improvement to Bayou Lafourche. What BLFWD has coming up is the water control structure, the removal of the Thibodaux weir, the new pump station and the dredging from Napoleonville to Thibodaux. Ben then asked questions.

1. “Understanding Migratory Connectivity of Red Knots in Louisiana” – Delaina LeBlanc, BTNEP

Delaina presented on understanding migratory connectivity of Red Knots in Louisiana. She started off by mentioning that the Red Knot is one of the longest distance migrants in the world. There are two Red Knot subspecies in North America; the Rufa and Roselaari. She explained the slides showing the migratory patterns for wintering and breeding. In December 2014, the Rufa Red Knot was recommended to be listed as a threatened bird for the endangered species list. In January 2014 before the bird was listed she was contacted by a researcher out of Texas by the name of David Newstead with Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP). Delaina and David, along with other researchers started working together to learn more about the population of Red Knots found on Louisiana’s coast. The group used banding and auxiliary marking to track these birds. Delaina then explained the process of banding and auxiliary marking. Each bird has a metal band and a tag with a number on it so that the bird can be resighted. She then showed a group of loafing Red Knots and explained why they’re not ideal for trapping and showed an image of birds foraging. Once a group is found foraging, cannon nets are set up and deployed if the Red Knots are in the safest position for capture. A team works on safely processing birds before the birds are released. Delaina showed images of all steps and processes taken when banding. Delaina explained that some resights on a bird can be a hit or miss situation. In 2016, a group of researchers from the University of Saskatchewan came down and they did tracking work with nanotags. Nanotags emit a unique pulse that communicates to the closest tracking or Motus tower. Delaina then explained why these nanotags and the Motus Wildlife Tracking System are useful and what information can be collected. She then showed images of these Motus towers and a few of their limitations. Delaina mentioned how they received funding from USFWS to put geolocators on the Red Knots. These devices collect wet and dry data, temperature as well as an estimated location for the sites these birds may be using. Delaina then explained some of her findings from the geolocators. She also mentioned how unpredictable the birds can be because they can be a large group of them but none in sight 2 hours later. They can also be in unexpected areas where they can’t be caught but can be resighted. Out of the many geolocators sent off only two were recovered by Delaina and her team. A researcher from Chile recovered a third geolocator. Delaina then showed and explained slides of where both of these birds went and for how long. Year two of recovering geolocator devices revealed its fair share of challenges and she explained what these challenges were. So far in 2019 only one bird was caught with a geolocator. The group then went to the Chandeleur Islands for a census ­of all birds. The work will continue in 2020. Delaina and David also received a grant to do satellite telemetry. This will give them GPS points of where the Red Knot is rather than an estimated location. They’re hoping to put out 20 devices. Delaina then showed a slide with all of the companies and programs that helped in this project. She then took questions.

1. “Removal of Derelict Crab Traps” – Adam Songy, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Adam introduced himself and mentioned that he would talk about the success of the derelict crab trap removal. He talked of the importance of commercial crab fisheries in Louisiana as well as the issues marine debris poses. A large part of marine debris are the countless derelict crab traps scattered across Louisiana. He then explained the problems these traps cause and showed pictures of the impacts of these traps being left out. There are no regulations on how many traps people can have and they don’t have to report it which makes the estimates of the number of traps in Louisiana very difficult and unknown. Adam mentioned that Vince Guillory did a project in 2001 across the whole Gulf where he estimated a total of 600,000 traps with an additional 250,000 becoming derelict every year. The project done by the LPBF in 2017 where there were 1,458 commercial crabbers that reported landings in Louisiana. Adam then further explains the loss rate that the project reported. He moved on to the environmental impacts these traps have and what can cause them to be lost. He showed an image of a vessel that is completely full of derelict crab traps. Adam then went through the slides explaining how these traps affect wildlife, how they’re a navigational hazard to boats and commercial shrimpers, and that they increase the cost for crabbers to maintain these traps. He also stated that once these traps degrade and no longer can ghost fish, the escape rings endanger wildlife. Ghost fishing was then explained to be a continued capture of crabs, fish, and wildlife without the traps being maintained or baited. Most wildlife will die in these traps and will in turn rebait the traps, keeping the cycle happening. Adam then explained several images showing ghost fishing. LPBF has been doing this project since 2016 and have experienced 28 species of bycatch when removing these traps including fish, reptiles, and birds. He then listed and explained some of the species they found in the traps. In 2004 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries started the Derelict Crab Trap Rodeo to remove these crab traps. Adam then further explained the program and the rules. Adam moved on to talk about the success from the past 2019 season. He explained a map showing the first closure area that was in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. The LPBF worked closely with the LDWF. They had a lot of trouble with the weather. He also explained the amount of crabs found whether they were dead or alive. There was a total of 636 derelict crab traps removed between LDWF and LPBF which totaled to between 30-41 per square mile. Adam explained 3 more maps with their findings within the southwestern part of the Lake Ponchartrain Basin. Since the project started in 2016 there’s been a total of 8,696 traps removed by LPBF and 11,709 traps removed by the LPBF, LDWF, and volunteer events. He then explained that these traps were dispersed fairly evenly throughout the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. Adam mentioned that they were close to having 100% removal of the derelict crab traps in some areas. This gave them a platform to start at to get an accurate counting of how many traps became derelict the next year. He then showed and explained a few slides showing how many traps were extracted from 2017, 2018, and 2019 as well as a map showing the density of removed crab traps. Adam moved on to talk about LPBF future plans and next steps. He mentioned that LPBF received a NOAA Marine Debris Grant to remove 3000-6000 derelict crab traps from the Lake Ponchartrain Basin in 2020 and 2021 using a Side Scan Sonar for traps without floats. Another thing they plan on looking into is the RFID Technology. This would allow them to potentially keep inventory of the traps using scanner technology. This would also help the removal process to go faster by allowing crabbers to retrieve their own traps once they’ve been found. This technology can also prevent the amount of theft happening with these traps. The grant can also help the LPBF to research and test other was to prevent these traps from becoming derelict as well as the expansion of the project across other Louisiana basins. Adam then takes questions.

1. “Oil Spills and Birds: From Response to Restoration” – Eva Windhoffer, LA Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office

Eva introduces herself and her presentation of oil spills and birds. She started off by talking about the history of the LA Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office. Their goals are to minimize oil spills, ensure effective spill response and cleanup, to compensate the public for oil spill damages, and to serve the public through education and outreach. There are about 2,000 oil spill notifications a year and the Responsible Party pays to clean it up. These parties include LOSCO, LDEQ, LDWF, LDNR, CPRA, USCG, NOAA, USFWS, and EPA. If there are wildlife injuries from an oil spill, the primary responders which are LDWF, LOCSO, USFWS, NOAA, and rehabilitation contractors who capture oiled wildlife and transport them to a rehab center as well as collect and process oiled and dead wildlife. Eva then explained the strategies used to avoid more wildlife injuries than what they have already. Data from these spills are collected and it’s mentioned what data LOSCO looks for and notes. She then explained further as to what techniques are used to avoid any more injured wildlife. Eva showed a slide with several images of the damage oil does on birds and fish. She then went deeper into the direct impacts oil has on birds. Birds that are exposed to oil can transfer it to other birds and can also be exposed by eating contaminated prey. What can happen when a bird gets oiled is that it affects their buoyancy and waterproofing, flight, thermoregulation, their circulatory system, their digestive tract, and their energy allocation. Eva went into further detail of these potential injuries. An important part of the LOSCO office is the Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Eva explained what NRDA does and why it’s in place. NRDA for birds uses all of the information collected during the response such as the life history, baseline data, time of year, type of oil, degree, amount, and duration of habitat oiling, type of habitat oiled, and the assumed mortality. Eva explained each of these groups of information in more detail. They then have to take all of the information and turn it into restoration in order to offset the injuries from the spill elsewhere in order to restore those services to the public. She then showed a few images of the different habitats the different birds need. The different types of restoration were listed and explained by Eva. A slide showed images of oiled habitats compared to created and restored habitats by LOSCO. She then showed images of a project that’s used to enhance habitats. It was explained further as to what actions were taken. They’ve also done acquisition/legal protection of habitats. They acquire a property and make sure it is being used for conservation purposes or what LOSCO deems it should be used for. LOSCO has to monitor this property to make sure they are meeting the requirements. Eva showed a slide showing LOSCO’s database system that came out recently where people can look at oil spill data and submit their projects. Eva then mentioned the numbers anyone is required to call when there’s been an oil spill. She then takes questions.

1. **NEW BUSINESS** 
   1. 2020 Embrace the Gulf with Gulf of Mexico Alliance Resolution – Alma R. Jackson
   2. Quenton asked if there was a motion to accept the resolution with amendments. Davie Breaux and Gary LaFleur made amendments to the proposed resolution.  The suggestions were accepted by the BTNEP MC and are reflected in the final resolution which is attached.
   3. A motion was made by Kristina Peterson.
   4. Seconded by Dr. Gary LaFleur.
   5. Motion was passed with unanimous consent.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. Dr. Gary LaFleur mentioned that HESS and Conoco Philips gave a donation and thanked them. He also mentioned that Nicholls will pick up a new project to redo the indicator report.
   2. Quenton mentioned that Thibodeauxville Fall Festival would be that weekend – November 28th – and the Cajun Music Preservation Society would be providing entertainment.
   3. Dean said that the 28 NEPs will be reauthorized.
3. **ADJOURNED**
   1. Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
   2. A motion was made by Kristina Peterson.
   3. Seconded by Dr. Gary LaFleur.
   4. Motion was approved by consensus. The meeting was adjourned.