

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
Management Conference Meeting #94 Roll Call
Virtual Meeting
9:30 a.m. – Thursday, February 4, 2021

BTNEP Staff					
X	Alma Robichaux	X	Nicole Babin	X	Steve Mathies, Director
X	Andrew Barron	X	Seth Moncrief		Emeritus
X	Dean Blanchard	X	Siva Nunna	X	Kerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus
X	Delaina LeBlanc	X	T. Bradley Keith		Susan Testroet-Bergeron
X	Matt Benoit				Director Emerita
X	Natalie Waters				
Management Conference Member			Member		Alternate
American Sugarcane League				Herman Waguespack	John Constant
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area/CRT			X	Justin Lemoine	
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District				Hugh Caffery	X Benjamin Malbrough
Cajun Music Preservation Society			X	Quenton Fontenot	
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana			X	Kimberly Reyher	Deb Abibou
			X	Emily Vuxton	
Coastal Conservation Association of LA				John Walther	
Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (CPRA)				Bren Hasse Greg Grandy Brad Miller	X Darin Lee Kellyn LaCour Alexis Rixner Robert Routon X Honora Buras Michael Ellis
Commercial Fisheries				John Tesvich	Peter Vujnovicch Clint Guidry
Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission			X	Chett Chaisson	X Davie Breaux
Iberville Parish Government				John Clark	
Jefferson Parish Government				Lauren Averill	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 (CRT)			X	Debra Credeur Maida Owens	Karen Leathem Linda Smith
LA Department of Economic Development				Paul Sawyer	Anne Perry
LA Department of Education				Tana Lutcher	Breigh Rhodes
LA Department of Environmental Quality			X	Aimee Preau Crisalda Adams	John Sheehan Jonathan McFarland John Jennings
LA Department of Health and Hospitals			X	Lauren Comeaux	Chance Wooton
LA Department of Natural Resources (LDNR)			X	Charles Reulet	Sara Krupa Robert Williamson Mark Hogan

<i>Management Conference Member</i>		<i>Member</i>		<i>Alternate</i>
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	X	Willie Cheramie Jeff Marx Gage Lasseigne	X	Brady Carter Mark Schexnayder Chris Schieble William Hano
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		Randy Moertle
LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association		Lori LeBlanc		Ed Landgraf Melissa Cloutet
LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office		Karolien Debusschere		Jennifer Beall
LA Science Teachers' Association	X	Nicole Cotten		Tera LaPrarie Nathan Cotten Jean May-Brett
LA Wildlife Federation	X	B.J. Barney Callahan		Rebecca Triche
Lafourche Parish Government	X	Archie Chaisson	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
LUMCON	X	Dr. Craig McClain John Conover		Heidi Boudreaux Murt Conover
US NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)		Alexis Rixner Richard Hartman		Craig Gothreaux Shannon Martin
Nicholls State University	X X X	Dr. Jay Clune Dr. John Doucet Jenny Schexnayder	X	Chris Bonvillain Gary LaFleur Kevin Pitts
Plaquemines Parish Government		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	X	Pat Gordon Stephanie Brunning Lesley Long
South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC)		Vic Lafont	X	Simone Maloz Victoria Sagrera
South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center		Jonathan Foret Angelle Percle	X X	Samantha Hicks Sarah Fontana
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	X	Jean Landry		Karen Gautreaux
U.S. National Park Service		Angela Rathle Allyn Rodriguez		Mark Ford Julie Whitbeck Dusty Pate

<i>Guest Organization</i>		<i>Guest</i>		<i>Guest</i>
Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation	X	Gary LaFleur	X	Nolan Falgout, III
	X	Earl Melancon		Matt Sevier
	X	Laynie Barrilleaux		
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program	X	Kaitlyn Tabor		
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		
Bio Info Experts		Susanna Lamer		
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)		Bruce Baird		Victoria Phaneuf
City of Thibodaux		Archie Chaisson		
Coastal and Marine Operators		Capt. Jake Stahl		
Conoco Phillips		Ashley Golmon		
CRIA		Chris Adams		
Daily Comet / Houma Courier		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		Weldon Danos		
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		Adam Songy		
Lori LeBlanc LLC		Tyler Gray		Katie DeRoche
Louisiana Appleseed		Adrienne Wheeler		Gerren Sias
Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group		Doug Daigle		
LSU		Dr. Benjamin Springgate Loren Hull Nancy Rabalais	X	Jennifer Sato R Eugene Turner Ashley Everette
Moffatt & Nichol		Jonathan Hird		
Nicholls State University		Alex Arceneaux Jenny Schexnayder		Allyse Ferrara Keri Turner
Office of Congressman Garret Graves	X	Cong. Garrett Graves David Cavell		Alexandra Erwin
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	X	Joni Tuck		Donnie Garrison

Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #94 Final Minutes – February 4, 2021

- A. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Quenton Fontenot, BTNEP MC Chairman, at 9:30am.
- B. Management Conference members and guests were asked to register and sign in virtually with their name and affiliation.
- C. The floor was opened for comments on the reading and approval of the minutes from two previous meeting. Minutes for MC#90 and MC#92.
 - i. Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as written and dispense with the reading of the minutes for MC#90. Dwayne Bourgeois motioned to accept as written and Nicole Lundberg seconded the motion.
 - ii. Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as written and dispense with the reading of the minutes for MC#92 Dwayne Bourgeois motioned to accept as written. Archie Chaisson, III seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion was approved by consensus.

1. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

T. Bradley Keith, the new BTNEP Executive Director, mentioned how happy he is to be a part of BTNEP and that he looks forward to working towards helping our coasts and environment. He talked about the quality of work BTNEP does and hopes to do and that he hopes to create a united voice representing BTNEP's work. He also brought up the work plans being created by the action plan teams.

Dean Blanchard expressed his excitement for having T. Brad apart of the team. He mentioned that the NEP reauthorization bill was made into a law in November and lasts 5 years. It almost doubled the funding. Dean also further talked about the NEP competitive grants. He then introduced Congressman Garret Graves since he helped with the NEP reauthorization and Congressman Graves spoke a little on the subject.

Alma Robichaux-Jackson started off with the Serving the Underserved Conference she attended with GOMA. She explained how they talked about those who are underrepresented and unrepresented.

Andrew Barron greeted everyone in the meeting. He talked about the work going on in the Bayou Folse Watershed with repairing and updating the home sewage systems. South Central Planning has been working with Andrew on getting contracts made with these homeowners in order to repair the sewage systems. Due to COVID-19, the project hasn't had the level of participation they anticipated. Andrew and Siva went in the field with the inspector hired by BLFWD and accompanied him with his work. Andrew also worked on a video on how the aerated sewage systems work and it is on the BTNEP website.

Seth Moncrief mentioned to everyone that he will be putting together a cultural heritage action plan team soon. He has also started brainstorming and contract work for the 2022 Tidal Graph Calendars.

Delaina LeBlanc updated everyone on the 2020 Thibodaux Bird Count. There were more than 100 species spotted and counted over 10,000 birds.

Natalie Waters started off mentioning that she's preparing for checking the Prothonotary Warbler boxes, Osprey nest platforms, and the Chimney Swift towers. She will also be working on growing pollinator plants for giveaways to help support the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. She also included the Audubon Publication and how it has been sent to the printer and will be getting it back soon.

Siva Nunna gave an update on the Bayou Lafourche Watershed project. Sampling for 2020 was extended due to COVID and is taking longer than expected. Sampling in Bayou Lafourche should start back up soon.

2. UPCOMING DATES

- A. BTNEP Management Conference – May 6th, 2021
- B. BTNEP Management Conference – August 5th, 2021
- C. BTNEP Management Conference – November 4th, 2021

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. “The Coastal Center at NSU”, Dr. John Doucet and Dr. Jay Clune, Nicholls State University

Dr. John Doucet spoke about the new Coastal Center at Nicholls State University and updated everyone on the plans. He thanked all of those who helped and are helping with the continuation of this project. Currently, the construction design phase has been completed. Dr. Doucet then showed a few images of what the building will look like when it's built and where it will be located. It will have three different sections which are the research and engineering labs, exhibits, offices, and collaborative work spaces, and conference and training spaces. There will also be a water feature that can be lined with native plants and other things symbolic of the coast. Another aspect to the building will be the second floor office suites for anyone who wants to lease them. Dr. Doucet also explained the coastal campus at Nicholls which includes several facilities and agencies, such as BTNEP. He then further explained the Center for Bayou Studies (CBYUS), the Nicholls Farm, some of the leased land on the coast, and the Coastal Center as part of the Coastal Campus. The task force and subcommittees have been working on the vision, mission, and goals, and Dr. Doucet goes into further details for those topics. A timeline of the commitments Nicholls has made to the Louisiana coast was shown. Over 70 years, 87% of Nicholls students, faculty, and staff have called a coastal parish their home so Nicholls State University is very invested in the coast. Dr. Doucet thanks everyone and takes questions.

2. “Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System Climate Change Adaptation Plan”, Scott Hemmerling, The Water Institute of the Gulf

Scott Hemmerling greeted and thanked everyone. As a requirement from EPA, this project was started in 2019 and Scott mentioned that his presentation will be an update of that project. Scott talked about some of the factors they looked at such as risks, stressors, and goals. The assessment is mainly based on the EPA workbook which includes a guide to risk-based adaptation planning, what to do with the risks identified through the vulnerability assessment, and options on how to manage the identified risks. The math of this project is adding the vulnerability assessment to the action plan to overall get the climate change adaptation. Scott then further explained and showed images of the EPA workbook. He went over the BTNEP goal which is to ‘Preserve and restore wetlands and barrier islands’, the climate stressor which is warmer summers, and the associated risks to the stressor. When identifying risks, that resulted in a total of 152 climate change risks that the BTES may potentially face. Scott further explained and went over the individual steps taken to get to the final goal, stressor, and risks and how the surveys of the stakeholders were set up. Once everything was identified, the course of action was decided and further pulled apart and described. Scott mentioned the four options possible when talking about the risks. Those options

are to mitigate, transfer, accept, or avoid. Scott mentioned and went over all 20 risks and explained what route was decided. The report was finalized and submitted to EPA in the summer of 2020, comments were received from EPA in Fall of 2020, and the final edits and responses were sent back to EPA in January of 2021. The last step that BTNEP and TWIG aren't at just yet is incorporating any new information and keeping the plan updated since conditions are always changing. They want to ensure that the best plan is always in place and update the action plan if necessary. Scott thanked everyone and mentioned that he's pleased at where they're at with the project. He then took questions.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A motion was made by Gary LaFleur to pass Randy Moertle's work with BTNEP and sending predomination to his wife. Seconded by Kristina Peterson.
- B. Motion was approved unanimously. Motion was approved.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Quenton Fontenot mentioned that the NEPs have been reauthorized until Fiscal Year 2026 and the funds have been almost doubled on the federal level.
- B. Gary LaFleur with BTEF announced that they are welcoming a new member to the BTEF Board, Hillary Thibodaux.

6. **ADJOURNED**

- A. Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
- B. A motion was made by Kristina Peterson. Seconded by Darin Lee.
- C. Motion was approved by consensus. The meeting was adjourned.