Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Management Conference Meeting #95 Roll Call

Virtual Meeting

9:30 a.m. – Thursday, May 6, 2021

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| ***BTNEP Staff*** | | | | | | | | |
| X  X  X  X  X | Alma Robichaux  Andrew Barron  Dean Blanchard  Delaina LeBlanc  Matt Benoit  Natalie Waters | X  X  X | Nicole Babin  Seth Moncrief  Siva Nunna  T. Bradley Keith | | |  | Steve Mathies, Director Emeritus  Kerry St. Pé, Director Emeritus  Susan Testroet-Bergeron Director Emerita | |
| ***Management Conference Member*** | | | | ***Member*** | | | ***Alternate*** | |
| American Sugarcane League | | | | X | Herman Waguespack | |  | Atticus Finger |
| Atchafalaya National Heritage Area/CRT | | | |  | Justin Lemoine | |  |  |
| Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District | | | |  | Hugh Caffery | |  | Benjamin Malbrough |
| Cajun Music Preservation Society | | | | X | Quenton Fontenot | |  | Misty McElroy  Gary LaFleur  Allyse Ferrara |
| Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana | | | | X | Kimberly Reyher  Emily Vuxton | |  | Deb Abibou |
| Coastal Conservation Association of LA | | | |  | John Walther | |  |  |
| Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (CPRA) | | | |  | Bren Hasse | | XX | Greg Grandy  Honora Buras |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | |  | John Tesvich | |  | Peter Vujnovicch  Clint Guidry |
| Greater Lafourche Parish Port Commission | | | |  | Davie Breaux | |  | Thad Angelloz |
| Iberville Parish Government | | | |  | John Clark | |  |  |
| Jefferson Parish Government | | | | X | Michelle Gonzales | |  | Jason Smith |
| LA Association of Conservation District | | | |  | Ruben Dauzat | |  | Brad Spicer  Jerome Cantrelle |
| LA Association of Levee Boards | | | |  | Dwayne Bourgeois | |  |  |
| LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry | | | |  | Joey Breaux | |  | 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 | | X | John Sheehan  Crisalda Adams |
| LA Department of Health and Hospitals | | | |  | Lauren Comeaux | |  | Chasity Cheramie |
| LA Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) | | | | X | Charles Reulet | |  | Sara Krupa  Robert Williamson  Mark Hogan |
| LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries | | | |  | Willie Cheramie | |  | Dylan Landry  Andrew Cumberland |

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| ***Management Conference Member*** |  | ***Member*** |  | ***Alternate*** |
| 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 |  | Tim Allen |  |  |
| LA Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association |  | Lori LeBlanc |  | Ed Landgraf  Melissa Cloutet |
| LA Oil Spill Coordinators Office |  | Karolien Debusschere | X | Jennifer Beall |
| LA Science Teachers’ Association |  | Nicole Cotten |  | Tera LaPrarie  Nathan Cotten  Jean May-Brett |
| LA Wildlife Federation | X | B.J. Barney Callahan |  | Rebecca Triche |
| Lafourche Parish Government |  | Archie Chaisson | X | Amanda Voisin  Mitch Orgeron |
| LSU Ag Center & LA Sea Grant |  | Rex Caffey | 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 |
| US NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | X | Alexis Rixner |  | Craig Gothreaux |
| Nicholls State University | 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 | X | Kevin Belanger  Patrick Gordon |  | Tim Bourcier  Adam Lefort |
| South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) |  | Vic Lafont | X  X | Simone Maloz  Victoria Sagrera-Bourque |
| South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center | X | Jonathan Foret | X  X | Samantha Hicks  Sarah Fontana  Angelle Percle |
| 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 |  | Karen Gautreaux |
| U.S. National Park Service | X | Angela Rathle  Allyn Rodriguez |  | Mark Ford  Julie Whitbeck  Dusty Pate |
| ***Management Conference Member*** |  | ***Member*** |  | ***Alternate*** |
| US Coast Guard |  | Brian Black |  | LCDR Anthony Romero |
| US Army Corps of Engineers |  | Sarah Bradley | X | Amy Dixon  Kaitlyn Carriere  Danielle Keller |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | X | Lisa Rickards |  | Doug Jacobson |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | X | Karen Soileau |  | Ronny Paille |
| US Department of Agriculture’s – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) | X | Josh Anderson | X | John Boatman  Alton James  Quin Kinler |
| US Geological Survey (USGS) | X | Scott Wilson |  | Kacie Wright |
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| ***Guest Organization*** |  | ***Guest*** |  | ***Guest*** |
| Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation | X | Gary LaFleur  Earl Melancon  Laynie Barrilleaux | X | Nolan Falgout, III  Matt Sevier |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |
| Coastal and Marine Operators | X | 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 |  | Chip Kline |  | Morgan Crutcher |
| Grand Isle Port Commission | X | Weldon Danos |  |  |
| Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council |  | John Ettinger |  | LaKeshia Robertson |
| Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw |  | Chief Albert P. Naquin |  | Deme M. Naquin Jr. |
| 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 | X | Monique Crochet |  | Allyse Ferrara  Keri Turner |
| Office of Congressman Garret Graves |  | Cong. Garrett Graves  David Cavell | X | Taylor Playforth  Alexandra Erwin |
| 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 |  | Joni Tuck |  | Donnie Garrison |
| ***Guest Organization*** |  | ***Guest*** |  | ***Guest*** |
| Southern University |  | Veronica Manrique |  |  |
| Spahr’s Seafood Restaurant |  | Donald Spahr |  | Brent Roger |
| TLCD |  | Angela Rains |  | Darin Guidry |
| The Water Institute of the Gulf |  | Scott Hemmerling  Jessi Parfait  Erin White  Huy Ju |  | Monica Barra  Bruce Yuill  Christine DeMeyers  Amy Wold |
| 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 |  |  |
| Weather CSI |  | Dr. Pat Fitzpatrick |  |  |
| White Car Marketing |  | Cody Blanchard | X | Emily Knobloch |
| WYES TV |  | Marcia Kavanaugh |  |  |
|  |  | Vincent Guillory |  |  |
|  |  | Marty Bourgeois |  |  |
|  |  | Darryl Hambrinck |  |  |
|  |  | David Gisclair |  |  |
| Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) |  | Laci Melancon |  |  |
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**Final Minutes from Management Conference Meeting #95 Final Minutes – May 6, 2021**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Quenton Fontenot, BTNEP MC Chairman, at 9:30am.
2. Management Conference members and guests were asked by Nicole Babin to register with their name and affiliation.
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. Herman Waguespack motioned to accept as written.
   3. John Doucet seconded the motion.
   4. Motion was approved by consensus.
4. **Program Overview and Updates**
   * T. Bradley Keith, BTNEP Director, thanked the MC members expressed his excitement of being a part of BTNEP and working with everyone. He mentioned that this meeting will include the work plans and projects of the BTNEP staff as well as the future collaborations. BTNEP hasn’t been dormant and has still been working on water quality sampling, growing out native species at the farm, birding surveys, and Bayou Lafourche Cleanup. BTNEP has also been keeping up with the state and is lucky to have representatives that fight for us.
   * T. announced that Andrew Barron has been named the new Senior Research Scientist.
   * T. then turned the meeting over to Dean Blanchard for the budget overview.
5. **Presentation of Draft Annual Work Plan**

* Dean Blanchard, Deputy Director, mentioned that it’s required by EPA to have the work plans approved before the application is sent back. Dean started with the draft annual work plan and then moved on to the additional projects. First things on the chart are administrative needs. These include LUMCON Indirect, Personnel Salary and Fringe, Administrative Operating Services, Administrative Funds, and Administrative Travel Funds. Next is the Layout of the 2022 Tidal Graph Calendar which allows BTNEP to keep updating and printing them. Communications and Print Media is in there also because BTNEP needs assistance with things such as making flyers. Social Media and Public Relations is where BTNEP gets assistance for Facebook, Instagram, the website, etc.
* Andrew Barron is in charge of the project for ‘Developing a Harmful Algal Bloom Threat Index’. This project will be done by The Water Institute of the Gulf by Dr. Bingqing Liu. This project will use remote sensing techniques and satellite imagery to detect harmful algal bloom events. The data from this project will then be used to create a harmful algal bloom threat index that will be used to possibly predict and study future harmful algal bloom events.
* Delaina LeBlanc will be conducting the Purple Martin Conservation & Management Outreach project where they provide housing and education on these birds. They spend spring and summer in South America because it’s their breeding grounds. This allows BTNEP to provide housing and support for these birds since they’re in decline.
* Natalie Water is the project manager for the Native Plant Initiative of GNO – Native Plant Propagation and Giveaways. This will help introduce native species in the communities of the Greater New Orleans. This funding will help support the projected 12 plant giveaways each year.
* Delaina LeBlanc will be conducting the Protection and Enhancement of Natural Habitat for Native Wildlife project on the Woodlands Conservancy property in Belle Chasse. They have had an increase in visitors so they want to create signage with QR codes and will be making educational videos. The Woodlands Conservancy wants to engage and educate visitors on the wildlife around them.
* Natalie Waters will be partnering with an ecologist from USGS to complete the educational Amphibians of Louisiana Publication. The publication will give information on the multiple species with pictures, where you can find them, some of the challenges they face, and the overall life history. It will also include the conservation issues worldwide since amphibians are declining quickly.
* Alma Robichaux-Jackson is the project manager for WETSHOP but since she’s absent, T. will be taking over on explaining it. It is an intense week long training for teachers across Louisiana. This is a coastal conservation restoration workshop with the idea that they will take this knowledge back to the districts they represent. Several of the BTNEP staff is involved with these trainings.
* Alma is also the project manager for the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center Swamp Camps. T. mentioned that it is 3 week-long sessions that reach out to 75 students.
* Alma’s next project is the 2022 Trash Free Waters that is set up for supplies.
* Seth Moncrief is the project manager for Optimizing the Establishment and Impact of Salvinia Weevil Through Manipulation of Release Points but he is absent so Andrew will be explaining his projects. This project is being conducted by Dr. Rodrigo Diaz at LSU and is looking at optimizing use of biological control on Giant Salvinia, specifically the Salvinia Weevil.
* Seth’s next project is the Future Impacts of the Invasive Apple Snail – A Biomechanical Approach. Andrew mentioned that it will be conducted by Dr. Kate Galloway at Nicholls State University. The end product of this project will be educational lesson plans for local schools as well as Nicholls State. Dr. Kate Galloway will look at how pH, temperature, and the amount of CO2 that’s in the water will affect the formation of Apple Snail shells. Overtime with the increasing climate change, it’s shown that it can lead to thinner shells and easier predation.
* Technical Assistance for Sampling Fish for Research on Effects of Harmful Algal Bloom Cyanotoxins and a Piscicide Active Ingredient in Fish is Seth’s last project. Andrew stated that this project is very involved and essentially has a 3-part system. The USGS will be conducting the project, specifically Scott Mize. BTNEP is paying for the collection of livers and male gonads from fish that experienced harmful algal blooms (HAB). This will be used to detect Cyanotoxins from these HABs in fish and look at the toxicity of Antimycin-an among freshwater fish species.

1. **Management Conference Discussion on Draft Annual Work Plan**

* Quenton Fontenot asked if there was a motion to approve the Work Plan as stated.
* Mart Black motioned to approve the Work Plan as stated.
* Nicole Lundberg seconded the motion.
* Motion was approved by consensus.

1. **Other BTNEP Business**
2. T. stated that there are additional projects that have been approved previously and are ongoing as well as numerous outside projects working with outside contractors. Shell has funded a marine debris cleanup, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance has funded refillable water bottle stations in schools, and BTNEP is seeking funding for a large scale analysis of the birding data that has been recorded in the past 20 years. T. mentioned that BTNEP is part of a large grant proposal from GOMA to do a large scale water assessment, where BTNEP will be putting together scoping meetings and engaging with the public throughout the estuary. Discussions are ongoing with CPRA regarding growing out woody species for Spanish Pass as well as to grow out plants for coastal restoration. The water quality sampling that Andrew and Siva have been doing with SCPDC has the opportunity to expand into different watersheds. In addition to all of the projects presented, there’s more going on. The expertise of CPRA was sought out in regards to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. T. asked that the conference put forth their comments that will later be sent to the USACE. The amount of land being lost is tremendous and most of it is in our estuaries. It’s important for our voices to be heard.
3. **UPCOMING DATES – Save the Date**
   * BTNEP Management Conference – August 5th, 2021
   * BTNEP Management Conference – November 4th, 2021
   * BTNEP Management Conference – February 3rd, 2022
   * BTNEP Management Conference – May 5th, 2022
   * BTNEP Management Conference – August 4th, 2022
   * BTNEP Management Conference – November 3rd, 2022
4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

* Dr. Craig McClain, LUMCON Director, announced that he’s excited and impressed. He believes that T. has brought a very strong mission and vision to BTNEP and has extended its growth. LUMCON is going to help bring to life T.’s vision for BTNEP.
* Patrick Gordon with South Central Planning mentioned that they’re the watershed coordinators for Region 6 and they recently went over an initiative the state has brought out. SCPDC and some of the BTNEP staff met to discuss the watershed issues and discuss outreach to the parishes to the north. Patrick mentioned that he would like to collaborate in order to educate the northern parishes and to extend the water sampling area.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

* No New Business

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   * Gary LaFleur – White Boot Gala September 14, 2021 contact Nicole Babin for tickets starting in June
2. **ADJOURNED**
   * Dr. Quenton Fontenot, MC Chairman, asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
   * A motion was made by Kristina Peterson. Seconded by Greg Grandy.
   * Motion was approved by consensus. The meeting was adjourned.