

## MINUTES OF THE BISTINEAU TASK FORCE

May 24, 2012 - 10:15A.M.

Webster Parish Police Jury

410 Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Minden, Louisiana

ATTENDING: Billy W. Montgomery, Bossier PJ-Chairman; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Glenn Benton, Bossier PJ; Bill Altimus, Bossier PJ; David Lowe, Dorcheat Soil & Water C.; Rick Yager, Dorcheat S.W.C.; Elmore Morris, Bodcau Soil & Water C.; Shannon Mendenhall, Bodcau SWCD; and Pete Camp, at large.

ABSENT: Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; Bill Sims, Bienville PJ; Tony Lawson, Bienville PJ; Bill Conley, Saline SWCD; and George McConathy, Saline SWCD

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer; Ronda Carnahan, Webster PJ; Evan Thames, LA WF; and Olivia Ward, Trailblazer

Chairman, Billy W. Montgomery called the meeting to order. Elmore Morris opened the meeting with Prayer and Jim Bonsall led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary, Ronda Carnahan called roll of the Committee Members.

Chairman, Billy Montgomery gave opening comments to begin the Bistineau Task Force Meeting. The agenda was reviewed and adopted with no changes.

The minutes of the March 29, 2012 BTF Meeting were presented for review, there being no amendments to the minutes, Mr. Charles Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Jim Bonsall to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer reported on the BTF Action Fund. Donations to date are \$75,766.00. Donations have primarily been made from Bossier residents, Webster and Bienville Parish lake residents will be receiving donation request letters soon. Those who have made donations have been sent appreciation letters. The Assessor's offices of the three parishes have been very helpful in providing the names and addresses of the residents living on Lake Bistineau.

Mr. Pete Camp gave a report on the purchases made through the BTF Action Fund. The Air Boat has been ordered and the deposit equal to ½ of the purchase price, \$26,410.00 plus bank charge of \$25.00 (fee) was made to secure the boat. The Air Boat Company has estimated a delivery time of 3 months. Mr. Camp then told the Task Force that the Wildlife and Fisheries need the ATV in order to get into areas that they cannot access by boat or on foot for spraying purposes. Mr. Camp made a motion to purchase the ATV for approximately \$12,000.00 if there are funds available. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Altimus, motion carried unanimously. Discussion followed concerning the Act of Donation that would transfer the boat to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Police Jury Representatives were then given an opportunity to speak to the Task Force.

Mr. Charles Walker, Webster Parish Police Jury discussed the impact of the Alligator Weed and the Salvenia on lake property. He also expressed his appreciation to those that have donated to the BTF Action Fund, and would like to see Webster Lake residents also involved. Mr. Walker also told Mr. Ellzey Simmons that everyone is glad to see him back after his surgery.

Mr. Glenn Benton, Bossier Parish Police Jury told the Task Force that the Bossier Parish Police Jury is very supportive of the Task Force and of Lake Bistineau.

Mrs. Jane Jackson gave an update on HB #347. She stated that the bill has passed the House and is now going to the Senate side to be heard. The bill has been amended from 20% of royalties to now at 10% with revenue capped at \$100,000.00. There followed discussion on how to make changes to the bill and to have Senator Adley's support. Representative Gene Reynolds was the author of the original bill and Senator Adley was a co-author.

Evan Thames, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries gave a report on the status of spray program in Lake Bistineau. Mr. Thames stated that his crews are trying to prioritize areas of the lake and work the worst patches first. They are trying to keep the boat launches and the boat houses clean—areas that would impede people accessing the lake. Salvenia is the most aggressive weed, although Alligator is bad. The main objective is to keep the Salvenia growth below the 1500 acre threshold. The local district has two full crews and additional contract crews. The crews spray Monday – Thursday – a 40 hour week. Mr. Thames reported that the Port O 'Bistineau Deep Water Access grant application is on "go". The plans for tree removal are now up to the Forestry Department, no report today.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Bob Brotherton, Bossier Parish Police Jury. Mr. Brotherton expressed his appreciation to the Task Force and said that "The Lake is back". He is seeing recreational activities resuming such as swimming, skiing, tubing, fishing, etc. People are using the lake.

Doug Rimmer, Bossier Parish Police Jury. Mr. Rimmer also expressed his appreciation and stated that he is seeing so much progress in the Salvenia battle on Bistineau. Mr. Rimmer stated that Tourism is the "Life Blood" of our region.

Rick Kilpatrick, Forestry and Land Management Agent with the Louisiana Extension Service offered his office's services to the Task Force. He works with landowners, and would be glad to be of assistance.

Jack Canson with the Caddo Lake Institute addressed the Task Force. Mr. Canson stated that they are working on a grant that will provide needed information to anyone on Salvenia, Alligator Weed, and other lake issues. The information will be made available to the BTF. Mr. Canson was very complimentary of the accomplishments made on Bistineau.

Evan Thames told the BTF and audience that there are no plans for a draw-down this year.

There being no further business to bring before the Task Force, Mr. David Lowe moved to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Carnahan, Secretary