

BISTINEAU TASK FORCE  
May 15, 2014 – 10:15 A.M.  
Webster Parish Courthouse, Minden, Louisiana

MEMBERS PRESENT: Billy Montgomery, Bossier PJ, Chairman; Elmore Morris, Bodcau SWCD; Bob Brotherton, Bossier PJ; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; Rick Yager, Dorcheat SWCD; and Pete Camp, At large.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; Tony Lawson, Bienville PJ; Don Moore, Bienville PJ. Glenn Benton, Bossier PJ; Bill Conley, Saline SWCD, David Lowe, Dorcheat SWCD;

SPECIAL ASSISTANTS: Jeff Sibley, LDWF; and Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer.

Chairman, Billy Montgomery called the meeting to order and asked Elmore Morris to open with prayer and Rick Yager to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Simmons then called the roll. Billy Montgomery announced the resignation of Ronda Carnahan. He added comments regarding the valuable services that Ms. Carnahan had been providing to the BTF.

The agenda and the minutes of the March 20, 2014 BTF meeting were presented for review. Mr. Bob Brotherton moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Ramsey to adopt the minutes and approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steve Ramsey presented a report from the Trailblazer Salvinia Weevil Production Facility Committee to be located on Lake Bistineau. The team is still seeking ways to fund the project. The next committee meeting will be held soon. He also announced that Gene Reynolds is working in Baton Rouge to help get this project going.

Next, E. Simmons announced the May 15<sup>th</sup> Home Sewer Education Workshop to be held at Koran church in cooperation with the Bossier Parish Police Jury and DHH.

Bob Brotherton discussed plans for the Weed Warden Program to be conducted on Lake Bistineau. The program will engage volunteers to help track aquatic weed growth. The program is also being offered to other lakes in North Louisiana.

Next, Pete Camp announced the Shoreline Watch Program which will enlist property owners to also report aquatic weed growth on the lake.

Mr. Stephen Micinski with the LSU Red River Research Station gave a report on the new project to develop a more cold tolerant weevil. Mr. Micinski told the BTF that Lake Bistineau is looking great; he noted that he spends most of his time on Cross Lake. GS is growing in association with other aquatic weeds. Their mission is to collect cold tolerant weevils. Weevils at Cross Lake are hard to find and those collected there recently would not reproduce.

Jeff Sibley with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries spoke to the BTF concerning Lake Bistineau.

- *Mr. Sibley stated that currently the lake looks great; GS is in all areas of the lake; mixed in with other aquatics growing and expanding.*
- *Contract spraying with 2-3 boats will begin soon*
- *If a drawdown is needed this year, it will likely be late in the summer/early fall.*
- *Alligator weed requires at least two sprayings to kill the plant. The alligator weed flea beetle has been established on the lake for a number of years now and offers an effective bio-control in Lake Bistineau as the growing season progresses.*
- *Duck weed is currently observed more now than any other aquatic plant.*
- *GS acreage estimates will begin in June. 1500 acres is still the threshold for a future drawdowns.*

Audience comments and questions were received. The Chairman concluded the meeting with an encouraging statement to all saying “don’t give up & keep trying”.

There being no further business to bring before the BTF, Mr. Montgomery closed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

P. E. Simmons, Trailblazer RC&D