

MINUTES OF THE BISTINEAU TASK FORCE  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010  
Webster Parish Police Jury  
410 Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Minden, Louisiana

ATTENDING: Billy W. Montgomery, Bossier PJ-Chairman; Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Bill Altimus, Bossier PJ; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; David Lowe, Soil & Water C.; Glen Benton, Bossier PJ; George McCarthy, Saline Soil & Water C.; William M. Conley, Saline Soil & Water; Rick Yager, Dorcheat SWCD; Elmore Morris, Bodcau Soil & Water C.; Shannon Mendenhall, Bodcau Soil & Water C.; Rodney Warren, representing Bienville PJ

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

INVITED GUEST: Dr. H. Lynn Walker, Retired, LA Tech University; Kristine Carrier, Photographer; Pete Camp; and Deb Davis

See attached list of guest

Mr. Billy Montgomery welcomed everyone attending and called the meeting to order, Mr. Montgomery extended a special thank you to Trailblazer Organization for all of their organizational work and to the Webster Parish Police Jury for hosting the meetings of the Bistineau Task Force.

The minutes of the Bistineau Task Force meeting held April 19, 2010 were presented for consideration, and there being no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Changes to the Agenda will be made as needed within the meeting.

Mr. Lynn Beatty had planned to attend, but was called away at the last minutes, he will be at the next meeting of the BTF to discuss tree removal.

Mr. Montgomery then gave a brief history of the Bistineau Task Force and then turned the meeting over to Mr. Ellzey Simmons for the agenda items.

The next item on the agenda is Data Collection. Mrs. Olivia Ward presented a slide show of Upper Dorcheat Photos. Mr. Ellzey Simmons then discussed the survey; it is available online at the Bistineau Task Force Web Site. Comments are welcomed online, or guest may leave written comments with the Task Force today.

“Grass Roots Plan” is available online and there are copies here today. The Grass Roots Plan was adopted by the 3 Police Juries of Bossier, Bienville, and Webster as well as the Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Saline, Bodcau, and Dorcheat. The Bistineau Task Force provides a forum to keep Bistineau in the fore-front of public interest.

There is an enlistment form for volunteers to assist with taking water samples that is available today if any of the guest present would be willing to participate, it would be appreciated. This will aid the Task Force in obtaining needed information.

Dr. H. Lynn Walker, retired, LA Tech University spoke to the Task Force concerning a “Natural Micro Organism”- that may be used as a tool to attack giant Salvinia. The test results have demonstrated sufficient activity to attract a company that may be interested in commercial development. Billy Montgomery presented Dr. Walker with an appreciation gift certificate for \$100 which was provided by Trailblazer RC&D.

The next item on the agenda is Key Informant Interviews:

- 1- Ms. Kristine Carrier, Resident and Photographer-128 Camp Bistineau Road, Doyline, LA 71023  
Ms. Carrier is a professional photographer who has volunteered her services at no cost to document the process, if Wildlife and Fisheries will allow her to go along and take photographs. Mr. Mark McElroy stated that he wanted to take her up on her offer.
- 2- Pete Camp, Resident – Mr. Camp was critical of all efforts of the Task Force, Trailblazer RC&D and of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- 3- Deb Davis, Resident, Ms. Davis told the Task Force that she lives in an area that you cannot get to by boat and she has never seen a spray crew. She is just asking for assistance and is willing to volunteer if needed.

Mr. Mark McElroy, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries then spoke to the Task Force on the Management Plan for Lake Bistineau. Mr. McElroy assured the members that the plan is not in the same place as it was 3 years ago. The goal is to control giant Salvinia, but the state cannot spend the entire district budget on one lake. The management plan is to use several methods of control, spraying is one of these and also fluctuation of water levels. The capital outlay request was cut from the state budget to fund modifying the spillway to include a skimmer type device that would skim the plants from the water.

Mr. McElroy explained about the Wallop Breaux grant process that will provide for deep water access at the Port O Bistineau. The next grant application should be for a Lane Marking Project to enhance safer boating.

Mr. McElroy then touched on the issue of the mapping for the bottom of the lake, the contour map that will help with identification of areas within the lake and the Watershed project. He then updated the Task Force on the fires on the lake bottom, and the need to identify non compliance of water quality issues with DEQ.

Members Comments:

Mr. Charles Walker, Webster Parish Police Jury told the Task Force that he has lived on Lake Bistineau since 1943 and he definitely feels that there have been improvements over the last 3 years. The Police Juries need to work to try to secure funding to help Wildlife and Fisheries.

Mr. Jim Bonsall, Webster Parish Police Jury stated that the Task Force was formed because the Police Jurors of the three parishes were constantly asked about the status of Lake Bistineau, and concerned members saw this as a way to stay in touch with Wildlife and Fisheries as well as the local legislative delegation and get the information out to the residents of Lake

Bistineau. The Task Force has never tried to keep the information from the citizens. We want to use our combined influence to go to the legislature to secure funding.

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Mr. Billy Montgomery then asked any of the guests in attendance to write down comments so that the Bistineau Task Force can address the concerns.

Some of the guest in attendance had comments:

Dodie Horton with Representative Burns' office commented that the legislative delegation is behind the Bistineau Management Plan, and that the funds allotted to the Spillway project were cut in appropriation.

A guest asked if LA WF ever spoke to a "professional sprayer". Mark McElroy explained the bid process and that the State is locked into a Contract for 3 years.

A guest asked about a problem with Beaver Dams.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Task Force would meet again in November, date will be announced later. There being no further business to bring before the Task Force, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda C. Carnahan  
Secretary