

## MINUTES OF THE BISTINEAU TASK FORCE

May 26, 2010 10:00 A.M.

Webster Parish Police Jury

410 Main Street Room 302

Minden, Louisiana 71055

ATTENDING: James Seales, LA WF; LA WF; Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer; Olivia Ward, Trailblazer; Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Bill Altimus, Bossier PJ; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Billy Montgomery, Bossier PJ; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; David Lowe, Soil & Water C.; Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; Glen Benton, Bossier PJ; George McCarthy, Saline Soil & Water C.; William M. Conley, Saline Soil & Water; and Ronda Carnahan, Webster PJ

Mr. Billy Montgomery called the meeting to order, Mr. Ellzey Simmons began the meeting with prayer and Mr. Glenn Benton led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

The next item on the agenda was comments from Mr. Bill Altimus, Bossier Parish Police Jury. Mr. Altimus emphasized that the purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate the efforts between the Task Force (the Three Parishes representation), the Legislature, and the State Agencies that control and enforce activities on Lake Bistineau. He then stated his appreciation to Senator Adley for his support in getting Wildlife & Fisheries agents, Mr. James Seales and Mr. Mark McElroy to assist the Task Force in setting up the Lake Bistineau Rehabilitation Plan. Mr. Altimus then stated for the record that the Secretary should arrange the meetings so that Mr. Mark McElroy is able to attend these meeting, because it is key for the Wildlife and Fisheries to be in attendance.

Mr. Billy Wayne Montgomery then commented that the Bistineau Task Force is not a "Lake Commission", but is a link between the Citizens, the Parishes, the Legislature, and the State Agencies.

Mr. James Seales, Wildlife and Fisheries thanked the Task Force for all the assistance.

The Grassroots plan was discussed and approved.

The Task Force Membership List is as follows:

Bienville Parish- Mr. Greg Wilson, Mr. Tony Lawson, and Mr. Bill Simms

Bossier Parish – Mr. Bill Altimus, Mr. Glenn Benton, and Mr. Billy Wayne Montgomery

Webster Parish – Mr. Charles Walker, Mr. Steve Ramsey, and Mr. Jim Bonsall

Saline SWCD – Mr. Bill Conly, and Mr. George McConathy

Bodcau SWCD – To be appointed – 2 seats

Dorcheat SWCD – To be appointed – 2 seats

Committee Advisors: Mark McElroy, Wildlife and Fisheries; James Seales, Wildlife and Fisheries; Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer RC&D

Legislative Advisors: Representative Henry Burns; Representative James Fannin; Representative Jean Doerge; Senator Robert Adley

-Task Force Membership List continued:

Special Assistance - Olivia Ward, Trailblazer RC&D; and Ronda Carnahan, Secretary  
Meeting Location – Webster P.P. Offices - 410 Main Street, Rm 302, Minden, LA 71055

\*\*Please see attached Membership List with Contact information

Billy Montgomery commended Bienville Police Jury, Bossier Police Jury, and Webster Police Jury and Saline SWCD for getting the resolutions passed supporting the Bistineau Task Force. Trailblazer RC&D, Dorcheat SWCD and Bodcau SWCD is expected to approve the Resolution at their next meeting.

The Resolutions, Minutes, and other records relative to the Bistineau Task Force will be on file in the Office of the Secretary Treasurer of the Webster Parish Police Jury. Notification of meetings will be posted at the Front door of the Webster Parish Courthouse (Location of meetings).

The next item on the agenda is report from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Mr. James Seales (Mr. McElroy was unable to attend). \* Mr. Seales discussed the current plans for a Wallop Breaux Grant for a “Deep Water Ramp” at the Port of Bistineau. Currently the engineers are waiting on a state survey of the property before proceeding. Mr. Seales stated that only one of these type larger grants is allowed open, but there is a \$10,000.00 75/25 match for small projects and if any of the members are aware of a need, please contact his office.

\*Mr. Seales then stated that there is approximately one acre of Salvinia right now. Tomorrow there will be a fly over to assess the property

\*There was then discussion concerning Beaver Dams- Currently there is not a state agency that controls beaver dams—possibility of intergovernmental agreement with parish to do destruction of dams.

\*Mr. Seales was asked about the gates and when they are to be closed. He stated that the gates will be shut after June, but may not fall until the Fall. This would be a time to do lake bed work, possibly thinning of trees. The purpose of thinning the trees is to let the lake dry out during the dry periods, aesthetics of the lake, fisheries habitat, and to do Salvinia control.

The lake bottom work may also be necessary. The drying action will allow organic matter to decompose and pack down, but dirt work may also be needed.

\*Skimmer Project- Members stated that we are looking for legislative assistance, possibly try for Capital Outlay funding to be able to do this project.

There continued discussion on the possibility of thinning the Cypress Trees. Wildlife and Fisheries are working to develop a plan for thinning of the trees. Mr. Seales suggested that any public information be held until the plan can be presented.

Roundtable discussion then followed:

The members were asked to make suggestions to present to the State:

\*Glenn Benton suggested that the Wildlife and Fisheries provide a plan of action for Bistineau as soon as it is available so that citizens can see progress.

\*David Lowe in reference to the tree removal, private ownership on the lake may present a problem, but the state has the right to manage the lake.

\*Steve Ramsey stated that he hopes the Task Force meets for a purpose. The parishes are willing to assist in applying for funding for projects on Bistineau. Wildlife and Fisheries needs to let the group know when assistance is needed.

\*Billy Wayne Montgomery reemphasized that the Task Force is here to assist the Wildlife and Fisheries, but they must let us know how we can assist them, what is the plan?

\*Bill Conly in reference to the tree thinning operation, he does not think there is enough or “good enough” (quality) trees that are accessible for this to be a good commercial opportunity.

\*Charles Walker stated that he feels good to know that a three parish committee is working to accomplish the goal of helping Bistineau. Webster Parish is ready to assist as they can.

\*Ellzey Simmons stated that we will make it worth the effort to attend the Task Force Meetings by addressing the issues.

\*Billy Wayne Montgomery brought to the table the project that Dr. Walker with LA Tech is currently working on. Suggested that Dr. Walker attend the next Task Force meeting to bring the group up to date on the progress of his project.

\*Charles Walker asked about the “harvester” and it was stated that there are limitations to mechanical harvesting.

The last item to discuss is schedule of meeting of the Bistineau Task Force. The decision is that the meetings will be held every other month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10:05. The schedule of meetings will be:

July 15, 2010 10:05 A.M.

September 16, 2010 10:05 A.M.

November 18, 2010 10:05 A.M.

The meeting will be held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Webster Parish Courthouse Room 302, 410 Main Street, Minden, Louisiana unless otherwise announced. Notice will be posted at the Webster Courthouse.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda C. Carnahan