

MINUTES OF THE BISTINEAU TASK FORCE

July 26, 2012 - 10:15A.M.

Webster Parish Police Jury

410 Main Street – 2nd Floor

Minden, Louisiana

ATTENDING: Billy W. Montgomery, Bossier PJ-Chairman; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Glenn Benton, Bossier PJ; Bill Altimus, Bossier PJ; Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; David Lowe, Dorcheat Soil & Water C.; Rick Yager, Dorcheat S.W.C.; Elmore Morris, Bodcau Soil & Water C.; Shannon Mendenhall, Bodcau SWCD; Bill Conley, Saline SWCD; and George McConathy, Saline SWCD and Pete Camp, At Large.

ABSENT: Bill Sims, Bienville PJ; Tony Lawson, Bienville PJ;

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

Chairman, Billy W. Montgomery called the meeting to order. Elmore Morris opened the meeting with Prayer and Glenn Benton 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.

Mr. Montgomery appointed a committee of members of the Bistineau Task Force to act as a “Purchasing Committee” to handle purchases made with the Donation Program Funds. The Committee members will be: Mr. Pete Camp, Chairman; Mr. Steve Ramsey; Mr. Greg Wilson; Mr. Glenn Benton; and Mr. Ellzey Simmons. These members will work with Mr. Evan Thames of LA DWF for specifications and needs. The first action of the committee will be to purchase the ATV that was considered at the May BTF meeting. The approximate cost is \$13,000.00 and will include necessary equipment for the purpose of accessing areas that cannot be reached by boat or on foot.

Evan will send the specifications to Ellzey Simmons and the committee will make a decision on the purchase. Mr. Montgomery asked the committee to make the purchase within 10 days.

Mr. Glenn Benton moved, seconded by Mr. Pete Camp to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2012 Bistineau Task Force meeting as presented. Minutes Approved.

Mr. Billy Montgomery told the BTF that he had sent out the request for donation letters to Webster residents. Mr. Pete Camp then presented to the BTF the official Bistineau Task Force Sign with the approved logo imprinted on it. Mr. Camp said that anyone that made a donation to the Task Force would receive a sign to be displayed on their pier or dock. Mr. Camp then told the BTF that there is money available for the purchase of the ATV that was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Camp has been notified that the airboat is being built and it has been given a “hull number”. It should be here within the next month or two. Pete Camp and Billy Montgomery are working on the Donation Program and currently there is approximately \$20,000.00(after current obligations) and of this \$13,000.00 is earmarked for the purchase of the ATV.

When the Air Boat is delivered, there will be a “Donation Ceremony”. Details on the ceremony are not completed since we do not know when the air boat will be completed. Tentatively the plan is to have it at the State Park where there can be a demonstration. Urge all BTF members, and Lake Residents to attend.

The next item on the agenda Comments from Key Informants: Honorable Gene Reynolds, State Representative District 10. Mr. Reynolds represents all of Lake Bistineau except for Bienville Parish. Mr. Reynolds told the BTF and guest what happened with the legislation that he authored to provide

Funding for Lake Bistineau through minerals under the lake bed. Mr. Reynolds expressed his appreciation to the LA DWF for their assistance during the legislative session. Although he received good support through most committees, it was defeated 5 to 4 in the Finance Committee with the Chairman voting no. Mr. Reynolds plans to author a bill next year and this legislation is to be modeled after a bill for the Achafalia Basin with the assistance of LA DWF on the specific language. The Capital Outlay money is in Priority 1, and we will see if that is funded. Mr. Reynolds thanked Mr. Montgomery for his assistance in preparing the legislation.

Mr. Evan Thames, Biologist with the LA DWF, Minden Field Office made his report on the status of the spray program, Giant Salvenia update, etc. Evan stated that there has been an explosion of Giant Salvenia within the last month. 80% of the coverage is on the upper section of the lake—probably due to the overgrowth of trees, it is the thickest area of timber. On August 8, 2012 there will be a drawdown of 7 feet. The drawdown will last for 45 to 60 days. Around mid-October, the gates will be closed. During the drawdown LA DWF continue the spray program including contract sprayers. During this time, the fisheries will improve as well as duck hunting. Evan asked lake residents please report pockets that do not de-water.

The Port O' Bistineau Project is at the point of drawing up plans, so hopefully during the drawdown preliminary work can begin.

The tree removal test area at the State Park could begin during the draw-down.

An aerial map was provided to the BTF and audience that showed the Salvenia growth on Lake Bistineau. The map is also available on the web site.

Olivia Ward reported on her outreach /educational work. She stated that she had held several training sessions at the Webster Parish Library Branches throughout Webster Parish.

Audience comments were received.

BTF Members comments:

George McConathy thanked LA DWF and Evan for providing the map, it is very informative.

Steve Ramsey expressed his appreciation for all donations, no matter what size.

Mr. Bill Altimus has three items he wanted to comment on:

- 1- He planned for improvements to Bossier Parish Camps
- 2- He stated that Bossier could help with Dozer work and would work with Evan to implement his plan during the drawdown.
- 3- Channel Markers—Webster and Bossier will assist with more channel marker signs if needed. Evan asked that they provide the same number as before.

Mr. Pete Camp stated that he had emailed approximately 170 people of the notice of drawdown and a copy of the map. He questioned the sunken houseboats, etc. Evan responded that LA DWF would clean up as much as they can—some is private property—a civil issue.

Mr. Charles Walker expressed his thanks to Gene Reynolds for his assistance and perseverance in obtaining help for Lake Bistineau.

Mr. Jim Bonsall reported on the Port O' Bistineau Project.

Mr. Glenn Benton asked about the metal rods in the lake. These are put up for duck blinds. LA DWF does not have equipment to cut off, but if Parish wants to do this they can.

Mr. Yager and Mr. Mendenhall expressed their thanks to LA DWF for all their assistance.

There being no further business to present to the Bistineau Task Force, the Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronda Carnahan, Secretary