

## MINUTES OF THE BISTINEAU TASK FORCE

September 29, 2011

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; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; Bill Sims, Bienville PJ Tony Lawson, Bienville PJ; Glenn Benton, Bossier PJ; David Lowe, Dorcheat Soil & Water C.; Rick Yager, Dorcheat S.W.C.; Elmore Morris, Bodcau Soil & Water C.; Shannon Mendenhall, Bodcau SWCD.

ABSENT: Bill Altimus, Bossier PJ; George McConathy, Saline SWCD; and Bill Conly, Saline SWCD

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

Chairman, Billy W. Montgomery called the meeting to order. Elmore Morris opened the meeting with Prayer and David Lowe 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 July 28, 2011 BTF Meeting were presented for review, there being no amendments to the minutes, Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Glenn Benton to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer Rural Development Institute, reported on the August 8, 2011 BTF Member Work Session. The BTF Action Plan was reviewed and approved by members at the meeting. Funding the Action Plan was also discussed. Members agreed to seek donations into a special accounting line item within Trailblazer. Individuals and corporations can make tax exempt donations for support of BTF projects.

Mr. Billy Montgomery reported that the idea of adding an “at large” member to the current Bistineau Task Force has been discussed for some time. Mr. Charles Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Tony Lawson to appoint Mr. Pete Camp to the “at large” position on the Bistineau Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Camp was given the opportunity to speak to the BTF and guest.

A report was given on the August 17, 2011 meeting with Senator David Vitter. Those members attending the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were: Montgomery, Conly, Lowe, Yeager, Altimus, Benton, Bonsall, and Ramsey. Mr. Montgomery stated that the Senator is going to help with applications for Federal Grants for Lake Bistineau. Overall members felt that Senator Vitter’s meeting was very beneficial.

Mr. Steve Ramsey stated that Senator Vitter was interested in the problems with Salvinia and wanted to get more information on the problems on Lake Bistineau. There has been follow-up from his office. Mr. Ramsey then reported on the repairs to the leaking gate at the spillway. DOTD did not see that it was large enough to make the repairs, but Evan Thames and James Seales with LA DWF felt that they could alleviate the problem. Webster Police Jury provided sand bags and Mr. Seales and a dive team made the temporary repairs. Hopefully when the lake is down the leak can be permanently repaired. Mr. Seales stated that he felt the problem stemmed from erosion of the seal in the spillway.

Mr. Evan Thames then spoke to the members. He began by applauding the efforts of Mr. James Seales for volunteering to do the dive. Concerning the current spraying at the lake, he said there is approximately 30-40 acres of untreated salvinia. Mr. Thames told the members and audience that when e-mailing locations on the lake in need of spray, the correct address needs to be used, be very specific on the location. He also suggested that for small patches, the residents could possibly use a dip net—larger areas take priority in the spray efforts.

Bistineau Task Force members were urged to attend the private citizen training sessions for backyard spraying. The first session will hopefully be in February at the Minden LA Wildlife and Fisheries office located on Hwy 80 W. Soil and Water Conservation will take applications and there is no fee, but citizens need to be aware that you must purchase your own chemicals. The Back Yard Spraying permit will designate that the spraying must be done a certain distance from the bank. Also concerning Backyard Spraying, the person attending the class must be the person that will do the spraying, no one else can spray on your permit.

On the Tree Removal, that is not ready for implementation, it is in the Forestry Dept.'s hands right now. Citizens cannot do tree removal now, and in order to be able to do tree removal, they must go through the Department of Natural Resources.

Member's Comments:

Mr. Elmore Morris asked if a private applicator license or commercial license could be used instead of the backyard spray permit. He was told no, which this is an exclusive permit for backyard spraying.

Mr. Rick Yeager asked if certain chemicals must be used. David Fields with the Soil and Water Conservation Office responded to Mr. Yeager and to Mr. Morris's questions. Mr. Fields said that yes a list of approved chemicals will be provided to those attending the training sessions.

Mr. Glenn Benton asked about the Caddo Lake Weevil Project. He was told by Mr. Thames that biologist is trying to get funding for a study on Caddo Lake on the use of Weevils to combat the salvinia problem. There is no information available at this time, but that the study is exclusive to Caddo Lake.

Discussion followed on the drawing of water out of the Lake as well as ways that the parishes could control oil company use of Parish Rights of Way to lay lines.

Olivia Ward with the Trailblazer Organization told the Bistineau Task Force of Educational events that are scheduled on Water Resource Management. Members are encouraged to help the BTF team schedule educational events.

Local candidates for State Representative District #10 were in attendance. The candidates were: Gerald Holland, Gene Reynolds, Jerri DePingre, and Ronnie Broughton. Candidate for Bossier Parish Police Jury, Mr. Bob Brotherton was also in attendance. Each candidate was allowed to address the Task Force.

The next Bistineau Task Force Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 26, 2011.

Audience comments included:

An audience member brought to the Task Force a copy of a lawsuit in United States District Court, Western Division, Monroe, Louisiana, Devon Energy Production Company L.P., ET AL. Versus Gail Norton, Secretary, Department of the Interior, ET AL – Civil Action # 04-2093. The case involves a dispute between the US and the State of LA, among others, over title to certain alleged relictions and / or accretions ("relictions") surrounding the shore of Lake Bistineau. The guest asked that the copy of the suit be included in the minutes.

A question was raised concerning Beaver Control. Evan stated that the Federal Government is in the process of contacting the State of Louisiana to handle these issues.

Mr. Pete Camp was welcomed to the Task Force by the current members.

A comment was made about a program that will be held at Ringgold HS concerning White Tail Deer management.

There being no further information to bring to the Task Force, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronda Carnahan, Secretary