

MINUTES OF THE BISTINEAU TASK FORCE

March 29, 2012 - 10:05A.M.

Webster Parish Police Jury

410 Main Street – 2nd Floor

Minden, Louisiana

ATTENDING: Billy W. Montgomery, Bossier PJ-Chairman; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Tony Lawson, Bienville PJ; Glenn Benton, Bossier PJ; Bill Altimus, Bossier PJ; David Lowe, Dorcheat Soil & Water C.; Rick Yager, Dorcheat S.W.C.; Elmore Morris, Bodcau Soil & Water C.; Shannon Mendenhall, Bodcau SWCD; and Pete Camp, at large.

ABSENT: Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; Bill Sims, Bienville PJ; Bill Conley, Saline SWCD; and George McConathy, Saline SWCD

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

Chairman, Billy W. Montgomery called the meeting to order. Elmore Morris opened the meeting with Prayer and Rick Yager 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 January 27, 2012 BTF Meeting were presented for review, there being no amendments to the minutes, Mr. Pete Camp moved, seconded by Mr. Charles Walker to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Pete Camp reported on the donation campaign, he stated that concerning the Air Boat, he has a group committed to assist in the purchase of the Air Boat. The cost for the boat will be approximately \$50,000.00. The preferred choice is made by American Air Boat which is out of Houston, Texas. The company has stated that they will come to Bistineau to do the maintenance on the boat, which will decrease the maintenance cost. The Boat will be donated to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Inland Fisheries District 1, and therefore will be covered under LAWF insurance. The boat will be designated to Lake Bistineau and will not leave the lake. Mr. Charles Camp moved, seconded by Mr. Charles Walker to give Mr. Camp the authority to go forward with the purchase of the Air Boat. Mr. Camp also reported that \$6,200.00 of the \$11,000.00 needed to purchase a 4-Wheeler (Honda Big Red). The 4-Wheeler will be used for bank spraying. He thanked the Bossier Police Jury for loaning a 4-wheeler to assist with the spraying, but it will have to be returned now.

Billy Montgomery reported that he had sent out over 100 letters requesting donations to just Bossier Parish. He plans to send out another 100 to Webster and Bienville Parishes.

Mr. Glenn Benton reported that the Grant he was looking into for Salvinia Control does not apply to the need on Lake Bistineau. Mr. Benton suggested that we look into other grant programs and contact the Caddo Lake authority to see how the grants work for them.

COMMENTS FROM KEY INFORMANTS:

Mrs. Jane Jackson reported on HB 347- *concerning Mineral/ Rights- Royalty: Dedicates an amount of minerals revenue from oil and gas produced in or around Lake Bistineau would go to the operation and management of the Lake.* Mrs. Jackson extended her thanks to the Bistineau Task Force and to the residents of the Lake that have been instrumental in pushing for this bill. Mrs. Jackson will be glad to add anyone to her e-mail list to keep them informed on the progress of the bill. Anyone wanting to be on the Citizen's Information Group, Mrs. Jackson's e-mail address is lajacks@suddenlink.net and her phone # is 318-949-4348.

Mr. Bill Altimus moved, seconded by Mr. Jim Bonsall to ask that the last line of H B # 347- be omitted: *"Each year's plan for the expenditure of monies appropriated from the amount shall be subject to the approval of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources."*

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bill Altimus moved, seconded by Mr. Charles Walker to raise the percentage stated in the bill 20% to 25% , but to let legislators know that removing the last line of the bill is more important than changing the percentage from 20% to 25%. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Olivia Ward reported on the Education programs. Mrs. Ward told the BTF about classes on Water Quality Workshops and Salvinia Education as well as the Backyard Spray Classes.

Mr. Charles Walker asks that the BTF Meetings be set for the 3rd Thursday of the Month instead of the 4th due to scheduling issues in Webster Parish. The next meeting will be held at 10:15 A.M. on May 24, 2012 in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Webster Parish Courthouse, 410 Main Street, Minden, Louisiana.

COMMENTS BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES:

Mr. Evan Thames extended his thanks for Olivia Ward's assistance with the Spray Classes.

Mr. Thames reported that there will be two full time crews working Bistineau to treat 800 acres—The Contract Crews had 600 acres obligated, but were able to get additional areas sprayed.

Mr. Thames stated that there are no plans for a draw down.

Channel Marker Signs that were provided by Bossier and Webster Parishes. Mr. Thames stated that the metal signs are visible and help improve the use of the lake, and Tournament fishing is the best it has been.

The Timber cutting program has been turned over to the Dept. of Forestry. The cutting program must be done during a draw down, and there are no plans for a draw down.

Concerning the Alligator Weed, there are no major areas, there is some in back areas, but the focus is on the Giant Salvinia.

Mr. Thames asked that residents keep communication open and let them know of any bad areas of alligator weed.

Concerning the backyard spraying classes, there were 65 at the first class in February in Minden and 40 at the second class held in Ringgold in March. Approximately 100 people can now spray on the banks of their residents.

Mr. Jim Bonsall reported on the "Deep Water Access" Grant at the Port O'Bistineau. This is moving along and hopefully the paperwork will be processed so that work can begin. This will be the 2nd access point, the other being at the Dam.

Evan reported that the State Park has almost all of the sites full.

Some of the residents of the lake expressed their appreciation to the Bistineau Task Force for being involved and bringing the information to the public.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Carnahan
Secretary

March 29, 2012