

BISTINEAU TASK FORCE
March 20, 2014 – 10:15 A.M.
Webster Parish Courthouse, Minden, Louisiana

MEMBERS PRESENT: Billy Montgomery, Bossier PJ, Chairman; Elmore Morris, Bodcau SWCD; Glenn Benton, Bossier PJ; Bob Brotherton, Bossier PJ; David Lowe, Dorcheat SWCD; Steve Ramsey, Webster PJ; Charles Walker, Webster PJ; Jim Bonsall, Webster PJ; Rick Yager, Dorcheat SWCD; Bill Conley, Saline SWCD; and Pete Camp, At large.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Wilson, Bienville PJ; Tony Lawson, Bienville PJ; and Don Moore, Bienville PJ.

SPECIAL ASSISTANTS: Ronda Carnahan, Webster PJ; Jeff Sibley, LDWF; and Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer.

Chairman, Billy Montgomery called the meeting to order and asked Elmore Morris to open with prayer and Bob Brotherton to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Carnahan then called the roll. Mr. Montgomery informed the Task Force of the resignation of Mr. Shannon Mendenhall, Bodcau SWCD. Mr. Montgomery then asked the BTF members to consider the vacancy and what action the Task Force needs to be taken.

The agenda and the minutes of the January 16, 2014 BTF meeting were presented for review. Mr. Pete Camp moved, seconded by Mr. Charles Walker to adopt the minutes and approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Stephen Micinski with the LSU Red River Research Station gave a report on the weevil project currently being done. Mr. Micinski told the BTF that currently there are test being done on the possibility of cold tolerant weevils that survived the extended cold winter. Most of the test samples were pulled off of Cross Lake and at other locations.

Ellzey Simmons introduced the Trailblazer committee currently working in cooperation with the BTF on a Plan for construction of a Production Facility for weevil production: Steve Ramsey, Bob Brotherton, Pete Camp, Bill Conley, Robert Dean, Gary Horton, and E. Simmons. Representative Gene Reynolds has stated that Wildlife and Fisheries has earmarked approximately \$1,000,000.00 toward weevil research over the next 5 years, \$250,000.00 for start-up equipment and \$150,000.00 per year to operate. The understanding is that this money will go to LSU Research Station for weevil research.

Mrs. Carnahan then read a statement from Secretary Barham on the Wildlife and Fisheries position concerning the Weevil research and development.

The BTF Committee recognizes the need for ongoing research, but highly recommends that Lake Bistineau continues to be on the front lines of the battle against the spread of Giant Salvinia.

Mr. Bob Brotherton moved, seconded by Mr. Glenn Benton to officially endorse and support the Trailblazer/BTF plan to build a weevil production and research facility in cooperation with the LDWF and the LSU-AgCenter on Lake Bistineau. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Bob Brotherton to request all applicable legislators to endorse and support the Trailblazer/BTF plan to build a weevil production and research facility on Lake Bistineau in a public/private partnership with the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the LSU-AgCenter, and area police juries as well as private stakeholders.

Jeff Sibley with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries spoke to the BTF concerning Lake Bistineau.

*Mr. Sibley stated that currently there appears to be approximately 50 acres that are matted and up to 150 total acres with some mats floating.

*The spraying of herbicides is ongoing by the local LA W&F crews and the contract spraying crews just finished up a round in February. The contract for the upcoming year is open for bids.

*Question of whether sewer discharge in the lake could affect or increase the growth of Salvinia: Jeff stated that would be a question for the Dept. of Health, but he is not seeing that as a problem. Bistineau is a fertile lake as it is.

*The Airboat is a primary use boat for LA W&F on Bistineau.

*Concerning the Weevil research, Mr. Sibley stated that he is eager to share his research and experience with Mr. Micinski on for the weevil project.

Discussion followed with BTF members.

Audience comments and questions were received.

There being no further business to bring before the BTF, Mr. Montgomery closed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Ronda C. Carnahan