



**Community Workshop Overall notes**  
**Thibodaux, Louisiana – February 21, 2006**  
**Hosted by: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program**  
**Hosted at: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center**

**Recorded by:**

SECTION TRANSCRIBED BY CHRIS LYLES, Nicholls

Gloria Car--Implementing the U.S. Ocean Action Plan in the Gulf of Mexico

- a) Hurricane impacts
  - i) made the Gulf of Mexico into a national problem
  - ii) however the GOM was receiving attention with the US Ocean plan
- b) Resources of the Gulf
  - i) Wetlands and seagrasses
  - ii) Fisheries
  - iii) Coastal Tourism
  - iv) Oil and gas
- c) Stresses on the Gulf of Mexico
  - i) Population-leave on coast line
  - ii) Nutrient enrichment of Gulf Coast
  - iii) Oil and gas production
  - iv) Sewage treatment (public health and Algal Blooms)
    - (1) Fecal contamination and mercuric poisoning
- d) 2 ocean commissions
  - i) pew oceans commission
  - ii) ? (other commission)
  - iii) Both helped form the Ocean Plan
    - (1) Effort must be state lead
    - (2) Regional partnership in the gulf
    - (3) bThis led to the formation of the Alliance
      - (a) In addition 13 federal agencies support Gulf Alliance
- e) 5 areas that the states could agree that needed to be looked at
  - i) Water Quality
  - ii) Nutrient Reduction
  - iii) Environmental Education
  - iv) Habitat loss
  - v) Wet land and Coastal areas
    - (1) Set up community workshops for local communities
    - (2) Gulf Alliance Plan of Action was developed by the states

(a) 105 actions that can be accomplished in the time frame outlined in the plan

- 2) Sources of Information (NOAA lady brainstorming)
  - a) Management Conference—BTNEP
  - b) LACoast.gov—cwppra
  - c) National Biological Information Infrastructure—central sw gulf coast node
    - i) [www.nbii.gov](http://www.nbii.gov)
  - d) Gulf Restoration Network—Healthygulf.org
  - e) LSU Ag center.com
  - f) LA seagrass.org
    - i) [Seagrassfish.LSU.Edu](http://Seagrassfish.LSU.Edu)
  - g) LA wetland education coalition
  - h) Breaux Act Newsflash
  - i) [www.BTNEP.org](http://www.BTNEP.org)
  - j) USGS National Wetlands Research Center
  - k) American Wetland Campaign
  - l) Saveourlake.org
  - m) State Field Offices – DNR, DEQ, etc.
  - n) NRCS, plant material Center
  - o) [Usda.nrcs.gov](http://Usda.nrcs.gov)
  - p) Restore or Retreat
  - q) [CRCL.org](http://CRCL.org)
  - r) Center for bioenvironmental Research-Specializes in Toxins [cbr@tulane](mailto:cbr@tulane)
  - s) Lumcon
  - t) Nicholls State University
  - u) LSU/UNO/ULL/SE/Tulane/McNeese
  - v) Audobon Inst
  - w) NPS
  - x) Nature conservancy
  - y) Natural Heritage Program
  - z) MMS
  - aa) Coast Guard
- 3) Issues brainstorming
  - a) Coastal land-loss (suite of habitats- barrier islands, marsh, forest, etc)
  - b) High salinities
  - c) Loss of sediment
  - d) Lack of access for recreation
  - e) Toxicity- endocrine disruption
  - f) Water Quality-including nutrient loading, hypoxic zone
  - g) BMPS as it relates to turbidity
  - h) Unrestrained urbanization-growth
  - i) Environmental literacy
  - j) Invasive species
  - k) Oil spill and hazardous material releases
  - l) Pathogens
  - m) Hurricane protection

- n) Lack of communication between industry, agencies, and NGOs
- o) Enforcement
- p) Lack of political will
- q) Funding
- r) Lack of prioritization/implementation
- s) Lack of coordination of restoration activities and beyond
- t) Marine biotoxins—algal blooms
- u) Overfishing and sustainable fisheries
- v) Flood control
- w) Accelerated sea level rise
- x) Consistency—follow through on projects
- y) IDing stakeholders
- z) Fisheries conflicts with restoration
- aa) Threatened Cultural heritage
- bb) Debris and abandoned pipelining
- cc) Land rights issues-projects on properties
- dd) Bycatch-fisheries
- ee) LNG facilities posed for Gulf-liquid natural gas
- ff) Smart growth—land use planning
- gg) Engage stakeholders
- hh) Consolidating plans—different scales among cities
- ii) Freshwater flows into Gulf
- jj) Sediment management
- kk) Multiple use management—Particularly w/ offshore mineral leases and sand
- ll) Non-point source pollution
- mm) OCS royalty sharing (REOCS)
- nn) Scientific information translated in language public/stakeholders can understand
- oo) Subsidence
- pp) Ecosystem-scale management of fisheries
- qq) Conflict resolution in many areas
- rr) Transparency-program/projects-how they are selected and funded
- ss) Active delivery of public education materials to citizens—getting the info out there—educators, librarians, others who pass on this information
- tt) Limited budgets for printing materials (for public)
- uu) Improving national recognition of Gulf
- vv) Limited opportunities for public volunteerism
- ww) Weak enforcement-environmental issues
- xx) Changing elevation-needs maintenance over time
- yy) Limited availability of restoration plants
- zz) Saltwater intrusion
- aaa) Groundwater and surface water issues
- bbb) Slow response of agencies
- ccc) Political and legal processes impede progress
- ddd) Budget cuts have reduced staff
- eee) Importance in little battles (small scale projects)
- fff) Lack of time to implement

- ggg) Abandoned vessels—other marine debris
- hhh) MRGO-What to do with it
  - (1) Navigational and dredging issues across the board
- iii) Hydrologic changes
- jjj) Threats to drinking water—due to saltwater intrusion
- kkk) Invasive species
- lll) Lack of eminent domain
- mmm) Hurricane debris that still needs picked up
- nnn) Globalization—respect to fisheries
- ooo) Increased fuel costs
- ppp) Dead zone in the Gulf

**Recorded by:**

THIS SECTION TRANSCRIBED BY GABE LASSEIGNE, Nicholls

LSU Ag Center and La Sea Grant  
Rex H. Caffey

Overview

- Gain local perspective on critical issues related to the environment and economy.
- 9 institutions of LSU on ten campuses in 5 cities
- 21 applied research stations
- 600 extension faculty

Current Reality

- \$14 billion needed to SUSTAIN coastal La.
  - o Coastal 2050 report, 1998.
- CWPPRA provides less than 10% of funding.
- We cannot sustain ALL of coastal Louisiana. (trade-offs, compromises, prioritizing needed.)

Current Extension/Research Initiatives

- Providing info, education, and mediation on natural resource use conflicts
- Informative presentations on wetland functions and the coastal land loss in La
- Programs that provide information on the role and impact of freshwater diversions.
- Development and dissemination of coastal projects (brochures, web, newsletters, etc.)
- Coordination and advisory services to new industries such as plant production, delineation,, mitigation banking.
- Hands on coastal education through programs such as marsh Maneuvers, Ocean Commotion, and Coastal Roots.
- Increased use of GIS tech in extension and research programs
- Public outreach and education help stem aquatic invasive spp. spread.
- R/E programs aimed at better....
- Incentive structure for private coastal maintenance and restoration.

- On-line and intercept surveying of coastal and recreation preferences.
- Cost/benefit assessment of coastal restoration technology.

#### Wetland Policy – Above and below I-10

- Inland – Farm Bill Conservation Programs
- Coastal – La Sea Grant, CWPPRA, BTNEP
  - o Interpretive Topic Series
    - Water quality, Project De-Commission, Comparative Inventory (wetland acreage, etc.)

#### Louisiana Seafood Community Recovery Coalition

- Louisiana leads lower 48 in fisheries.
- Impact of Kat-Rita
  - o Top Ten Ports by Volume, many were destroyed or hurt by hurricanes.

The expertise and input of coastal residents and authorities is crucial to guide research and extension.

#### The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

- Part of 28 national estuary programs
- NEP's were born of frustration
  - o Traditional way of Gov't addressing problem is creation of an Agency.
  - o Causes miscommunication, lack of outreach and education.
  - o Chesapeake area got tired and brought in all people possible to come up with “mother of all plans”, not template to National Estuary Programs.
- Water Quality, Land Mass, and Diverse Bio-Communities all make up Natural Factor.
- Comprehensive [Watershed Planning, Regulation, and Databases], all make up Management Factor.
- Education and Involvement, Economic Development, and National Recognition and Support, all make up the Human Factor.
- Linking Factor – Balanced Use, Common Ground Solutions, and Compatible with Nature.
- Eutrophication – Waters of Bar-Terr are overloaded with green life.
- Loss of Coastal wetlands leading to exposure in once buried pipelines.