

LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

NRCS CONFERENCE ROOM

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

APRIL 28, 2010

RECORD OF AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Kevin Norton, NRCS State Conservationist, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m., and welcomed the meeting participants. (See attendance list attached.) Norton reviewed the agenda and commented on the highlights of items to be discussed.

The last committee meeting minutes were handed out for review. The minutes were accepted. All LASTC meeting minutes are being posted on the Louisiana NRCS Technical Committee website.

Norton stated today's meeting will focus on the 2010 Locally Led Process resource concern priority rankings. Each LASTC member organization present will have an opportunity to provide input regarding statewide resource concern priority ranking.

◆ **2010 EQUIP, WHIP, WRP PROGRAMS UPDATE**

Leslie Michael, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, gave a FY 2010 Programs Update.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program for FY 2010 in Louisiana received a total allocation of \$10,941,567. A total of 522 contracts were obligated for \$9,196,053. Two hundred seventy-three livestock contracts were obligated for a total of 44.9 percent of the obligated contracts.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program for FY 2010 in Louisiana received a total allocation of \$282,733. A total of 131 applications were received with 24 contracts obligated for a total of 1,016.4 acres. Applications are still being processed.

The Grassland Reserve Program for FY 2010 in Louisiana received 21 applications, of which 6-ten year agreements and 12 easements were approved for a total of 2559 acres to be enrolled.

The Wetlands Reserve Program for FY 2010 in Louisiana has a goal of 18,000 acres; currently 53 applications for 7,512.7 acres have been approved.

◆ **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

David Williams, NRCS Program Specialist, gave an update on the Conservation Stewardship Program. The program's first sign-up for FY 2010 has current obligations of \$2,116,312 for 112,784.1 acres.

◆ **MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE PROPOSALS**

Scott Edwards, NRCS RC&D Coordinator with Acadiana RC&D, reported that three proposals for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative were received: Bayou Chene Watershed Project submitted by Imperial Calcasieu RC&D; Boeuf River Optimum Watershed Nutrient Reduction by Integrating Various Environmental Resources Cooperative Partnership Initiative (B.R.O.W.N. R.I.V.E.R.) submitted by Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Soil and Water Conservation; and Upper Joe's Bayou Watershed Project submitted by Northeast Delta RC&D.

◆ **LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

Kevin Norton, NRCS State Conservationist, reviewed the FY 2010 Locally Led Conservation Process. Locally Led Conservation consists of a series of phases which involve community stakeholders. Locally Led Conservation begins with the community itself, working through the local conservation district. It is based on the principle that community stakeholders are the best suited to deal with local resource problems. Community stakeholders are keys to successfully managing and protecting their natural resources. The need for local leadership in natural resources management was one of the most important factors leading to the establishment of conservation districts nearly 60 years ago. Following the creation of the federal Soil Conservation Service, conservation districts were created as a local focal point for coordinating and delivering technical assistance and funding to private land managers. Over the years, federal, state, and local units of government have channeled assistance through conservation districts to address virtually every aspect of natural resource conservation.

An essential element of the locally led conservation process is input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals in the local area that have an interest in natural resource management and are

familiar with local resource needs and conditions. These representatives should reflect the diversity of the residents, landowners, and land operators in the local area. The local work group, chaired by the local Soil and Water Conservation District, conducted public stakeholder meetings within each Soil and Water Conservation District across the state to solicit input from participants about local resource problems and concerns. Local work groups then reviewed and ranked the concerns identified at the public meetings for each Soil and Water Conservation District.

Norton presented a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the results of the 2010 Locally Led Process including resource concerns identified and rankings developed by the Local Work Groups across the state.

After discussion each LASTC member organization present voted on state-wide resource concerns for use in 2011 conservation program delivery. The LASTC ranking results were:

Resource Concern Points

Plants - Plant Condition – Noxious and Invasive Plants	6
Water – Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water	5
Soil – Soil Erosion – Sheet and Rill	4
Soil – Soil Erosion – Road, road sides and construction sites	3
Water - Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	3
Animals - Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Cover/Shelter	3
Animals - Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Space	3
Soil - Soil Condition – Subsidence	2
Water – Water Quantity – Aquifer Overdraft	2
Water – Water Quality – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	2
Animals - Fish and Wildlife – Population Imbalance	2
Animals - Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Food	1

Animals - Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations	1
Animals - Fish and Wildlife - Productivity, Health and Vigor	1
Animals - Fish and Wildlife - Threatened and Endangered Species	1
Water – Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water	1
Water – Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water	1
Water - Water Quantity - Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	1
Water – Water Quantity – Ground Water Depletion	1
Water – Water Quality – Excessive Salinity in Surface Water	1
Soil – Soil Erosion – Classic Gully	1

These results will be posted on the NRCS state web site.

◆ **Next Meeting Date** – No specific meeting date was set. Members will be notified when the date is scheduled.

1:15 p.m. – Meeting Adjourned

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NRCS CONFERENCE ROOM

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

APRIL 28, 2010

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Kevin D. Norton, USDA-NRCS
Sarah Haymaker, USDA-NRCS
Leslie Michael, USDA-NRCS
David Williams, USDA-NRCS
Scott Edwards, USDA-NRCS
Johanna Pate, USDA-NRCS
Randy Cheveallier, USDA-NRCS
Dan Didier, USDA-NRCS
Steve Cruse, USDA-NRCS
Andy Dolan, USFWS
Beverly Ethridge, USEPA
Dugan Sabins, LDEQ
Christy Rando, LDEQ
Mike Olinde, LDWF
John Robinette, LDWF
Bob Dew, DU
Jeff Durand, LRGA
Jess Barr, LCP
Bruce Prudomme, USFS
Dwight Landreneau, LSU AgCenter
Kyle Soileau, LDAF/OSWC