

New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Location Partnership Meeting Notes October 30, 2013 1:30 to 3:30 CDT

Overview of Work Plan/Project Portfolio Status

The group recapped challenges/opportunities discussed at the June 2013 Partnership meeting and made decisions on how to proceed with Year 3 activities. Following are highlights from the discussions with Year 3 activities captured.

East End Area (Charles Allen)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Ducks unlimited as partner?
- ▶ Irish Bayou community as partner?
- ▶ Kayak club/lots of users? (Andrea and Jerry could help w/ names)
- ▶ Haystackers?
- ▶ Move closer to crabbing bridge and on NWR land if real estate is an issue
- ▶ Check in w/ St Tammany on their bridge (Charles)

Year 3 Activities

- ▶ #1 priority – determine location of facility. Confirm land where project is proposed belongs to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge).
- ▶ Continue pursuit of funding – City is exploring funding for some features (e.g., parking, restrooms, lighting, etc.) through the Federal Highway Administrations Federal Lands Access Program.
- ▶ Engage potential community partners for fundraising and management strategy of facility. Mel Landry provided the following potential partners from the kayak/fishing users group:
 1. Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club - <http://bckfc.org>
 2. Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association - <http://www.gulfcoastkayakfishing.com>
 3. Lake Pontchartrain Basin Kayak Fishing Club - https://m.facebook.com/LakePontchartrainBasinKayakFishingClub?id=212428562212031&refsrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FLakePontchartrainBasinKayakFishingClub&_rdr

CERF (Dina Maygarden)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Lost boat captain and LDWF boat (temporarily stored elsewhere due to TS Karen) – moved back to LDWF for now
- ▶ 2 other full-time staff lost – down to 1 staff (Dinah)
- ▶ Ioannis Georges new Director of Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Science
- ▶ New discussions for potential collaboration w/ Robert Twilley at La Sea Grant
- ▶ Growing need for water quality monitoring/lab capabilities – CERF prime candidate to support these activities - issue is need staff to support even though have lab space

Year 3 Activities

- ▶ Engage Ioannis and revisit vision plan discussions w/ Stacey (NPS)
- ▶ Explore partnerships w/ CSX (Dinah)
- ▶ Letter of support from EPA/Urban Waters – potential for other partners (e.g. Urban Conservancy) to provide letters too
- ▶ Land Trust for Louisiana interested in partnering w/ CERF on restoration grants, etc.

West End Area (Miguel Viteri)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Master Plan (MP) developed to address zoning and commercial
 - Serves as roadmap for potential of harbor rather than just rebuilding what was there before (more resilient, etc.)
 - MP can be found on RPC website
- ▶ MP calls for dredging harbor – material could be used beneficially for shoreline protection as well as filtering pump station discharge:
 - need \$\$s to place beneficially
 - USACE work will also create material that could be used beneficially
- ▶ USACE has ROW to parking lot for next few years as part of pump station construction
- ▶ Submitted request for floating dock to FEMA hazard mitigation ~ 4 to 6 weeks ago – no response to date

Year 3 Activities

- ▶ EPA engage FEMA on response times and support
- ▶ Explore shoreline restoration along problem-area of parking lot (funding source?)
- ▶ NOAA Restoration Center available for technical support of dredged material placement (Mel)
- ▶ Jerry Boos mentioned the MS BUD group that meets regularly as a potential information resource

New Canal Lighthouse (JoAnn Burke)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Finalizing front lawn w/ donor support
- ▶ Bulk head evaluated and determined to be sound
- ▶ Exploring bike component (i.e., connecting Lighthouse to Pontchartrain Beach and West End – looking for \$\$\$ – got small grant for rack)
- ▶ Went from 3 to 6 days for tours due to demand
- ▶ Successfully pursuing FEMA Isaac \$\$\$ for damages
- ▶ Dock - Need \$130K - \$150K for dock repairs (ADA compliant)

Year 3

- ▶ Art (HUD) to check on ADA/DOJ funding assistance
- ▶ Identify \$\$\$ to tie bike path along lakefront from Pontchartrain Beach to West End. Potentially reach out to OLD, Bike Easy, NO Cycling Club, etc

Pontchartrain Beach (Andrea Calvin)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ LPBF meeting w/ Board – some small seed \$\$\$ – concerns w/ liability, etc.

Year 3

- ▶ FEMA PW/\$\$\$ resolution
- ▶ Pursue small grants for signage etc. to increase awareness

Lafitte Greenway (Danny Wiegand)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Question on funding opportunities for climate adaptation?
 - potential NFWF (w/ EPA and FS) funding on the horizon
- ▶ NSF funding also to be announced soon

Year 3

- ▶ Continue to work with the City and other stakeholders to finalize Management Strategy
- ▶ Continue support on Norfolk Southern ROW issue

Other Items/Updates

SWBNO RFP for Green Infrastructure Projects (Ann Wilson)

- ▶ RFP to be released in January 2014
- ▶ Amount budgeted for the green infrastructure projects is \$500,000
- ▶ Grant proposals cannot exceed \$100,000
- ▶ Projects will have to be on public land

- ▶ Pre- and post-construction monitoring will be required

Bayou Bienvenue Update (Darryl Malek-Wiley)

- ▶ Held a successful bulrush planting event in October
- ▶ CSED recently acquired several blocks of property in Bayou Bienvenue

Smart Growth Summit (Danny Wiegand)

- ▶ Working with Jeanne-Marie to set up an Urban Waters panel at the 2013 Smart Growth Summit.
- ▶ Panel includes Danny, Deputy Cedric Grant, John Lopez (LPBF), and Ramiro Diaz (Waggoner & Ball)

Closing

- ▶ Moving to bimonthly meetings – next meeting December 17th