

SUBCOMMITTEE FINAL REPORTS  
ADDRESSING CITIZENS' CONCERNS

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN, PHASE I

Prepared for:

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
Post Office Box 6965  
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as part of:

THE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENTY PROJECT

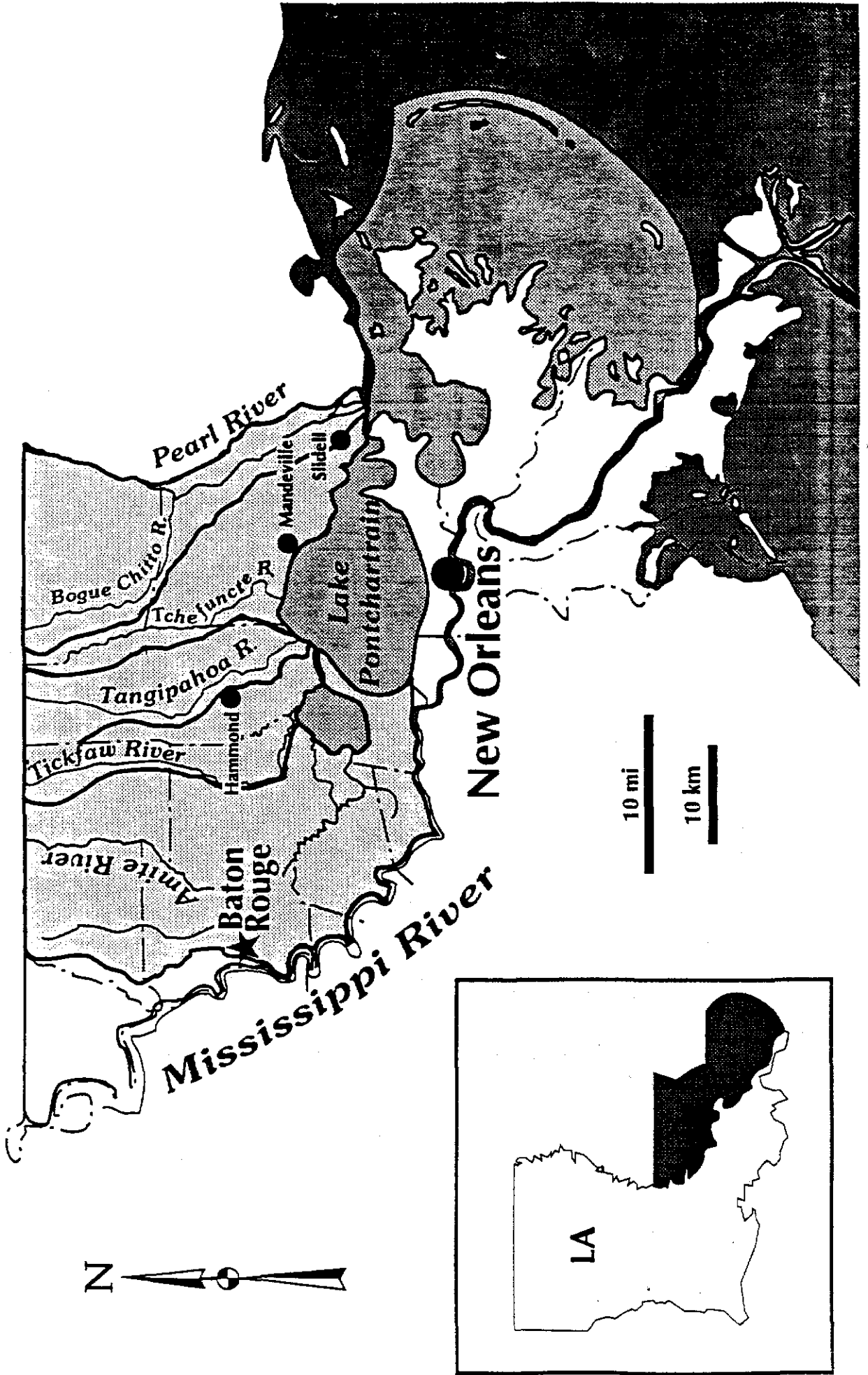
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# PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN



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## INTRODUCTION

Continuing development and population growth in the Pontchartrain Basin watershed have contributed to a variety of environmental problems affecting public health, public safety, and quality of life. Previous studies have indicated the need for a coordinated basin wide planning process to address these diverse problems. Through the efforts of Senator J. Bennett Johnston, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, in a cooperative effort with the Environmental Protection Agency, has been granted a \$500,000 congressional appropriation which covers 95% of the costs of the project to develop and implement a comprehensive management plan for the restoration and clean-up of the Pontchartrain Basin. The University of New Orleans, College of Urban and Public Affairs was contracted to assist in the development of this plan.

As the first step in the development of the plan, four public meetings were held in October 1991 to solicit public opinions on the conditions and needs of the Pontchartrain basin. The public expressed a combination of goals, concerns, issues, and desires that for the sake of expediency are referred to as "concerns". These concerns were grouped into five categories: Education/Outreach; Renewable Resources; Uses; Pollution; and Institutional. From March through July 1992, monthly workshops were convened to develop a comprehensive management plan for addressing the concerns expressed during the October meetings. At the March organizational meeting, five subcommittees corresponding to the categories of citizens' concerns were created. Delegates and alternates to the workshop volunteered for the subcommittees. Some agencies assigned members of their staff not present at the organizational meeting to serve on subcommittees.

Subcommittees developed specific responses to citizens' concerns. These subcommittees recommendations are the integral elements, the basic building blocks, of the comprehensive management plan. The subcommittees met regularly (at least once a month and sometimes more frequently) to discuss their approach to citizens' concerns, share information, and assign tasks that would lead to the completion of their respective reports.

Each subcommittee elected a chair or co-chairs. A coordinator was provided to each subcommittee. Coordinators were individuals with experience and expertise in their respective categories. They participated, assisted the subcommittee by providing summaries of meetings, researched information, and were the contact person among subcommittees. The chairs and co-chairs generally led the subcommittee discussions and gave progress reports at the regularly scheduled workshops. Subcommittee meetings were held throughout the Basin in locations secured by members of the respective committees.

At the first workshop, a detailed outline was supplied to help subcommittees develop a uniform format for the content of their reports. A uniform format would be readily comparable and easier

to blend into the final plan. However, by the third month, the chairpersons and coordinators indicated that the participants would not be able to complete the detailed outline as originally envisioned. Participants were volunteers on loan from their regular employers and could not provide the concentrated level of effort required by the process in the five month schedule. After a meeting of chairpersons, coordinators, and grant administrators, it was concluded that a revision in report requirements was in order and that at a minimum the reports would consist of a matrix listing. Costs would be provided if the subcommittees were comfortable in their projections. Each subcommittee had the option of preparing its report in a format it felt most comfortable so long as it addressed the citizens' concerns.

This document is a compilation of the five subcommittee final reports. Each of the five sections in this compilation contains a roster of subcommittee members, a list of the concerns addressed by the subcommittees as derived from the summary of the public meetings, and the subcommittee final report. The subcommittee reports appear as submitted and have not been altered or changed in any manner.

**THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR INTERNAL REVIEW ONLY.**

Funding for this publication and the planning process has been made possible through a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency covering 95% of the costs of this project.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions in this publication are those of the subcommittees and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, or the University of New Orleans.

**SECTION 1**

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH**



## EDUCATION/OUTREACH CONCERNS

### Education

- 1) There must be a public education campaign that reaches all citizens via:
  - a. the media/video;
  - b. the participation of grass roots groups such as community clubs and sports groups;
  - c. involvement of younger children on environmental projects;
  - d. a Lake Pontchartrain oriented science fair;
  - e. government involvement;
  - f. an awareness plan for schools;
  - g. museums and interpretive centers on north and south shores;
  - h. a speakers bureau; and
  - i. shelters with educational information and mini-nature centers on public access trails;
  
- 2) A broad-based educational program must include identification of pollution sources and methods of correction. It must inform people about:
  - a. commercial pollution;
  - b. urban runoff;
  - c. *rural and agricultural runoff*;
  - d. pre-cycling (purchasing those products which have a minimum of packaging, and with recyclable packaging);
  - e. general pollution prevention;
  - f. the need for funding solutions; and
  - g. respecting the rights of landowners and others.

### **Public Participation**

- 1) Increase public access and do not revoke public rights-of-way without public notice, vote and financial compensation.
- 2) There should be an education program on urban runoff which fosters public financial support and citizen monitoring.
- 3) There must be continuing grassroots involvement such as:
  - a. public participation in the planning process;
  - b. involvement of younger children/students in environmental education and projects such as reseeding/replanting marshes; and
  - c. regular garbage pickups.

### **Assessment**

- 1) Determine where we are (assess condition of basin); what we want (desired level of clean); what is feasible (best available technology); and how existing pollution laws can most effectively be implemented.

### **Research**

- 1) There must be an ongoing, coordinated, interagency research program that will:
  - a. develop a baseline study of natural vegetation and species/organisms in the basin;
  - b. conduct fisheries analysis and monitoring;
  - c. measure salinity across basin;
  - d. complete a comprehensive and independent pollution study identifying, prioritizing, monitoring and quantifying all pollution sources in order to come up with a scientific statement of what is feasible; and
  - e. encourage affordable technology to give acceptable alternatives.

### **Monitoring**

- 1) All pollution sources in the basin should be monitored, with citizen involvement when possible. Specifically mentioned for monitoring are: point

and non-point sources of pollution such as hospitals; urban areas; and rural and agricultural regions.

- 2) The Gulf of Mexico should also be tested for pollutants (on a long term basis).

## EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

DELEGATE	ORGANIZATION NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE & ZIP	Office	Fax
Ms. Sharon Alonzo	LA Environmental Educators Assoc.	c/o LA Nature Center	New Orleans, LA 70187-0610	286-6833	
Ms. Betty Atkins	Dept. of Health & Hospitals	234 Loyola Suite 620	New Orleans, LA 70112	568-5976	
Mr. Gordon Austin	N.O. Sewerage & Water Board	2900 Peoples Avenue Room 215	New Orleans, LA 70122	942-3855	
Mr. Phillip Bowman	LA Cooperative Extension Service	P.O. Box 2440	Covington, LA 70434	893-4449	
Ms. Linda Calvert	University of New Orleans	UNO Lakefront	New Orleans, LA 70148	836-2205	836-7283
Dr. John Caruso	LUMCON	8124 Highway 56	Chauvin, LA 70344	851-2800	851-2874
Ms. Kathy Cashio	Gulf of Mexico Program	Bldg. 1103 Room 202	Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000	601-688-3726	601-688-2709
Ms. Amy Clipp	Private Consultant	7130 Spruce St.	New Orleans, LA 70118		
Ms. Barbara Coltharp	Dept. Culture, Rec. & Tourism	P.O. Box 94291	Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9291	342-8148	342-3207
Mr. Paul D. Coreil	LA Cooperative Extension Service	Knapp Hall, LSU	Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1800	388-2145	388-4225
Mr. Kent Ducasom	Orleans/Jefferson Consultant	3501 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 300	Metairie, LA 70002	01 835-4252	01 835-0009
Dr. Carol Giffin-Jeansonne	University of New Orleans	805 Engineering Bldg.	New Orleans, LA 70148	286--6643	286-7413
Ms. Mary Jo Hancock	Dept. of Economic Development	P.O. Box 94185	Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9185	342-5893	342-5389
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Mrs. Ruth Hinson	Dept. of Education	Tulane University	New Orleans, LA 70118-5698	865-5584	862-8744
Mr. Cliff Kenwood	Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation	P.O. Box 6965	Metairie, LA 70009-6965	836-2215	836-7283
Mr. Randy Lanctot	LA Wildlife Federation	P.O. Box 16089 L&U	Baton Rouge, LA 70893	344-6707	
Ms. Elaine LeBlanc	Women For A Better Louisiana	57 Normandy	Kenner, LA 70065	469-5873	
Ms. Sue Ellen Lyons	LA Environmental Educators Assoc.	2770 Jonque Street	New Orleans, LA 70122	942-3100	
Dr. Michael Poirrier	University of New Orleans	Lakefront	New Orleans, LA 70148	286-7041	336-4306
Mr. Donald Powers	Chamber of Commerce - Baton Rouge	P.O. Box 3217	Baton Rouge, LA 70821	381-7137	
Ms. Kay Radlauer	Women for a Better Louisiana	5975 Canal Blvd.	New Orleans, LA 70124	482-4761	
Mr. T. Jay Ray	Dept. of Health & Hospitals	P.O. Box 60630	New Orleans, LA 70150	568-5100	
Ms. Anne Rheams	Dept. of Environmental Quality	P.O. Box 82215	Baton Rouge, LA 70894-2215	165-0561	
Ms. Pat Robineon Sanders	Dept. of Economic Development	P.O. Box 94185	Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9185	342-5359	342-5389
Ms. Peggy Rooney	Dept. of Natural Resources	P.O. Box 44487	Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487	342-7591	
Ms. Sheila Schayot	Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation	P.O. Box 6965	Metairie, LA 70009-6965	836-2205	836-7283
Ms. Pat Skinner	Amite River Basin Commission	2626 So. Range Rd. Suite 200	Denham Springs, LA 70726	665-3395	
Dr. Rani Thiyagarajah	Xavier University	7325 Palmetto St.	New Orleans, LA 70125	483-7523	
Ms. Lynn Woods	Barataria/Terrebonne NEP	11720 Airline Hwy.	Baton Rouge, LA 70817	295-8936	295-8587

# EDUCATION/OUTREACH PLAN

to be submitted to  
the Interagency Working Group  
as part of the  
PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

July 23, 1992

## Introduction

The Education/Outreach Plan has as its core a framework in the form of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). It was decided by the Education/Outreach Subcommittee that a Pontchartrain Basin CAC is necessary to ensure public empowerment and participation in both the education and planning processes. The Pontchartrain Basin CAC will be the nucleus for outreach projects, as well as the clearing-house for research and educational materials. The existence of a CAC will allow for a more proactive approach to environmental management of the Pontchartrain Basin.

## Methodology

The Education/Outreach Subcommittee was charged with answering citizen concerns falling under the five subcategories of: education, public participation, research, assessment, and monitoring.<sup>1</sup> The subcommittee decided that it could best handle the many concerns by breaking into three subgroups and dealing with the concerns specific to each subgroup: 1) Education; 2) Public Participation; and 3) Research, Assessment, and Monitoring. The subcommittee members who participated in the three subgroups come from a variety of backgrounds, and each contributed specific

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<sup>1</sup> Calvert, Linda Stone, and Emmer, Rod. E. Ph.D. 1992. Summary Report of October 1991 Public Meetings: Citizen Concerns About the Pontchartrain Basin. University of New Orleans, College of Urban and Public Affairs. February.

knowledge and expertise to the Education/Outreach Plan. Subgroup members are listed below in alphabetical order:

EDUCATION	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT, & MONITORING
Sharon Alonzo and Sue Ellen Lyons La. Environmental Educators Assoc.	Gordon Austin New Orleans Sewage & Water Board	Phil Bowman La. Cooperative Extension
Kent Dussom Jefferson Parish	Linda Calvert** University of New Orleans (UNO)	John Caruso La. Univ. Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
Carol Giffin-Jeansonne, Urban Waste Mgmt. & Research Center, UNO	Amy Clipp Consultant, worked on La. Environ. Action Plan (LEAP)	Steve Gorin and Cliff Kenwood LPBF
Mary Jo Hanover, Department of Economic Development	Barbara Coltharp Ofc. Litter Control & Recycling, Dept. Culture, Rec. & Tourism (DCRT)	Michael Poirrier, Biology, UNO
Bob Hastings* Sierra Club	Elaine LeBlanc and Kay Radlauer Women for a Better Louisiana (WBL)	T. Jay Ray Ofc. Public Health, Dept. Health & Hospitals (DHH)
Ruth Hinson, Department of Education	Anne Rheams* Nonpoint Source Prg., Dept. Environ. Quality (DEQ)	Pat Skinner Amite River Basin Commission
Peggy Rooney Coastal Management Div., Dept. Natural Resources (DNR)	Sheila Schayot Lake Pontchartrain Basin Found. (LPBF)	Rani Thiyagarajah Toxicology, Xavier University
	Lynn Woods Barataria-Terrebonne Ntl. Estuary Program (NEP)	

\* Co-Chairs

\*\* Coordinator

The Education/Outreach Subcommittee met three times, and each time divided into subgroups. At the second meeting, three sets of matrices were presented by the coordinator to be used as an aid in answering citizen concerns. The matrices included blanks for filling in: 1) existing programs, material, and/or data; 2) recommendations; and 3) specifics (who, when, cost) for each citizen concern. The subcommittee decided to use these matrices and over the next few months they were filled out by subcommittee members and compiled into the final format included in this report.

Several members of the Public Participation Subgroup met separately to discuss the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee, essential for pulling together the diverse educational and public participation needs of the basin's citizenry. The CAC structure developed for the Pontchartrain Basin is a combination and gleaning of citizen involvement strategies from the Louisiana Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (NEP). It is designed to work for the citizens of the Pontchartrain Basin and provides a framework for answering their concerns on an ongoing basis.

#### **The Citizens' Advisory Committee**

The Pontchartrain Basin CAC will be centered at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) office and will have: 1) one LPBF staff person dedicated on at least a part-time basis to support the CAC meetings and activities; 2) one full-time education/public participation coordinator; and 3) one voting member on the LPBF Board. The role of the Pontchartrain Basin CAC will be to coordinate and support existing local environmental organizations, develop and nurture new organizations, and insure that the concerns and perspectives of citizens are incorporated into the LPBF. These goals will be accomplished by maintenance of a dialogue between the

citizens of the basin and those people they choose to represent them on the CAC. The Pontchartrain Basin CAC will meet regularly to give local groups a forum for discussing their needs, goals and progress. It will provide or coordinate the following types of support:

- technical expertise, found within the CAC and through universities, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), and other research institutes;
- legal assistance, through the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Environmental Defense Fund, and/or other relevant legal entities;
- mapping capabilities, utilizing the expertise of the Louisiana Geological Survey, university professors, private contractors, and the basin parishes (housing the project in Jefferson or St. Tammany Parish) so that a geographic information system (GIS) can be developed for the Pontchartrain Basin;
- educational workshops and lectures to local groups on topics of interest and concern;
- a citizen monitoring program to be carried out by local student and environmental groups;
- a Lakekeeper or Basinkeeper Program modeled after the Hudson Riverkeeper and San Francisco Baykeeper wherein boaters patrol waterways to discover and report sources of pollution not being detected by regulatory agencies, and heighten public awareness about problems facing the water resource;
- funding to give local organizations greater ability to detect violations (such as illegal dumping in waterways); and,
- through the CAC's activities and publications, increased citizen awareness about basin planning and management.

The Pontchartrain Basin CAC will consist of 20 to 25 people all of whom must live and/or work in the Pontchartrain Basin. Ten to twelve of the members will represent user groups throughout the basin, such as:

Paper and Pulp Industry  
Timber/Forestry Industry  
Oil and Gas Industry  
(Shell Dredging Industry?)  
Hunters and Fishermen  
Seafood Processors/Restaurants  
Farmers, Poultry Raisers and Cattlemen  
Land and Homeowners  
Tourism Industry  
Yacht Clubs/Boating Industry  
Recreational Users  
Interested Citizens

Ten CAC members will represent private citizens from all geographic sections of the basin. Where they exist, locally-based environmental organizations will represent their respective geographic areas:

Citizens for a Clean Tangipahoa  
Sparkling Rivers Committee  
Tickfaw River Basin Group  
Three Rivers Basin Foundation  
Amite River Basin Commission  
St. Tammany Coast Watch  
St. Bernard Coast Watch  
Gulf Coast Tenants' Association

In the more urbanized areas, where there are no local river or coastal organizations, nationally-based organizations will suffice. The presence of these national organizations in the CAC will also serve to bring in a larger network and resource base:

Orleans Audubon Society  
Local Chapters of the Sierra Club (New Orleans and/or Honey Island)  
League of Women Voters

The Pontchartrain Basin CAC will also have one representative of public education, to come from one of the following organizations:

Louisiana Science Teachers' Association  
Louisiana Environmental Educators' Association  
Louisiana School Supervisors' Association

Each organization selected will be contacted by the LPBF and asked to send a representative to serve a two year term on the CAC. It is suggested that CAC members serve no more than three consecutive terms and that the terms be staggered to avoid cliquishness and ensure that the CAC truly remains a citizen's group.

### Recommended Bibliography

A starting list of useful publications on environmental public participation programs and citizen advisory groups includes the following:

Building An Effective Public Participation Program. 1989. Appendix B of Saving Bays and Estuaries: A Primer for Establishing and Managing Estuary Projects. Office of Marine and Estuarine Protection, U.S.E.P.A., August.

Education and Public Involvement Program. 1990. In Chapter 3, Action Plan of the 1991 Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan. Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, Seattle, Washington, November.

Herz, Michael J. 1989. Who's Minding The Bay: A Report on the Feasibility of Establishing a Baykeeper for San Francisco Bay. Executive Summary. Berkeley, California, January.

### The Matrices

Existing programs, materials, and data; recommendations; and specifics for achieving the recommendations, are given below in the matrices filled out by each of the Education/Outreach Subgroups: Education; Public Participation; and Research, Assessment, and Monitoring. The subgroups' recommendations will be overseen by the Pontchartrain Basin CAC. Some of the recommended programs will come directly out of the LPBF offices and be handled by the Education/Public Participation Coordinator, while others will be

delegated to other agencies and coordinated through the LPBF offices.

It is important to note, that while Education/Outreach Subcommittee members made every effort to include existing programs, materials, and data in these matrices, there is an abundance of such material, especially at the national level. It will be the job of the LPBF Education/Public Participation Coordinator to catalogue and keep abreast of available information, bringing relevant curricula, etc. to a committee of educators (see Education Matrix #2) for review and adaption to Pontchartrain Basin needs.

#### Acronym Reference

The following acronyms are found throughout the text and matrices of the Education/Outreach Plan:

BR	Baton Rouge	FUR	Fight Urban Runoff
CAC	Citizen Advisory Committee	GIS	Geographic Info. System
CMD	Coastal Mgmt. Division	LEERIC	La. Environ. Education Resource Center
CMP	Comprehensive Mgmt. Plan	LL&E	La. Land & Exploration
CEED	Coastal Education for Econ. Development	LNSC	La. Nature & Science Center
CFACT	Citizens for a Clean Tangipahoa	LPBF	Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
DCRT	Dept. Culture, Recreation & Tourism	LSU	La. State University
DEQ	Dept. Environ. Quality	NO	New Orleans
DHH	Dept. Health & Hospitals	SLU	Southeastern La. Univ.
DNR	Dept. Natural Resources	S&WB	Sewerage & Water Board
DWF	Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries	UNO	University of New Orleans
EPA	Environ. Protection Agency	USDA	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
ERIC	Environ. Resource Information Center	UWMRC	Urban Waste Management & Research Center

EDUCATION MATRIX

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>1) There must be a public education campaign that reaches all citizens via:</p>	<p>As listed below.</p>	<p>1. Hire an education coordinator at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF). 2. Encourage multi-cultural approaches and involvement. 3. Improve signage on lake and tributaries regarding safety of swimming.</p>	<p>who: LPBF &amp; State agencies when: ASAP</p>
<p>a) the media/ video;</p>	<p>The following agencies and groups have materials available: DEQ, DNR, EPA, DWF, La. Environ. Educ. Resource Info. Center (LEERIC), ERIC-UNO, LL&amp;E, LSU Sea Grant, Corps.</p>	<p>1. Develop a video on Lake Pontchartrain (problems and solutions); develop resource packet with video for school/civic groups. 2. Initiate an advertising campaign to focus attention on basin and lake. Ask people to call for more information.</p>	<p>who: 1. LPBF/LSU Sea Grant/SLU Consortium; LEERIC (Emily Young in B.R.); Urban Waste Management &amp; Research Center (UWMRC) at UNO (Carol Giffin-Jeansonne) 2. paid for by large companies and utilities when: ASAP cost: \$50,000+</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN; EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>b) the participation of grass roots groups such as community clubs and sports groups;</p>	<p>DEQ Storm Drain Stencil Program; DCRT Litter Pick-ups; Citizens for a Clean Tangipahoa (CFACT) Education Committee's slide show and speakers bureau (designed for students and civic organizations)</p>	<p>1. Develop a list of organizations/groups to participate in stencilling and litter clean-ups. (See Public Participation Matrix, 3c). 2. Through speaker's bureau, address local groups. Give them specifics on what they can do to help. 3. Encourage multi-cultural approaches and involvement.</p>	<p>who: LPBF CAC and Speakers Bureau, CFACT Speakers Bureau, DEQ, Office of Litter Control and Recycling at DCRT, and citizen organizations  when: ASAP</p>
<p>c) involvement of school children on environmental projects;</p>	<p>Storm Drain Stencil; Litter Pick-ups; Adopt-A-Beach/Canal/etc.; Project Cypress (cypress restoration program targeting school children, being developed at SLU); Trash to Treasure; CFACT Education Committee</p>	<p>Sponsor contests; get PTAs, schools and scout troops involved.</p>	<p>who: School system, LPBF CAC, CFACT, SLU</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
d) a Lake Pontchartrain oriented science fair;	There have been environmental contests in Jefferson schools - a group of grammar school students went to the state level and won for a depiction of the lake and its pollution problems.	Give (LPBF) award to best science research project at GNP Regional Science Fair; sponsor contests on Lake Pontchartrain: essay, art, music, etc.; have celebrity judge.	who: School system; LPBF CAC; large businesses; DEQ; and UWMRC, UNO
e) an awareness plan for schools;	Project Fight Urban Runoff (FUR, developed by local teacher Sue Ellen Lyons, has received national attention); volunteer booths at environmental fairs; CFACT Education Committee	Hire and support an education coordinator at LPBF to develop plan; develop a packet for teachers and students with video.	who: LPBF, teachers' organizations, CFACT  when: ASAP

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
f) government involvement;		<p>1. Information packet/workshops for govt. officials; lobbyist(s) for Pontchartrain Basin; continued involvement of state and local agencies on LPBF Board and Interagency Working Group; award to "Lake Advocate of the Year"; increase public awareness to put pressure on legislators.</p> <p>2. Involve parishes and municipalities (Dept. Econ. Dev. has mailing lists of mayors, police juries, econ. dev. groups, etc.)</p>	<p>who: 1. LPBF in conjunction with DEQ, DHH, DNR</p> <p>2. Cities and parishes in conjunction with Mary Jo Hanover at the Dept. of Econ. Dev., B.R.</p> <p>when: ASAP</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>g) museums and interpretive centers on north and south shores;</p> <p>h) shelters with educational information and mini-nature centers on public access trails; and</p>	<p>Louisiana Nature and Science Center (LNSC) in New Orleans and their plan for mini nature center with trails at Bonnabel Canal; Wildlife and Fisheries Museum in Kenner; Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station teacher workshops; Swamp Walk at Joyce Wildlife Management Area (Tangipahoa)</p>	<p>1. Develop exhibits on the basin on north and south shores in cooperation with museums, zoo, aquarium, etc.; have guest speakers at exhibit.</p> <p>2. Implement LNSC mini-nature center plans.</p>	<p>who: Audubon Institute, LPBF Speaker's Bureau, LNSC, UWMRC, UNO; CFACT Education Committee, SLU on north shore.</p> <p>cost: have Audubon Institute do proposal with cost</p>
<p>i) a speakers bureau.</p>	<p>Project FUR (see Education le); volunteer booths at environmental fairs; CFACT speakers bureau</p>	<p>LPBF must coordinate a speakers program (including screening speakers); gather information on GOOD speakers and disseminate through media, PR, etc.</p>	<p>who: LPBF in conjunction with existing speakers bureaus such as CFACT's and League of Women Voters.</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
2) A broad-based educational program must identify pollution sources and methods of correction, re:	As listed below.	The LPPF Education Coordinator can coordinate with a committee of educators to review existing science and environmental curricula and modify them to fit basin criteria.	Who: Cathy Cashio at the Gulf of Mexico Program for description of their curricula review process.
a) commercial/ industrial pollution;	The following have materials available: B.R. "Right to Know" Council, DEQ, EPA, and industry sources.	Compile data on industrial/commercial pollution; publish "polluter data", keep pressure on to keep shell dredging out.	Who: LPPF CAC & Education Coordinator, citizen groups
b) urban runoff;	Project FUR (Educ. #1e); DEQ Storm Drain Stencil; "Crusher I" (Custom Compactors Corp. machine crushes used oil filters, squeezing out oil for recycling); Project Coastal Educ. for Econ.Dev.(CEED) Monograph (joint LMSC-UNO dev. of educ. materials <sup>2</sup> ); UWMRC.	Push for recycled motor oil and household hazardous waste program; public awareness campaign on hazards of dumping and spraying hazardous materials; and litter clean-ups.	Who: DEQ, LPPF Education Coordinator in conjunction with media and citizen groups, and N.O. S&WB and Jefferson Parish Environ. Dept. cost: A "Crusher I" machine costs about \$1,000

<sup>2</sup> These materials include activity books for teachers on topics such as recycling, urban runoff and wetlands. There is also a video and guidebook for teachers on wetlands.

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
(b) urban runoff continued)	<p>Jefferson and Orleans Parishes are required by the EPA to have storm water management plans in place by Nov. 1992. N.O. S&amp;WB's "source controls" for urban runoff will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) eliminating illegal or illicit connections to storm drain system;</li> <li>b) improving litter and garbage control in streets and canals;</li> <li>c) monitoring proper fertilizer, insecticide, and herbicide use;</li> <li>d) sewer collection system repairs;</li> <li>e) increased enforcement of existing and future regulations; and</li> <li>f) proper disposal of household hazardous waste</li> </ul>		<p>who: LPBF Education Coordinator in conjunction with media and citizen groups</p>
c) rural and agricultural runoff;	<p>CFACT and Save Our Streams programs; La. Dairy Farmers Assoc. in conjunction with USDA, DEQ &amp; EPA is developing a program on lagoons which will include a workshop and video</p>	<p>Increase public awareness.</p>	

CITIZEN CONCERN: EDUCATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
d) pre-cycling (purchasing products which have a minimum of packaging, and with recyclable packaging);	LNSC's Program: Recycle New Orleans!	Educational program aimed at public awareness and children activists.	who: LPBF Educ. Coord. in conjunction with LNSC
e) general pollution prevention;	EPA and DEQ programs; "Crusher I"; CFACT Education Committee.	Public education.	who: LPBF CAC & Educ. Coord. in conjunction with state agencies and citizen groups.
f) the need for funding solutions; and	EPA environmental education grants.	Work on proposals for grants; develop a consortium with universities for educational packet development; voter education.	who: LPBF Educ. Coord. in conjunction with universities
g) respecting the rights of landowners and others.		1. Increase public awareness. 2. Educate area landowners about their rights and responsibilities regarding environmental protection for all concerned.	who: 1. Landowners through media sources. 2. Local govt., LPBF CAC, & local environmental groups.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MATRIX

CITIZEN CONCERN: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>1) A basin-wide management plan must include a rural and urban education program for all ages, to create awareness among citizens about how they can help eliminate pollution.</p>	<p>1. EPA Stormwater Program requires local authorities in large cities to engage in public education. 2. Curriculum guides: Waste in Place (K-6); Waste: A Hidden Resource (7-12). 3. Litter Control, Recycling Bulletin 1722, State Dept. of Educ. Public information materials: Boater's Pledge; PALS; Great La. People's Pledge; and Public service announcements. 4. DEQ Non-point Source Program: stenciling program, citizen monitoring; natural lawn care program; and education for local govt. officials about best mgmt. practices.</p>	<p>Create a Lake Pontchartrain Pledge along the lines of the Boater's Pledge and Great LA People's Pledge and have it available at LPBF Back to the Beach and other fundraisers, with a booth for decorating frames for the pledge.</p>	<p>Who: 1. N.O. S&amp;WB and Jefferson Parish are responsible for public education plans. 2. Science Supervisors and Master Teachers are responsible for curriculum guides. Public information officers in private industry are responsible for public information materials. 3. DCRT (Barbara Coltharp) disseminates this info. 4. DEQ (Anne Rheams) develops these programs when: Public education plans (in stormwater treatment program) due November 1992. Others are continuing programs.</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>2) There should be an education program on urban runoff which fosters public financial support and citizen monitoring.</p>	<p>1. EPA Stormwater Permit process is in place in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes and requires public education components.</p> <p>2. Nonpoint Source Pollution program, DEQ (Anne Rheams).</p> <p>3. Project FUR (see Education 1e) (Sue Ellen Lyons).</p> <p>4. CFACT citizen monitoring and litter pick-ups.</p>	<p>1. Involve citizens through LPBF and other environmental interest groups.</p> <p>2. Enlist LSU Cooperative Extension Agents to develop public service announcements, videos, and slide shows for public presentation.</p> <p>3. Apply existing educational programs and hands-on projects from DEQ, Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish and Project FUR to Pontchartrain Basin.</p> <p>4. Prioritize Urban Runoff sources and educate public on findings to encourage their participation in source reduction.</p>	<p>who: N.O. S&amp;WB (Gordon Austin), Jefferson Parish (Marnie Winter), LPBF, LSU Cooperative Extension Agents, DEQ.</p> <p>when: Public education plans (in stormwater treatment program) due November 1992.</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>3) There must be continuing grassroots involvement such as:</p>	<p>Materials, newsletters, bulletins in the Office of Litter Control &amp; Recycling, DCRT; DEQ programs such as Storm Drain Stencil; CFACT programs.</p>	<p>1. Involvement of garden clubs, school groups, churches, and business/civic organizations. 2. Greater emphasis on waterway, storm drain littering and waste disposal.</p>	<p>who: citizen groups in conjunction with state and local agencies</p>
<p>a) public participation in the planning process;</p>	<p>The current Comprehensive Management Plan process which is coordinated through UNO and the LPBF on a grant from the EPA.</p>	<p>1. Create a Public Participation/Education position within the LPBF. 2. Create an ongoing Citizen's Advisory Committee for planning, with a voting position on the LPBF Board. 3. Create citizen watchdog groups supported by LPBF or some inter-agency group.</p>	<p>who: LPBF when: now</p>
<p>b) involvement of school children in environmental education and projects such as reseeding/replanting marshes; and</p>	<p>See Education Matrix, #1c, d and e.</p>		

CITIZEN CONCERN: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	EXISTING PROGRAMS/MATERIALS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>c) regular citizen garbage pickups (such as beach sweeps).</p>	<p>Programs: 1. DCRT: a. Beach Sweep &amp; Inland Waterway Cleanup (9/19/92); b. Adopt-A-Beach (Amoco has adopted a section of Lake Pontchartrain's shoreline); c. Boat-er's &amp; other Pledges 2. DNR, CMD: Christmas Tree Project 3. CFACT pickups 4. Turtle Cove teacher workshop Materials: 1. "September Sweep-La's 1987 Beach Sweep", Lindstedt &amp; Holmes (La. Geological Survey, 1988). 2. "Extent &amp; Sources of Litter in Coastal Louisiana" DNR, CMD (La. Geological Survey, 1988). 3. "Cleaning North America's Beaches - 1990 Beach Cleanup Results," Center for Marine Conservation.</p>	<p>1. Apply existing programs, i.e. Beach Sweep &amp; Inland Waterway Cleanup, Adopt-A-Beach, Boater's Pledge, to Lake Pont. 2. Enlist more workers, boats and specific area coordinators for sweeps. 3. Reduce trash by identifying source: A. Involve fast-food businesses in source reduction by: i. picking up trash within 1 block radius of business; ii. reducing plastics; iii. involve businesses in ident. of trash sources. B. Est. research sites to monitor and catalog types of trash daily for 1 week. C. Coord. local govt. and diverse citizen's groups such as civic groups, service organizations, sportsmen's groups, students, and local businesses.</p>	<p>Who: Pontchartrain Basin CAC (LPBF), Office of Litter Control and Recycling, DCRT, any interested environmental groups.</p>

ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH & MONITORING MATRIX

CITIZEN CONCERN: ASSESSMENT	EXISTING DATA	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>1) Determine where we are (assess condition and needs of basin).</p>	<p>1. The primary source for studies on the lake is the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Bibliography, recently compiled for the Basics of the Basin Symposium. Sources of raw data from agencies and universities should be added to it.</p> <p>2. Another current source of data is the abstracts from the Basics of the Basin Symposium, published by the LPBF.</p>	<p>1. Produce a series of publications in layman's language describing the condition and needs of the basin. The publications should provide a historical perspective.</p> <p>2. Publish proceedings of the Basics of the Basin Symposium.</p> <p>3. Identify sources of funding for agencies, universities, and organizations to analyze existing raw data.</p>	<p>who: LPBF, or its contractors, university environmental education departments, resource agencies.</p> <p>when: Spring academic session, 1993</p> <p>cost: grants should be applied for</p>

CITIZEN CONCERN: RESEARCH	EXISTING DATA	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
<p>2) There must be an ongoing, coordinated, inter-agency research program that will continue to address the needs of the basin as a whole within its hydrological boundaries</p> <p>a) develop a baseline study of natural vegetation and species/organisms in the basin;</p> <p>b) conduct fisheries analysis and monitoring;</p> <p>c) measure salinity across basin;</p>	<p>1. Currently, agencies and universities are conducting ongoing research and monitoring activities within the basin</p> <p>2. Information exists at UNO (Biology Dept. and UWMRC), LSU, LSU (Institute for Recyclable Materials), Tulane, Southern University at B.R. (Center for Energy &amp; Environmental Studies), and DWF. See Lake Pontchartrain Basin Bibliography.</p>	<p>1a. LPBF must keep abreast of research being done in basin and assemble an inventory of studies including a series of publications in layman's language describing the nature of the work that has been done and is being done. b. Schedule Basin Symposium as an annual event.</p> <p>2. Organize a coordinated program for research within the hydrological boundaries of the basin which includes all relevant environmental parameters. 3. Networking and data sharing should be done with the National Estuaries Program (NEP), EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, and the Amite River Basin Comm.</p>	<p>Who: LPBF or its contractors, university environmental education departments, resource agencies, LA Cooperative Extension Service</p> <p>When: Spring 1992</p>

<sup>3</sup> University centers and departments listed here are those known by author; this is not intended to be an all-inclusive listing of university information sources.

CITIZEN CONCERN: RESEARCH	EXISTING DATA	RECOMMENDATIONS	SPECIFICS
d) encourage affordable technology to give acceptable alternatives.	EPA, DEQ, DNR, DHH, La. Coop. Ext. Svc. CMP Pollution and Renewable Resources Subcommittees, and other state and federal agencies.	Educ. programs and publications should be developed that would provide information on affordable poll. abatement technology or practices and encourage their acceptance.	Who: Foundation or state agencies When: Initiate by Spring 1993
CITIZEN CONCERN: MONITORING  3) All pollution sources in the basin should be monitored, with citizen involvement when possible. Specifically mentioned for monitoring are: point and nonpoint sources such as hospitals, urban areas, rural and agri. regions.	EXISTING DATA  Currently, state and federal agencies, universities and citizens groups are conducting monitoring within the basin.	RECOMMENDATIONS  1. Identify existing monitoring activities. 2. Continue existing agency and organization monitoring programs. 3. Develop user-friendly monitoring programs. 4. Involve citizens in monitoring activities. 5. Involve primary and secondary schools in monitoring programs with education as the programs' chief aim.	SPECIFICS  Who: LPBF, LA Nature Center, universities, LA and federal agencies, citizens groups, drainage and water conservation districts When: Initiate by Spring 1993
4) The Gulf of Mexico should be tested for pollutants (on a long term basis).	Already being done by EPA Gulf of Mexico Program		

**SECTION 2**

**RENEWABLE RESOURCES**



## RENEWABLE RESOURCES CONCERNS

### **Protect Wetlands**

- 1) Protect and restore basin wetlands by:
  - a. identifying wetland preservation areas;
  - b. controlling nutria;
  - c. revegetating/reseeding marshes;
  - d. building artificial marshes on north shore;
  - e. initiating a grassbed management program; and
  - f. randomly testing for pollutants in all canals.

### **Preserve Natural Resources**

- 1) Protect natural terrains and associated species in the basin by developing special preserves.

### **Stop Erosion**

- 1) Stabilize shoreline and control wetlands erosion through such methods as: nutria control; revegetation; expansion of Christmas tree project; and rip-rapping of shoreline.

### **Species Study**

- 1) Develop baseline study of natural vegetation and species/organisms in the basin.

### **Miscellaneous**

- 1) Jefferson Parish Levee Board should remove rip-rap along Lake Pontchartrain shoreline.

9/2/92

RENEWABLE RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

DELEGATE	ORGANIZATION NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE & ZIP	Office	Fax
Mr. Mike Algero	Dept. of Health & Hospitals	234 Loyola Suite 620	New Orleans, LA 70112		
Mr. Chris Andry	St. Bernard Parish	8201 W. Judge Perez Dr.	Chalmette, LA 70043	278-4303	
Mr. Tony Beaubouef	U.S. Soil Conservation Service	1111 Washington St.	Franklinton, LA 70438	839-5688	
Mr. Michael J. Bourgeois	LA Landowners Association	9121 Queenswood Court	Baton Rouge, LA 70806	769-1065	
Dr. John Caruso	LUMCON	8124 Highway 56	Chauvin, LA 70344	851-2800	851-2874
Mr. Paul D. Corell	LA Cooperative Extension Service	Knapp Hall, LSU	Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1900	388-2145	388-4225
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Mr. Gerry Duszynski	Dept. of Natural Resources	P.O. Box 94396	Baton Rouge, LA 70804	342-7308	
Mr. William Goodell	Dept. of Justice	P.O. Box 94095	Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095	342-7898	
Mr. Rick Hartman	National Marine Fisheries Service	c/o LSU CCEER/CWR	Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7535	389-0508	342-7901
Dr. Robert Hastings	Sierra Club	P.O. Box 814	Hammond, LA 70402	549-2141	549-5092
Mrs. Sue Hawes	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 60267	New Orleans, LA 70160-0267	862-2518	862-2289
Mr. Rex Hestron	NOAA	Bldg. 1103	Stennis Space Center, LA 39529		
Dr. Paul Kemp	Coalition to Restore Coastal LA	8841 Highland Road Suite C	Baton Rouge, LA 70808	766-0195	766-0229
Mr. Mike Lyons	Mid-Continent Oil and Gas	801 North Boulevard Suite 201	Baton Rouge, LA 70802	387-3205	
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Mr. Earl Matherne	St. Charles Parish	P.O. Box 302	Hahnville, LA 70057	466-1990	783-6447
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Mr. Brad Spicer	LA Assoc. of Conservation Districts	SEE IAMG LIST DEPT OF AGRIC.			
Dr. R. Eugene Turner	L.S.U.	L.S.U.			
Mr. Ron Ventola	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 60267	Baton Rouge, LA 70803		
Mr. Doug Vincent	Dept. of Health & Hospitals	3308 Tulane Ave. 5th Floor	New Orleans, LA 70160-0267	862-2255	862-2289
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			Jefferson, LA 70121	838-4230	838-4266

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Habitat Conservation Division  
c/o LSU Center for Coastal Energy &  
Environmental Resources (CCEER)  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7535

July 28, 1992 F/SEO24/RH:jk  
504/389-0508

Mr. Rod Emmer  
University of New Orleans  
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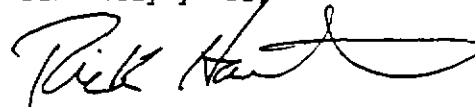
Dear Rod:

Attached is the report of the Renewable Resources Subcommittee to the Interagency Working Group of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. It should be noted that not everyone serving on the committee was completely in agreement on every point. However, no strong objections to any of the recommendations were voiced and no minority reports were requested. While we believe the recommendations encompassed in the body of the report would alleviate much of the renewable resource concerns within the basin, we are not so naive as to believe they would totally address all the issues. Each recommendation is, by itself, the product of what the committee believed to be the cause of the problem and what potential solutions we believed were most possible and feasible. This is not to say that we were correct in our analyses of the cause of the problem, or our identification of the best possible solution.

The committee believes all recommendations should be implemented as expeditiously as possible. Smaller projects should be in the design phase within 1 year. However, many recommendations would require much study, feasibility analyses, and engineering. In those cases, the initial studies should be begun within the next year.

Participants who should be cited as authors include Richard Hartman, Paul Coreil, Don Davis, and Gary Schaeffer.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Hartman  
Fishery Biologist

## RENEWABLE RESOURCES OUTLINE AND WORKSHEET

### I. Hydrology

A. Excess water levels - In the Pontchartrain basin there are a number of areas plagued by too much water. The problem is related to any one, or a combination of: subsidence, relative sea level rise, absence of new sediments, poor drainage, and impoundments.

1. Location - Excess water is a problem in the cypress swamps in the southern part of Livingston and St. John the Baptist Parishes east of Interstate 10. Excess water levels in these regions consistently flood the swamp forest and associated wetland habitats.

#### Recommendations:

1. The Amite River Diversion Canal weir needs to be repaired. Restoring the weir will divert river flow down the Old Amite River channel. Redirecting flow down this course will improve water circulation and introduce sediment into the surrounding low swamps increasing elevations and improving runoff. Local government and DOTD are potential sources of funding to correct this problem.

2. Poorly maintained culverts north of Lake Pontchartrain are restricting flow under many highways. Railroad bridges, in many instances, are also retarding the free movement of water. When these structures are plugged, fowled, or barricaded, natural flow regimes are reduced and backwater flooding often results. To clean out culverts and remove obstacles from railroad bridges would best be coordinated and funded by parish governments, DOTD, the municipal government agency responsible for city streets, and the railroads.

3. Where there is a demonstrated need, spoil banks should be gapped based on the findings of local and state engineers. Landowners, local governments, and CWPPRA are a few of the individuals or agencies with the authority to investigate this problem, suggest remedial action, or initiate the required feasibility studies.

2. Location - The Fritchie marsh is located north and east of Highway 433 and the Rigolets, north of Salt Bayou, and west of Highway 90. Subsidence associated with unstable peat mucks has lowered the marsh surface, allowing ponding to occur that is aggravated by prolonged periods of standing water.

#### Recommendations:

1. Flap-gated culverts should be placed under Highway 433 to increase the hydrologic head throughout the region. A feasibility study investigating weir placement and the long-term advantage of gapping the marsh's current levee network should be promoted. The levees on the area's west side and parallel to Highway 14 into Lake Pontchartain should to examined as potential sites for gapping. In addition, all other levees should be investigated to see if it is feasible to gap them as well. The gapped levees will increase flows through the marsh and reduce ponding.

2. The marsh needs sediments. A possible solution would be to divert water and sediment from the Pearl River into the marsh enclosure. This type of project would aid in flushing out the system and enhance marsh vegetation growth and development. DNR

is currently involved in a feasibility study of projects to restore the Fritchie Marsh. This project should be funded by the state's Wetland Restoration Program or CWPBRA.

3. Location - Labranche wetlands is located north of Interstate 10 and west of the New Orleans International Airport. A portion of the project site is an abandoned agricultural area. Much of the wetland area has been converted to open water. The problem appears to be related to railroad and interstate construction, salt water intrusion, and subsidence.

Recommendations:

1. Existing water control structures should be redesigned to improve drainage and promote the growth of new marsh vegetation. The structures blocking flow along the lake need to be gapped or redesigned to allow more efficient water removal. In addition, the wetland's interior structures need to be altered and/or fixed or redesigned to improve water flow. The proposed work should be conducted by the landowner with possible assistance from St. Charles parish, and DNR.
  2. The Bonnet Carre Diversion project should be promoted to insure new sediments are added to Lake Pontchartrain. Although these sediments will benefit many sediment-starved areas within Lake Pontchartrain, they would also aid in recreating marshes in the Labranche wetlands. The new sediments would build up Lake Pontchartrain water bottoms. Material dredged from these new sediment zones could be used in the Labranche wetlands as well as other sediment-starved sites. Funding and support for this type of project could come under CWPBRA, the state Wetland Restoration program, and the COE.
  3. Encourage the rapid completion of the mitigation requirements for I-310 as they impact the structures in the Labranche wetlands. The agency responsible for completing the mitigation activity is DOTD.
- B. Saltwater Intrusion is a problem in the marshes in the southern part of the basin and within Lake Pontchartrain proper. Although there is a seasonal component to the problem, its long term impacts are related to maintaining the freshwater habitats within the basin's southern reaches.

1. Location - Saltwater change and/or stratification in Lake Pontchartrain has become an important issue near the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. The saltwater's seasonality has resulted in marked alterations in the region's species diversity. This problem can be traced directly to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) that served as a saltwater conduit into Lake Pontchartrain.

Recommendations:

1. Implement the Bonnet Carre Freshwater Diversion Project to systematically add freshwater into the Lake. This action will counteract the saltwater intrusion problem and help regain valuable freshwater habitats that are currently threatened. The magnitude of this project will involve the support of local governments, parish governments, COE, DNR, and LDWF.
2. Reduce the flow through the MRGO by placing a lock or gate across the waterway at the Bayou Laloutre Ridge. This project would come under the authority of the COE and DNR and could be funded

by the parish, CWPPRA, and the state's Wetland Restoration program.

2. Location - The marshes parallel to the MRGO are changing as a result of saltwater moving up the channel and infringing on the marshes along the watercourse. Levees along the right-of-way are breached allowing saltwater to move unrestricted into the marsh. In many cases ponding has occurred with saltwater fanning out over the surrounding marsh surfaces.

Recommendations:

1. Operate and maintain the Violet Siphon and Caenarvon Diversion. These structures should be used to add valuable freshwater to the affected marshes. Parish government, DNR, and CWPPRA would be charged with maximizing the freshwater benefits from these structures.
2. At the MRGO, the gates at Bayous Bienvenue and Dupre should be operated to retard the saltwater wedge. This project could come under the authority of parish government, COE, and DNR.
3. Close the MRGO to ocean-going vessels and relocate the existing container facility to the Mississippi River. Complete a low-level sill across the MRGO's channel that would allow small boat access, but retard the forward movement of the saltwater wedge. In addition, the sill would close the MRGO to large vessels, whose wakes are eroding guide levees and contributing to saltwater invading the lateral marshes. This project could be funded under the auspices of the CWPPRA, or by the COE.

3. Location - Saltwater intrusion in the Pass Manchac marsh is directly related to the large number of logging access canals constructed to harvest the region's cypress. Because they serve as saltwater conduits, the canals associated with the logging industry have caused a problem for cypress regeneration. Swamps in this area are converting to bulitongue marshes or to open water.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a demonstration project to test the benefits of plugging the old logging channels to see if the problem can be rectified. Local governments, DNR, LDWF, and the CWPPRA would be the primary groups responsible for overseeing the demonstration effort.
  2. Initiate herbivore control measures to decrease the number of animals eating cypress seedlings. Landowners, DNR, LDWF, USDA, USFWS and CWPPRA should be contacted to work on herbivore control in the Manchac Swamp and other effected areas.
- C. Boat Induced Erosion - Although boat induced erosion is a problem on nearly all of Louisiana's canals, it is particularly significant along the MRGO. Large sections of the control levees are breached as a result of bank failure initiated by repeated pounding from boat-induced waves.

1. Location - Large vessels using the MRGO are responsible for wave wash that cause considerable physical damage to the protective levees and the marsh. The problem is that sea-going vessels are forcing waves over the marsh shorelines. Currently, 1.5 ships per day with a draft greater than 30 feet or a length greater than 600 feet are causing the greatest impact. When these vessels travel through the channel they are responsible for raising water levels in

the channel by as much as 4 feet. When they pass a point the water recedes by a negative 2 feet. This 6 foot net change causes problems along the shoreline and in the interior marshes parallel to the route.

Recommendations:

1. Armor all cuts that are now part of the levee system. A plug or gate could be constructed, most appropriately at the Laloutre ridge, to block large boat passage up the MRGO. In order to armor or plug this channel DNR, COE, CWPRA, and the Port of New Orleans would have to work together on the project.
  2. Increase shoreline protection measures along the MRGO, such as armoring or using rip-rap to stabilize levees or marsh banks.
  3. Close the MRGO and stop all maintenance dredging. Move the existing container facility to the Mississippi River. A project of this size would be the responsibility of COE and DNR.
  4. Implement boat vessel speed limits on the MRGO for seagoing vessels. A speed limit would be the responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard, Port of New Orleans, State Legislature, and local governments.
- D. Impoundments - Water impoundments are site specific problems found in a number of areas throughout the basin.
1. Location - Eden Isle East - This area was impounded by highways and levees in the past for subdivision development. Never developed as a subdivision, the region is now characterized by numerous ponds and low productivity.

Recommendations:

1. Place water control structures in the surrounding levees that will re-connect the impounded area with Lake Pontchartrain. This would restore wetland characteristics to the impounded area and improve the waterfowl and fisheries productivity of the site. Landowners and CWPRA should be the responsible parties involved in re-establishing this marsh habitat.
2. Location - Port Louis west of Madisonville is an abandoned agricultural reclamation site that is now an impounded region that may support waterfowl or serve as crawfish ponds.

Recommendations:

1. In order to reduce the impounding in this area, water control structures should be placed in the levees to reconnect the effected area with Lake Pontchartrain. Further, the region needs to be managed to re-establish the indigenous vegetated wetlands. The landowner and CWPRA should be charged with the task of rebuilding this wetland.
3. Location - Delacroix marsh near Big Mar has been adversely effected by petroleum or pipeline canal construction. Levees associated with these activities have impounded many marsha areas, ponding water and blocking sediment inflows.

Recommendations:

1. Where they have shown a demonstrated ability to improve regional flows, water control structures should be placed in spoil banks to hydrologically connect impoundments with outside waters. Where feasible, introduce Caenarvon-derived flow to increase

regional sedimentation. Place sediment trapping devices in open water areas to further capture the required sediments. DNR, local governments, and landowners would be responsible for implementing this project.

#### E. Effects of interruption of sheet flow by spoil banks

1. Location - This a basin-wide problem caused by block hydrologic regimes and impacts regional hydrology.

#### Recommendations:

1. When there is a demonstrated need and proven feasibility, gap the levees. Small cuts should be used based on demonstration sites identified and funded through CWPRA with the support of local governments and landowners.

#### Research efforts recommended:

1. Develop a hydrologic model of the Fritchie Marsh to better understand how the area would react to altering the current blocked hydrologic regimes.
2. Survey the hydrologic impacts of logging canals in the Pass Manchac area and develop a model of the Pass Manchac Marsh to see if plugging the current network of logging channel would improve the overall health of this marsh.
3. Map and locate all highway and railroad culverts.
4. Identify soil elevation and causes of wetland loss in the marsh parallel to MRGO.
5. Need information on historical water level data---primarily in swamps in Livingston and St. John parishes.
6. Document the regional impact of levees.

## II. Shoreline Erosion

1. Location - Shoreline erosion "hot spots" (greater than 10 ft/yr) have been identified in Figure 1. Much of the shoreline of Lake Borgne, and those areas in Lake Pontchartrain adjacent to Pass Manchac, the Tchefuncte River, and Goose Point are identified as "hot spots". The primary cause of shoreline erosion in these areas is the physical force of wind driven waves.

#### Recommendations:

1. Construct the appropriate wave abatement and sediment-trapping structure adjacent to the shoreline. Part of this solution may require the testing of various structural shoreline-protection devices to determine the most feasible and cost effective methods. In addition, some solutions may vary with location and the presence or absence of a sediment supply. The most appropriate entity to fund this type of work varies with the location of the shoreline to be protected, the type of wave abatement structure, and the cost. Landowners, volunteer committees (such as those that have assisted with the placement of Christmas tree fences), local government, universities, DNR, COE, SCS, and CWPRA are all potential sources of funding, feasibility analyses, or onsite help.

2. Location - The unprotected shore of the MRGO. The primary cause of shoreline retreat along the shores of the MRGO is boat wakes. Crew boats, shrimp boats, and seagoing vessels all produce wakes sufficient to erode shorelines.

Recommendations:

1. Construct and maintain the appropriate shoreline protection device. If possible, the structure should be placed in the MRGO adjacent to the shoreline and fill should be placed between it and the shore to stabilize the structure. Local government, DNR, COE and CWPRA are possible sources of funding or feasibility analysis.
2. Regulate boat speeds in the MRGO such that boats are required to maintain speeds below those that create large wakes.
3. Close the MRGO by placing a plug or a floodgate at the Laloutre Ridge. Move existing facilities and cease maintenance dredging of the waterway.

Research efforts recommended:

1. Institute a demonstration project to determine cost effectiveness of various wave abatement devices.

III. Subsidence

- A. Soil Subsidence/Compaction/Sea Level Rise - Although relative sea level rise is a basin-wide problem, there are some "hot spots" where soil subsidence, compaction, and sea level rise have contributed to concentrated wetland loss.

1. Location - Big Mar - The primary cause of wetland loss in this area is the construction of levees in combination with the use of pumps to create an agricultural impoundment. Oxidation of wetland soils promoted soil subsidence and compaction, levees failed and the area became permanently inundated.

Recommendations:

1. Use sediment trapping devices (silt screens, brush fences, etc.) to trap sediment from the Caernarvon freshwater diversion and rebuild marshes. This effort would best be coordinated and funded by volunteer groups, local government, and DNR.
2. Location - northeast Labranche marsh, east Eden Isles, Port Louie marsh, Bayou Sauvage area, New Orleans east - Construction of levees in combination with the use of pumps to create impoundments, occasionally for the purpose of agriculture, has led to land loss. Sediment deprivation and soil oxidation accelerated subsidence.

Recommendations:

1. Place water control structures or pumps in perimeter levees to hydrologically connect the impoundment to exterior waterways. Manipulate water levels within the impoundments to encourage establishment of wetland vegetation.
2. Construct terraces similar to those built on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge to restore intertidal soil elevations to the impounded areas.
3. Location - Goose Point, North Shore (west of Slidell marshes - Soil subsidence has caused some land loss in these areas.

Recommendations:

1. Perform a small amount of dedicated dredging in Lake Pontchartrain to provide sediment to counteract subsidence. Pump the dredged material to subsided areas.
  2. Place sediment trapping devices (Christmas tree fences, etc.) in open water areas to trap sediment.
  3. Plant appropriate flood tolerant species, in conjunction with predator guards, in an attempt to at least partially revegetate open water areas.
- B. Water, Petroleum, Sulphur Extraction - Information on the locations of sites specifically impacted by resource extraction is not available. Certainly, localized subsidence has occurred in many areas adjacent to water, petroleum, or sulphur extraction sites. However, it is difficult to separate the impacts of resource extraction from those which occur naturally or as a result of mining activities at the surface. One solution to accelerated subsidence caused by resource extraction is to reinject water or produced water into subsurface layers.

Research Efforts Recommended:

1. Institute a demonstration project consisting of the construction of terraces at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. This would demonstrate the feasibility of constructing terraces in the organic soils of the deltaic region.
2. Develop and implement a methodology to identify locations where surface subsidence has been impacted by resource extraction.

IV. Biological Issues

- A. Herbivory - Nutria are the primary source herbivory problems in this basin. Previously, when fur prices were higher, trapping of nutria helped control populations and ensured that the numbers of nutria did not get so high as to reach levels where "eat outs" commonly occurred. Nutria eradication is not suggested as a potential solution to the current herbivory problem because: (1) they are an integral part of our wetland landscape; (2) they serve as a food source for alligators; (3) at moderate densities they crop subordinate plant competitors enabling increased species diversity; (4) moderate levels of herbivory result in increased primary productivity; (5) nutria pelts have some market value; (6) potential markets exist for nutria meat; and, (7) eradication is probably neither economically nor logistically feasible in Louisiana.

1. Location - Lake Maurepas and Labranche swamps - The primary source of herbivory in this area is destroying cypress seedlings and eating out marsh vegetation.

Recommendations:

1. Institute an educational program, primarily directed at landowners and environmental groups, on the impacts and control of nutria. Local government, DNR, LDWF, and SCS are the most appropriate agencies to back this effort.
2. Develop alternative uses for nutria that would increase demand and harvest value. LDWF presently working on this. Nutria is presently used as alligator food, however it has a short shelf life. The use of irradiation to help preserve nutria meat may be

the answer to this problem. Nutria has also been used by dog and cat food processors in the past, but is not so used today. Nutria is also used in Europe for food. This may be a possible future use in the United States if that market could be established. Nutria are also possible sources of food for zoo animals.

3. Encourage the establishment of a tannery in Louisiana to bypass the need to send skins overseas. This would help to increase the cost of nutria pelts. The Louisiana Fur and Alligator Council is presently working on this solution.
4. Increase the bounty on nutria taken from "hot spot" areas to that level necessary to make it economically worthwhile for trappers to harvest nutria. Local government, landowners, LDWF, and DNR are the appropriate entities to back this effort.
5. If commercial uses of nutria can not be developed, all restrictions on the killing of nutria should be eliminated. The LDWF should identify the nutria as a "varmint" which would allow people to harvest nutria throughout the year.
6. If commercial uses of nutria can not be developed, in hot spot areas landowners should be encouraged to allow public "hunts" on their property for the purpose of the recreational hunting of nutria.

2. Location - Ascension, St. James, and St. Johns Parish cypress swamps - The herbivory concern here is caused by a caterpillar (the fruit tree leafroller) which defoliates cypress trees every spring, reducing tree health and eventually leading to tree mortality.

**Recommendations:**

1. Conduct aerial spraying during spring feeding periods. The spray that has been developed for this purpose only affects caterpillars.
2. Biological control using beetles which prey on the caterpillars and cause no other harm to the ecosystem.

**Research Efforts Recommended**

1. Nutria density is difficult and expensive to estimate directly and therefore management decisions cannot rely on continuous, direct population estimation techniques. What is needed is the development of an indirect, efficient, effective, and inexpensive technique for estimating nutria density. For example, changes in vegetative associations (from preferred vegetation species to less desirable ones) may be related to nutria density. Ideally, remote sensing methods may be useful in detecting potential eat-out locations.
2. Studies on cost effective methods to eradicate or control fruit tree leafroller populations should be undertaken.

**B. Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitats.**

1. Endangered Species - The following fauna are known to at least occasionally visit Louisiana are on the federal endangered species list: Louisiana pearshell mussel; Loggerhead, Kemp's, Green, Ridley and Leatherback Sea Turtles; Gopher Tortoise; Ringed Sawback Turtle; Brown Pelican; Bald Eagle; Peregrine Falcon; Eskimo Curlew; Piping Plover; Interior Least Tern; Red-Cockaded Woodpecker; Bachman's

Warbler; West Indian Manatee; Florida Panther; Pallid Sturgeon; Atlantic Sturgeon. To our knowledge, there are no plant species located in this basin that are presently listed as endangered. However, the quillwort is in the process of being listed by the state and is found in this basin.

**Recommendation:**

1. All existing federal and state regulations regarding the protection of threatened and endangered species and marine mammals should be strictly enforced. Federal laws regulating threatened and endangered species and marine mammals are the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
2. Location - Lake Pontchartrain grass beds - There has been a large reduction in the areal extent of grass beds in Lake Pontchartrain. There has also been a shift in species composition from Vallisneria to Myriophyllum. The primary cause of the reduction in size of the grass beds and shift in species is thought to be a change in substrate.

**Recommendations:**

1. Identify: 1) unvegetated areas near existing beds where the only difference is substrate and 2) areas that previously supported grass beds. Spray sand over unvegetated area to improve the substrate replant in water 0.5 to 2 ft deep with Vallisneria. NMFS, DNR, volunteer groups, and local government are appropriate entities to help with this effort.
3. Location - Longleaf Pine Savannas in Tangipahoa and St. Tammany Parishes - The primary cause of the loss of these habitats are: (1) urban development; (2) suppression of the burning regime which controls the vegetative communities; and, (3) changing the hydrology such that these areas are either drained or unnaturally flooded.

**Recommendations:**

1. Enforce existing regulations which guide the development of these areas. COE and DNR most appropriate.
2. Purchase the largest and most pristine of these areas, maintain fire burn zones around them, and manage these areas to maintain the habitat. The Nature Conservancy and LDWF most appropriate.
4. Scenic streams - Recommendation: All waterbottoms of, and habitats adjacent to, scenic streams should be protected. LDWF should fulfill their obligation mandated by state law to develop management plans for all scenic streams within the basin. Regulations applicable to those streams should be strictly enforced by the LDWF and DNR. Guidelines protecting scenic streams and the Breton Bird Refuge should be altered to allow restoration efforts. (LDWF, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, FWS, COE, EPA, DNR)

**Research Efforts Recommended**

1. A demonstration project on the feasibility of re-establishing Vallisneria in shallow water areas of Lake Pontchartrain should be undertaken.
  2. Best Management Practices for the harvest of timber from longleaf pine savannas should be undertaken. (U.S. Forest Service, Dept. of Agriculture)
- C. Maintain Habitat Diversity - Preserve and restore important ecosystems.

1. Basin wetlands - Wetland loss is a severe problem brought on by many things, including but not limited to human actions, subsidence, erosion, salt water intrusion. In order to assist in the conservation of wetland resources the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendations:

1. Encourage responsible agencies such as the Corps and CMD to improve their monitoring and enforcement of the implementation of permit special conditions. At present, fulfillment of permit special conditions which are designed to reduce adverse impacts to biota and habitat supporting those organisms is largely left to an applicant. Better oversight of these conditions is an important aspect of wetland conservation.
2. Require as-built monitoring reports for all projects used as mitigation, or for all mitigation banks. Mitigation banks should produce annual monitoring reports, while individual projects should produce follow-up reports 1 and 3 years after project implementation.
3. Develop mitigation banks containing each habitat type normally impacted by Corps and CMD general permits and for which impacts can not feasibly be avoided or minimized. Mitigation banks should not strictly be the purchasing and protection of habitat; some aspect of habitat improvement should be an important component of the bank. No money used for the mitigation banks should be used for personnel, travel, etc. All money generated for the bank should be used for purchasing and improvement of habitat. Planning, engineering, and design costs of all mitigation banks should be assumed by the Corps and CMD.
4. The Foundation should develop a computer database on permits issued within the basin, habitats and acres impacted, and periodically check to determine if permit special conditions were followed, if mitigation was successful, and the need for future changes in the permitting process.
5. Develop watershed-level spatial restoration plans that rank potential restoration areas from highest to lowest in priority. The highest priority restoration areas, or "key areas", are those that result in the maximum gain in system function at a minimum cost. Key areas include those that restore historic hydrologic regime, nourish sediment-starved wetlands, or greatly improve water quality or biotic condition. Such a plan would emphasize the "no net loss" of our current wetlands policy by allowing for off-site mitigation (and mitigation banking) to restore key areas. A watershed-level planning approach will minimize cumulative impacts and maximize the potential for "cumulative restoration". The Coastal Restoration Department of DNR, Corps of Engineers, and university biologists, in consultation with other federal agencies should lead this effort.
6. Change the guidelines and increase the funding of the Wetlands Reserve Program to make converted marsh lands eligible for funding under the program.

D. Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations

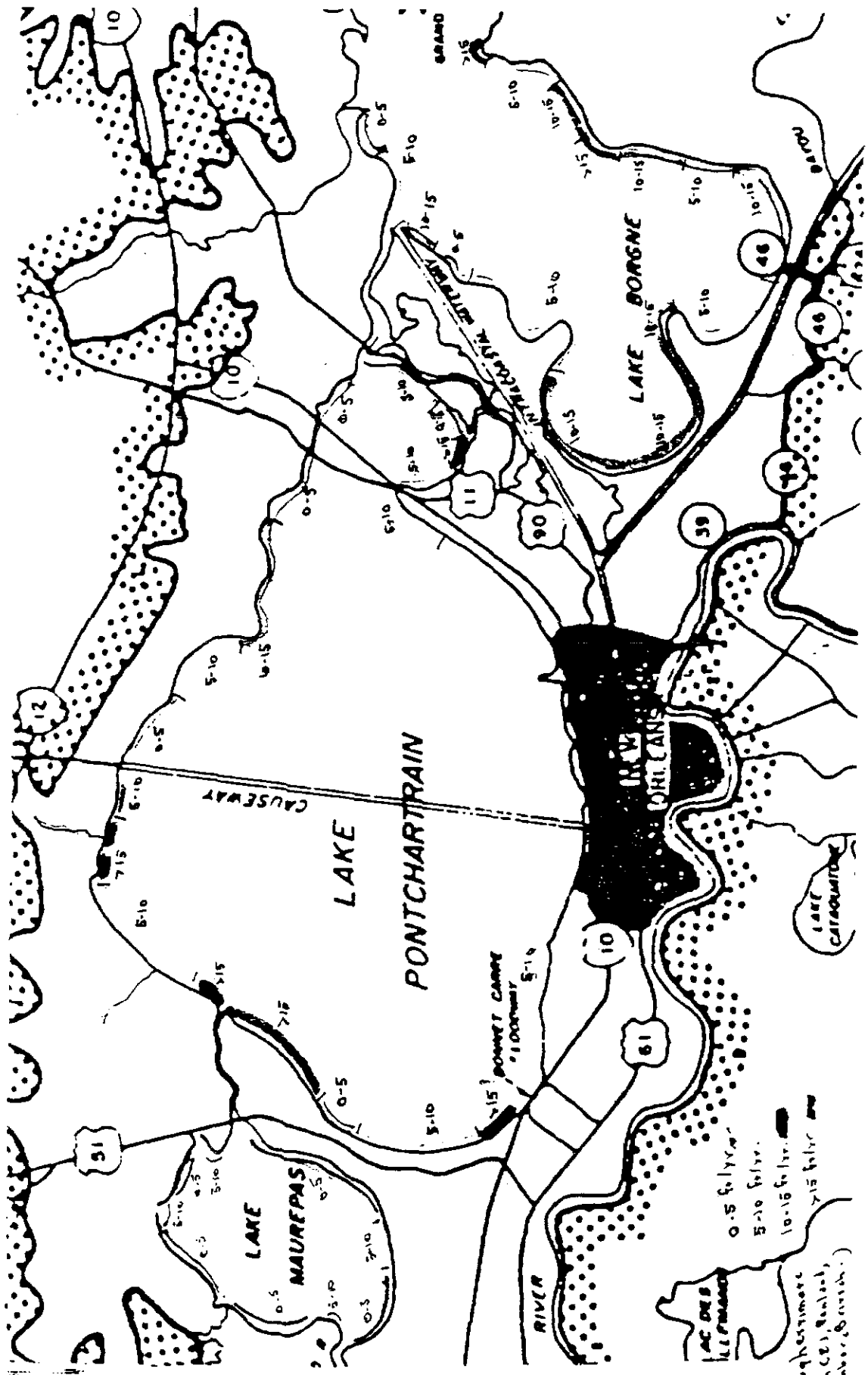
1. Maintain optimum yield for existing commercially and recreationally important basin species. (NMFS, LDWF, FWS, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission)

2. Encourage the enhancement of public and privately owned habitat for those species in the public interest (non-consumptive and consumptive).
3. Encourage the development of value-added processing for all seafood resources harvested in the basin. (LSU Agriculture Center, LDWF, Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, Dept. of Agriculture)

V. Water Quality - Although we expect the Pollution Subcommittee to provide the most substantive comments regarding water quality, there are some water quality issues which directly and severely impact renewable resources. These issues include high turbidity, nutrient loading, pesticide input and bacterial contamination.

Recommendations:

1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be devised and implemented for waterways leading to Lake Pontchartrain. These BMP's should provide for filter strips between forested or agricultural areas to ensure that sediments and chemicals used during these practices do not significantly impact the water quality in receiving waterways. Incentives should be offered to land owners and parishes to encourage the installation and maintenance of vegetated filter strips along all stream banks. Local government, DEQ Non-Point Source division, USDA, and the Forestry Service should be the lead agencies in the development and implementation of the BMPs.
2. Continue the installation of lagoon systems at dairy farm sites. DEQ and USDA should be lead agencies.
3. To reduce nutrient loading and turbidity from urban runoff, outfall pipes should be relocated such that urban runoff is routed through wetlands rather than being pumped directly into canals, bayous, or lakes. This would improve the wetland into which the water is being placed, and allow for the biological and physical remove sediment, nutrients, and pesticides prior to the water reaching larger waterbottoms.
4. All methods necessary should be implemented to improve water quality in the basin such that shellfish beds can be reopened. Possible means to reduce fecal-coliform pollution of shellfish beds include: (1) offering incentives to camp owners to install treatment systems at their camps; (2) routing sewage and rainwater outflow pipes through wetlands to allow for biological removal and reduction of bacteria.



0-5 fathoms  
 5-10 fathoms  
 10-15 fathoms  
 7-15 fathoms  
 Rough estimate  
 (from CE, Benthic,  
 Quaternary)



**SECTION 3**

**USES**



## USES CONCERNS

### **Recreation**

- 1) Develop a system of parks and wildlife preserves in the basin and improve the water quality to make it safe for swimming as well as a productive estuary.
- 2) Promote recreational use of waterbodies (i.e. excursion boats, canoeing and camping) and provide recreational facilities and open space in the basin such as beaches, state parks, trails and paths.
- 3) Increased public access should be combined with education such as shelters with environmental information and a mini-nature center.

### **Control Oil and Gas Activity**

- 1) Either ban oil and gas activity and related dredging entirely or strictly police oil rigs in the lake for maintenance.

### **No Dredging**

- 1) Permanently stop all lake bottom dredging; get commitment from governor for same.
- 2) Keep decisions concerning shell dredging out of politics.

### **Hurricane Protection**

- 1) Provide hurricane protection for the people around the lake.

### **Miscellaneous**

- 1) Pay property owners for use of land.
- 2) Stop shrimping in Pas Manchac.

All the following are from technical reports, no public concerns.

**Flood Control**  
**Mining**  
**Navigation**  
**Agriculture**  
**Transportation**  
**Urban Development**

9/2/92

USES SUBCOMMITTEE

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## CITIZEN CONCERNS: RECREATION

1. **Develop a system of parks and wildlife preserves in the basin and improve the water quality to make it safe for swimming as well as a productive estuary.**
2. **Promote recreational use of waterbodies (ie. excursion boats, canoeing and camping) and provide recreational facilities and open space in the basin such as beaches, state parks, trails and paths.**
3. **Increase public access and do not revoke public rights-of-way without public notice, vote and financial compensation.**
  - 1.1 Distribute Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) inventories to parish and other representatives on the Interagency Working Group (IAWG) so they can be reviewed for accuracy.
  - 1.2 Request the Office of State Lands in the Division of Administration to identify and map state-owned lands which could be used for recreational purposes or which could provide access to water.
  - 1.3 Work with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (DCRT) to incorporate the state-owned lands identified by the Office of State Lands into the SCORP.
  - 1.4 Involve regional and local "sporting" associations as local sponsors of new recreational developments, including bike routes, fishing sites, and hiking trails.
  - 1.5 Support efforts by National Wildbird Refuge, Inc. to raise funding for "Project Swallow" on the Lake Pontchartrain shore in Jefferson Parish.

*Project Swallow is a proposed recreation facility that will combine a bird viewing area and a created wetland habitat. Permits have been applied for and a non-profit group is attempting to raise funding for the project from public and private sources.*

- 1.6 Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to increase public access to the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge.

- 1.7 Work with the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to ensure plans for the development of a state park on the Tickfaw River south of I-12 near Springfield meet the citizen concerns for water-based recreation in the Lake Pontchartrain basin.
- 1.8 Work with the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission to ensure that the "Ring Around the Lake" bicycle trail obtains funds from the recently passed federal transportation funds.
- 1.9 Work with the owners of boat launch facilities in the basin to improve pump-out and other sanitary facilities and bring them up to applicable standards. Agencies that fund boat launches should require that DHHR review any permits and require adequate sanitary facilities.
- 1.10 Redirect a portion of the advertising budget for the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to market underutilized outdoor recreational facilities in the state. For example, rest area bulletin boards could be used to promote area recreation facilities.
- 1.11 Develop facilities where visitors who sail or boat into the basin can tie up their boats and stay for an extended length of time.
- 1.12 Coordinate with local levee districts and review the recreation component of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Plan and determine if adequate facilities are proposed to meet recreational demand along the levees.
- 1.13 Encourage the use of excursion boats on Lake Pontchartrain. One possible route is from West End to Mandeville.
- 1.14 Encourage the development of a visible boat rental business (especially sailboats) on Lake Pontchartrain. If there are existing boat rental businesses, a directory could be developed to provide this information to interested tourists.

## **CITIZEN CONCERN: CONTROL OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY**

1. **Either ban oil and gas activity and related dredging entirely or strictly police oil rigs in the lake for maintenance.**
  - 1.1 Fund more inspectors at the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality so as to begin a regular circuit of inspection of oil and gas activities in Lake Pontchartrain.
  - 1.2 As an alternative, establish a special "lake ranger" position to provide routine surveillance of on-going activities in Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas.
  - 1.3 Look into the availability of boats for use by any of the state and federal activities that have inspection responsibilities in Lake Pontchartrain.

## **CITIZEN CONCERN: NO DREDGING**

1. **Permanently stop all lake bottom dredging; get commitment from governor for this.**
2. **Keep decisions concerning shell dredging out of politics.**

***Status of shell dredging in Lake Pontchartrain: The Department of Environmental Quality denied discharge permits for shell dredging. Based on this the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries cancelled the lease of waterbottoms because not all conditions of the lease were being met. The Department of Natural Resources has also suspended the coastal use permit. Shell dredging concerns filed suit and the Louisiana Supreme Court upheld the permit decision.***

- 1.1 Because the decision by DEQ not to grant a discharge permit for shell dredging in Lake Pontchartrain was regulatory, consider legislation to permanently ban shell dredging in Lake Pontchartrain, Maurepas, and Borgne.

## **CITIZEN CONCERN: HURRICANE PROTECTION**

1. Provide hurricane protection for the people around the lake.

*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of implementing the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Plan to provide hurricane protection for communities south of the lake. It is a multi-year effort.*

- 1.1 Work with local and federal agencies to expedite additional funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so as to finish this project in a shorter time frame.
- 1.2 Review hurricane evacuation plans and educate citizens on proper hurricane evacuation techniques.

## **CITIZEN CONCERN: MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Pay property owners for use of land.

*The Louisiana Legislature, in its 1992 session, passed a law concerning access to coastal marshes. In addition, a recent Supreme Court case originating in South Carolina was decided that has an impact on compensation and the "taking" issue.*

- 1.1 Research the impact of recent legislative and legal changes concerning property rights.
- 1.2 Explore the use of easements and servitudes for access to public lands.

## **OTHER CONCERNS: MINING**

- 1. Mitigate adverse impacts of sand and gravel mining in the upper Lake Pontchartrain Basin.**
  - 1.1 Review recently passed legislation concerning reclamation of mining sites.
  - 1.2 Require reclamation for abandoned sand and gravel pits.
  - 1.3 Support the efforts of the River Channel Maintenance Committee of the Amite River Basin Commission to reduce silting in the lower Amite River through implementation of the recommendations of the Sand and Gravel Task Force of the Governors Interagency Task Force on Flood Prevention and Mitigation.
  
- 2. Clay mining in Lake Pontchartrain.**
  - 2.1 Ban clay mining in Lake Pontchartrain if adverse environmental impacts can't be eliminated.

## **OTHER CONCERN: FLOOD CONTROL**

- 1. Reduce repetitive flood losses.**
  - 1.1 Encourage all communities in the Lake Pontchartrain basin to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System.
  - 1.2 Fully fund the statewide flood control program.
  - 1.3 Utilize Amite River Basin Commission flood mitigation plan, now in development, as a model for other river systems.
  - 1.4 Implement the recommendations of the Final Report of the Governor's Interagency Task Force on Flood Prevention and Mitigation.

## OTHER CONCERN: NAVIGATION

1. **Mitigate the adverse effects of navigation projects, especially saltwater intrusion and erosion.**
  - 1.1 Stabilize the shoreline of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet.
  - 1.2 Review the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal expansion being evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
  - 1.3 Utilize Breaux bill funding to mitigate the effects of navigation canals.

## OTHER CONCERN: AGRICULTURE

1. **Reduce environmental problems associated with agricultural practices.**

- 1.1 Increase educational activities pertaining to best management practices in the following areas by working with the appropriate agencies/programs.

Pesticide Regulation: La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF)

Pesticide Education: Cooperative Extension Service

Soil Erosion: La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry -  
Office of Soil and Water Conservation  
Soil and Water Conservation  
Districts  
USDA Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts

On-Farm Water Mgmt: Department of Environmental  
Quality - Office of Water  
Resources - Non-Point Source  
Program  
LDAF - Office of Soil and Water  
Conservation  
Soil and Water Conservation  
Districts

Forestry Management: LDAF - Office of Forestry

- 1.2 Work to decrease the conversion of wetlands to farmland and encourage the creation of wetlands from farmlands through educational efforts and participation in conservation programs such as the Wetlands Preserve Program (administered by the USDA - Soil Conservation Service) and those sponsored by conservation/preservation groups such as the Nature Conservancy.
- 1.3 Increase participation in grassroots efforts, including those supported by existing organizations such as the Cooperative Extension Service and the Farm Bureau.

#### **OTHER CONCERN: TRANSPORTATION**

1. **Encourage the development of efficient transportation systems in the Lake Pontchartrain basin that minimize adverse environmental impacts.**
  - 1.1 Work with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and metropolitan planning organizations (MPO's) in the development of the state's intermodal transportation plan so that transportation goals of the state and basin are compatible.
  - 1.2 Identify key routes to be developed/upgraded in keeping with basin goals such as increased/improved access to recreation.
  - 1.3 Encourage development of mass-transit systems in order to reduce traffic congestion, to reduce source and non-point source pollution associated with high traffic volumes, and to improve general quality of life.
  - 1.4 Encourage the development of bicycle routes and hiking paths in the basin.

2. **Work with state and federal agencies to ensure that transportation projects are compatible with on-going coastal conservation/restoration efforts.**
  - 2.1 Plan transportation structures in conjunction with wetland restoration staff so that hydrologic factors are taken into consideration.
  - 2.2 Consider impacts on wetlands when conducting transportation maintenance/rehabilitation projects, not just when planning new projects.

**OTHER CONCERN: URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

1. **Ensure that new urban development minimizes deterioration of the environment.**
  - 1.1 Adopt landscape regulations at the local government level.
  - 1.2 Adopt a growth management strategy that encourages rehabilitation of existing structures, infill development, and construction within leveed areas before any new levees are built.
  - 1.3 Adopt comprehensive stormwater quality management ordinances at the local government level.

**SECTION 4**

**POLLUTION**



## POLLUTION CONCERNS

### **Urban Runoff**

- 1) There must be formulation of an action plan for urban runoff that includes:
  - a. a schedule for meeting EPA standards for drinking water;
  - b. identification of federal programs to reduce the adverse impact of urban runoff;
  - c. a statewide stormwater management program;
  - d. better pre-treatment of stormwater runoff and treatment of drainage into waterbodies, such as routing stormwater through wetlands;
  - e. a timetable for eliminating non-point pollution sources (5 years residential, and 10 years commercial);
  - f. fostering public financial support for solutions to non-point pollution and for monitoring urban runoff; and
  - g. development of a public education program on urban runoff with government involvement.
2. A more radical solution to urban runoff was to discontinue drainage into lake.

### **Sewerage**

1. Adequate sewerage treatment must be provided through:
  - a. better regulation of sewerage runoff;
  - b. enforcing compliance for sewerage treatment plants on a specific time table: 5 years residential; 10 years municipal;
  - c. requiring tertiary sewerage systems for all cities, municipalities and incorporated areas;
  - d. requiring best available technology for rural, residential and commercial sewerage treatment (perhaps biofiltration for individual effluent discharge); and

e. monitoring point and non-point sources of pollution throughout the basin so the lake and tributaries (such as those in St. John Parish) can reach drinking water standards.

#### **Commercial Pollution**

- 1) Either stop all commercial fishing, crabbing and trawling until lake improves or require a performance bond for commercial use of the basin's waterbodies. Vigorously enforce litter laws and removal of unused commercial and sport fishing equipment.
- 2) Educate businesses about the trash they generate and provide incentives for recycling of commercial/industrial waste.
- 3) Better enforcement of commercial discharges is necessary as well as determination of best available technology for commercial sewerage treatment. A point source pollution management program that identifies and treats sources of pollution is recommended. This type of program would monitor commercial wastes such as runoff from hospitals.
- 4) Clean Industrial Canal.

#### **Agricultural Runoff**

- 1) Develop action plan for agricultural runoff which includes: 1) stricter control of agricultural runoff through existing laws and regulations; and 2) educating basin inhabitants on, and monitoring of, rural and agricultural runoff.
- 2) Strictly control pesticide use and use non-chemical means to manage unwanted vegetation and pests whenever possible.

#### **Freshwater Diversions**

- 1) Stop/slow freshwater diversion projects until further study/monitoring is completed.
- 2) Divert river water and examine periodic openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway (not just during floods).

#### **Saltwater Intrusion**

- 1) Examine effects of saltwater from MRGO and do what is necessary to control saltwater intrusion; perhaps building sill or closing the MRGO.

#### **Hazardous Waste Atmospheric Deposition**

Both from technical report, no public concerns.