

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO  
GOVERNOR



ANDREW D. KOPPLIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Environmental Task Force

### Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Department of Environmental Quality  
Galvez Building – Oliver Pollack Room  
602 N. Fifth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Meeting Participants:**                      **Members of the Environmental Task Force**

**Present:**

Chair, Tom Henning  
Patrick Talley  
Sharon Parsons  
Rep. N.J. Damico  
Karen Gautreaux  
Sen. Clo Fontenot  
Maura Wood  
Henry Graham

**Absent:**

Mark Davis  
Vice Chair, John Brewster  
Robert Thomas  
Kent Satterlee, III  
Sen. Jody Amedee  
Sen. Donald Cravins, Jr.  
Paula Ridgeway  
John Pardue  
Robert Twilley

**I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**                      **Tom Henning**  
i. Meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

**II. Task Force Chair Update**                      **Tom Henning**  
i. Introduction of John Brewster as the new vice chair of the Environmental Task Force.

**III. Environmental Updates**                      **Louis McArthur**  
i. **Legislative Bills**  
▪ 31 pieces of legislation monitored by DNR during the 2007 Regular Legislative Session.  
▪ 22 bills proposed in the House of Representatives, including many duplicate bills – only 3 of the House bills passed  
▪ Senate bills had a higher rate of passage  
▪ 5 of the 6 bills affecting TAD proposed by the Senate were enacted  
▪ SB 90 – Act 371: tax credits for solar collectors; recipients receive 50% tax credit up to \$1200 each

- ii. **DNR Quick Notes Series** **Buddy Justice**
  - DNR put together a Quick Notes Series on Energy Efficiency for homeowners affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
  - 50,000 copies were distributed to all 12 Road Home Housing Assistance Centers and are available at DNR as well
  
- iii. **Illegal Dumping Initiative** **Dwight Bradshaw**
  - See attached LDEQ Environmental Update PowerPoint
  - New Orleans' Orleans Parish has implemented strong illegal dumping ordinances with heavy fines and community service hours
  - All sites in Almonaster have been inspected
  - Surveillance cameras are now deployed at sites across the state
  - DEQ is working with property owners whose sites have been illegally dumped upon without their knowledge or consent
  - Discussed Operation Clean Sweep (details in PowerPoint)
  
- iv. **Status on Hurricane Debris** **Dwight Bradshaw**
  - See attached LDEQ Environmental Update PowerPoint
  - Murphy Oil spill (Chalmette area) is the only active oil spill since hurricane Katrina
    - Progress has been slow due to a class action law suit
    - Clean up anticipated to be completed by the end of August 2007
  - House gutting and demolitions continue
  - This is the most scrutinized waste stream in the United States
  - Multiple check points from curbside to landfill on all materials including asbestos removal – no asbestos fibers have been detected by air monitoring sites
  - Significant amount of demolition done in Jefferson and Orleans parishes
  - Road Home buyouts have not been entered in the process

#### **IV. Presentation and Resolution**

- i. **Marine Debris Removal Issues and Resolutions in Louisiana** **Kris VanOrsdel**
  - See attached Marine Debris PowerPoint
  - Discuss challenges/discrepancies between Mississippi and Louisiana based on funding for marine debris clean up
    - FEMA-MS and FEMA-LA working as separate entities and not sharing information
  - Louisiana needs funds from FEMA to utilize mission assignments (cost effective and fast) in lieu of project worksheets
  - Mississippi has received more funding to reassess and clean up waterways when Louisiana (41%) had greater percentage of the damage

- Crucial that Louisiana receive funding to reassess waterways because debris materials, mosquitoes and snakes are becoming a threat to public safety
- What is needed from the Environmental Task Force?
  - to pass resolution recommending strong language in mission assignment
  - ask FEMA to work with local/parish/state governments to pay back for debris removal
  - confirmation from FEMA that LDWF funds will be used for habitat and survey
- Resolution passed by Environmental Task Force

Questions from audience:

- Dwight Bradshaw: How is MS addressing grey areas such as vessels in marshes?
  1. MS and AL have completely different definitions of mission assignment. MS is cleaning up everything in waterways.
  2. MS also has language stating that they have cleaned their shores

**V. Other Business**

- i. Task Force Chair to speak with Representative Geymann
- ii. Task Force member Maura Wood would like to get an update on the Waste Water Assimilation project from the St. Bernard S&WB; invite a group of students from the University of Wisconsin working with the Holy Cross Community to give a PowerPoint presentation; receive an update on Arsenic in Schools being done by the NRDC
- iii. Next LRA Board of Directors meeting to be held Monday, July 30, 2007 at 9:00 am at the State Capitol in House Committee Room 1

**VI. Public Comment**

None

**VII. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

**Adjourn**

11:39 AM