A. Kravitz then summarized the organizational structures of three groups similar to the LAIS Task Force: the Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel, the Massachusetts Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group, and the Formosan Termite Task Force. Based on the information obtained from these organizations, A. Kravitz presented a potential organizational chart for the proposed permanent Louisiana invasive species council. The chart (see left) includes membership from a variety of groups, a council chair and vice-chair, a coordinator, and several working groups. (The working groups listed are just placeholders and can have different names or focuses than the ones listed in the chart.) Also in the chart are possibilities for authorization of a council, either by Executive Order from the Governor, by Legislation, or a Legislative Resolution.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND AUTHORIZATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

M. Barrett-O'Leary led a discussion on the proposed organizational structure and authorization of the invasive species council. The first discussion item addressed was council membership. In addition to existing Task Force membership, the Task Force agreed to invite the following entities to join the council: Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Education, and Indian tribes. Other suggested members included the Association of Levee Boards, Louisiana Board of Landscape Architects, the Louisiana Forestry Association, and local power distributors.

After the membership topic, M. Barrett-O'Leary led a discussion on the best method for authorizing the council. L. Schiavinato briefly summarized the pros/cons of the various authorization methods: executive orders, legislation, legislative resolution, and MOUs. The most permanent method is through legislation. Executive Orders can be repealed by a new governor or can expire. Legislative resolution does not endow the Task Force/Council with any real powers. After discussion, Task Force members strongly recommended pursuing legislation to create a permanent LAIS Council. Task Force members agreed that the legislation should name LDWF as the lead agency for the LAIS Council, and that the chair of the Council should come from the lead agency. The vice-chair will be elected by the council and cannot be from the same organization as the chair. Task Force members also agreed that a full-time coordinator, housed within the lead agency, would be needed to support the Council’s activities.

Task Force members agreed to name the council the “Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Council”, or LAISC, provided that no other organization in Louisiana uses the same acronym.

Sen. G. Theunissen recommended the legislation be drafted as soon as possible so that the Task Force can review and approve it before it is presented to the legislature. Sen. G. Theunissen recommended asking S. King to draft the bill. A. Ensminger made a motion for the Task Force to officially ask S. King to begin drafting the legislation. K. Stoma seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. S. King agreed to draft the initial legislation.

At the mid-meeting break, a LDWF staff photographer took a picture of the Task Force.

IV. PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION: HOW DO WE EVALUATE SUCCESS?

R. Campanella lead a discussion on how to best monitor and evaluate the success of the management plan. This element is essential to include in the management plan before it is presented to the ANS Task Force. He proposed and discussed the pros/cons of three evaluation methods: biological quantitative measures (has a species spread, etc.); social quantitative measures (before and after surveys to find out if boaters know what invasive species are); and ‘indicator actions’ (selected actions that are tracked). After discussion, the Task Force recommended using all three of the above measures to evaluate success of the management plan, using the different strategies at different stages of management plan implementation. The Council will determine the details (such as which ‘indicator actions’ will be tracked for certain time periods) at a later date. Sen.
G. Theunissen made a motion to incorporate all evaluation methods into the management plan. K. Stoma seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

In addition, the Task Force recommended establishing an internal oversight / review board, possibly to function as a working group, to evaluate the Council and the actions being implemented in the state. The review board will also include external, out-of-state reviewers in order to maintain impartiality. The Council will determine the frequency of reviews. It was recommended to include in the legislation a clause about monitoring and evaluation funds (“Performance Budgeting”).

V. COAST GUARD BALLAST WATER SUMMARY
M. McElroy briefly summarized a Coast Guard Ballast Water meeting that took place in New Orleans on October 27. The Coast Guard is accepting comments before beginning a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for ballast water treatment. Standards (for example, how many organisms smaller than a certain size can remain in ballast water after treatment) have not yet been set. The programmatic EIS is more of a preliminary stage than setting standards, so possible standards are years away in terms of rule making.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS
The next meeting date has not yet been scheduled, but M. McElroy told members it will be in late January, about 30 days before the pre-legislative session which begins in late February / early March.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m. CST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark G. McElroy
Chairman, Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

Subject to Approval