

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Team (RPT) Region 1, Lacombe, LA, 29 Jan 15, 8:00 am

1. Agenda Item #1, Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Stuart Brown, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and RPT Region 1 Leader, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. He thanked all for attending. The purpose of the RPT meeting is to receive nominations and public comments for projects in Region 1. Region 1 consists of the Pontchartrain Basin. Mr. Brown thanked Mr. James Harris of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the use of the facility. Mr. Harris stated that he is lucky to work at this facility, and he is glad USFWS is able to make this venue available to the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Program. Mr. Brown introduced Mr. David Brunet from St. Tammany Parish and Ms. Albertine Kimble from Plaquemines Parish and asked any other parish or city representatives to introduce themselves. Mr. Garrick London, City of Slidell, introduced himself. Mr. Brown asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Agenda Item #2, Project Priority List (PPL) 25 Selection Process Brief Overview and Ground Rules for PPL 25 Nomination Meeting. Mr. Brown delivered a PowerPoint presentation, which is available online at the CWPPRA website. Mr. Brown asked that the parish-designated voters fill out a voting registration form and provide their contact information to Mr. Scott Wandell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Parishes eligible to vote for projects in Region 1 are: Plaquemines, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, Ascension, Livingston, St. James, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa.

Nominees must be consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. A project can be nominated from only one basin, except for coastwide projects. If a project crosses multiple basins, excluding coastwide projects, it should be nominated in one basin only, based on the majority area of project influence. Coastwide projects apply across basin boundaries; their benefits are not tied to one basin. Coastwide projects can be nominated from any basin and can be presented at any or all of the RPT meetings.

Presenters were asked to complete a project information sheet for each project nominee, including demonstration project nominees, with the name of the proposed project and the presenter's contact information, if a fact sheet was not provided. Mr. Brown announced that Mr. Wandell could help attendees fill out this form if they required assistance. Presentations should be limited to five minutes and five PowerPoint slides. Public comments on project proposals will be accepted orally during the meeting and in writing until February 18, 2015. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Brad Inman, USACE. Mr. Brown asked that attendees limit comments and questions to the PPL 25 proposals and processes.

Coastwide projects propose a technique applicable across the entire coast. Only one coastwide nominee may be selected during the Coastwide Electronic Voting on February 24, 2015. The Technical Committee may or may not select a coastwide project at the April 16, 2015 meeting. Demonstration projects demonstrate a technology which can be transferred to other areas in coastal

Louisiana. The Engineering and Environmental Work Groups will determine whether or not a project meets CWPPRA criteria for demonstration projects. The RPT will select up to six demonstration projects; the Technical Committee may select up to three demonstration projects at the April 16, 2015 meeting. The work groups may recommend that no demonstration projects move into the candidate stage. Previous demonstration projects must be re-nominated to be considered for PPL 25.

3. Agenda Item #3, Explanation of Coastwide Voting Process. The Coastwide Electronic Voting will be held on February 24, 2015. The RPTs will select four projects per basin in the Terrebonne and Barataria Basins; three projects per basin in the Pontchartrain, Mermentau, and Breton Sound Basins; two projects per basin in the Teche-Vermilion and Calcasieu-Sabine Basins; and one project in the Atchafalaya Basin. If proposed, one coastwide project may be chosen for inclusion as a nominee. In addition, the RPTs will select up to six demonstration projects for further evaluation.

Parishes must identify their voting representative at the RPT meeting to be eligible to vote. No additional projects can be nominated and no significant changes can be made to projects after the RPT meeting. If projects overlap, nominators will have the option to combine them into one project prior to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Brown explained the voting process. Excel spreadsheets will be provided to the voting representatives one week prior to the vote. Voters must email or fax their votes to Ms. Allison Murry, USACE, by 10:30 am on February 24, 2015.

Following the Coastwide Electronic Voting, an agency will be assigned to each project to prepare a fact sheet and map if one is not already prepared. The CWPPRA Engineering and Environmental Work Groups will then review the draft features and assign preliminary costs and benefits. They will also verify that the coastwide and demonstration projects meet PPL 25 requirements.

Mr. Brown reviewed the remaining steps in the PPL 25 process. Ten candidate projects and up to three demonstration projects will be selected on April 16, 2015 at the Technical Committee Meeting. Written public comments should be submitted to Mr. Inman at the addresses in the agenda by April 2, 2015. Oral comments will be accepted at the Technical Committee Meeting. Candidate projects will undergo further review between May and October, and the Technical Committee will vote to recommend up to four projects for Phase I Engineering & Design (E&D) on December 10, 2015. The Task Force will make the final decision in January 2016.

4. Agenda Item #4, PPL Project Nominations.

a. Mr. Brown opened the floor for nominations in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

1 – *Biloxi Marsh Oyster Reef and Marsh Creation.* This project was presented by Mr. Adrian Chavarria, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both the oyster reef and marsh creation components of this project are consistent with the 2012 Master Plan. The Chandeleur Sound is exposed to a high wave energy environment that erodes the shoreline and results in marsh loss.

The project team has developed two options, but is currently proposing to construct Option A, which will create 14,800 linear feet of oyster reef and create and nourish 263 acres of emergent marsh. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$24.6 million, assuming the use of Wayfarer oyster rings. Mr. J.O. Zach Lea, resident, asked about the oyster reef material to be used. Mr. Chavarria replied that Wayfarer oyster rings are made of concrete and connect to each other to allow oysters to grow. Mr. Aaron Hoff, EPA, is the project manager.

#2 – Isle au Pitre Oyster Reef and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Adrian Chavarria, EPA. The project is located in the Pontchartrain Basin just north of the Biloxi Marsh Oyster Reef and Marsh Creation Project. The project area is experiencing high wave energy and shoreline erosion. The project team has developed two options for the project; both options are consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The project team is promoting Option A. Option A consists of 9,500 linear feet of oyster reef and 535 acres of marsh creation. The construction cost including 25% contingency is \$29.8 million. Mr. John Jurgensen, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), stated that the project is very close geographically to the previously proposed Biloxi Marsh Oyster Reef and Marsh Creation Project. He asked for a prioritization of the projects. Mr. Chavarria responded that the Biloxi Marsh Oyster Reef and Marsh Creation Project would be the priority. Mr. Mel Landry, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), asked what type of containment will be used. Mr. Chavarria responded that typical containment would be used. Mr. Lea asked if the oyster reef will be constructed on privately owned land. Mr. Chavarria responded that the reef will be constructed on privately owned land; it is nearby but not on the Breton National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

#3 – Bayou Bienvenue Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA. This project has been proposed in previous PPLs. The project area was a cypress swamp approximately 50 years ago. However, due to saltwater intrusion from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO), it is now an extremely saline open water environment with mere cypress stumps. It is consistent with the Master Plan. A large marsh creation site has been identified and divided into five parcels of approximately 350 acres each, which are appropriately sized for the CWPPRA Program. This proposal is for the first increment. The proposed pipeline route from the Mississippi River is largely vacant and is less expensive than utilizing borrow material from Lake Borgne due to distance and the saltwater barrier seawall. The pipeline would traverse a drainage canal from the Mississippi River. The project team proposes to complete the most difficult cell, Cell #1, first, but if the cell experiences delay due to land rights or other issues other cells could take precedence. The project will create and nourish 350 acres of intermediate marsh. The project will benefit 276 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$26 million. This project is an opportunity to showcase a CWPPRA project via a platform located at the edge of the project area where people will be able to view the project once it is completed. The people of Louisiana know how important coastal restoration is; however, this project is less than 30 minutes away from a major international airport and will allow for outreach to both residents and tourists from outside of Louisiana. The project includes tidal creeks within the marsh creation component that could be used as canoe trails to allow people to see coastal restoration firsthand. This opportunity for outreach is not available with many other CWPPRA projects. Mr. Gary Shaffer, Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU), asked why the project proposes to create marsh rather than swamp. Mr. Crawford responded that the project was proposed to fit into

CWPPRA funding limits. He added that the area could be planted with cypress trees at a later time. Mr. Shaffer urged the project team to reconsider the use of cypress trees, should funding allow. Mr. Lea asked about landowners and where the water, which is used to transfer sediment, would go once material has been pumped into the project area. Mr. Crawford responded that there are many landowners in the area, and that an existing connection in the project area to Bayou Bienvenue would be used to evacuate water. Mr. Lea also asked if creating marsh at this location adds more storm protection for the City of New Orleans than the parcel immediately adjacent. Mr. Crawford responded that the more marsh that surrounds the City, the better the City will be protected, but could not answer which particular cell is more protective at protecting the City.

#4 – Northwest Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection. This project was presented by Mr. John Jurgensen, NRCS. This project has been proposed in past PPLs. Shoreline erosion across Lake Pontchartrain has always been a concern to many entities. Other agencies such as the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) and USACE have completed several shoreline protection projects on the Lake, but the northwest shoreline has not been addressed through any program. This area experiences erosion rates up to 18 feet per year. The project team has identified seven miles of shoreline to be protected with foreshore rock dike. The project team is willing to consider other alternatives that would reduce costs; foreshore rock dike is an expensive but effective method. The project would preserve 305 acres of marsh behind the 7-mile long shoreline protection feature. The team is willing to modify the project to coordinate with existing projects, if necessary. The project team considered a larger project to coordinate with the existing CIAP project, but the \$30 to \$40 million cost was not consistent with the 2012 Master Plan. The currently proposed project, which includes seven miles of shoreline protection, stays within the constraints of the Master Plan.

#5 – North Shell Beach Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Scott Wandell, USACE. This proposed project is an extension of the Shell Beach South Project, which was selected for PPL 24 Phase I E&D funding and will construct 630 acres of brackish marsh habitat. The project is located in St. Bernard Parish, on a thin strip of land separating Lake Borgne and the MRGO. The area has been affected by subsidence, salt water intrusion, wave fetch from Lake Borgne, and storm impacts. Most projects in this area focus on shoreline protection. This project proposes to restore 544 acres of emergent brackish marsh including 241 acres of marsh creation and 303 acres of marsh nourishment in four cells. Dredged material will be mined from a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) cleared borrow site in Lake Borgne approximately one mile from the project area. The marsh creation component will include containment features, earthen overflow weirs, and vegetative plantings. The project will stabilize the landbridge between Lake Borgne and the MRGO and protect the neighboring communities and infrastructure outside of the St. Bernard Parish flood wall. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$20 million. Mr. Lea asked who owns the land that is being restored. Mr. Wandell answered that it is owned by private landowners. Mr. Lea asked if the existing open water in the project area is navigable. Mr. Wandell answered that he is not sure about the land:water ratio; there are probably bayous that traverse the area. He added that the project team will coordinate with the land owners. Mr. Lea noted that public funds would be used to restore private lands. Mr. Wandell confirmed that private landowners do not pay for CWPPRA projects. Mr. Jurgensen stated that approximately 95% of the land used for coastal restoration is owned by

a private landowner, and every CWPPRA Project has to obtain land rights agreements that give the State permission to construct the project on the property.

#6 – Proctor’s Point Marsh Restoration. – This project was presented by Ms. Kimberly Clements, NMFS. The project area is in the Proctor’s Point area of the Lake Borgne shoreline. The project team and St. Bernard Parish are interested in restoring the tip of Proctor’s Point; however, the bankline of the MRGO is consistent with the Master Plan but the Point itself is not. The area near Proctor’s Point has experienced extensive break-up, shown by the 1995 to 2013 Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System (SONRIS) data. There are several options to restore losses to the interior marsh and breaches to the MRGO shoreline that are consistent with the Master Plan. The project team has identified seven polygons needing restoration; however, the aggregate polygons are a much larger project than CWPPRA could accomplish. The project team has narrowed the selection to three polygons, which will re-establish the existing point but will not re-establish the tip of the shoreline that has become open water. The borrow area may present challenges as it is a Gulf sturgeon critical habitat area. In order to avoid constructing a pipeline across the existing marsh, the pipeline to Cell C will be constructed around the Lake and through the MRGO. The three cells total 616 acres of marsh creation and nourishment. The construction cost including 25% contingency would be \$38 million; the cost is high due to the large pipeline diversion to Cell C. If the project is reduced to consider only Cells A and B, eliminating the polygon along the MRGO bankline, the cost including contingency decreases to \$18 million. The reduced project would restore a total of 430 acres. The project is synergistic with the Shell Beach South Project.

Mr. Brown stated that NMFS coordinated with CPRA prior to the RPT meeting. CPRA will consider the project consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. CPRA would prefer to protect the area between Lake Borgne and the MRGO, which is Cell C.

#7 – West Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection. This project was presented by Mr. Logan Boudreaux, CPRA. The project area is near many existing projects including Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection (PO-30), Lake Borgne and MRGO Shoreline Protection (PO-32), and Biloxi Marsh Creation (PO-72). The project area experiences shoreline erosion rates between 36 and 80 feet per year. The proposed project is an extension of the existing PO-72 project, which uses a combination lightweight aggregate and rock. The project proposes to create 29,000 linear feet of rock shoreline protection. The PO-72 structure was overbuilt to reduce project maintenance. The project team intends to use the same methodology for the proposed project. The project will protect 482 net acres after the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$25.3 million, which was based on the actual cost of PO-72. Mr. Jurgensen asked who the Federal sponsor of the project is. Mr. Boudreaux responded that the project does not currently have a Federal sponsor. Mr. Jurgensen expressed concern about the assumption that the project will not require maintenance. Mr. Brown replied that the PO-72 project was designed with lightweight aggregate. The project was overbuilt at a cost of \$870 per linear foot, as opposed to \$500 per linear foot, which is typical for a shoreline protection project. The project team considered this and decided to overbuild the proposed project in a similar fashion.

This project was combined with the R1-PO-08 Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection Project. The project name will be the Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection Project and USFWS will be the Federal sponsor.

#8 – Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The proposed project is very similar to the West Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection Project. Some areas of the shoreline lost between 1,300 and 1,400 feet between 1998 and 2013 and the area experiences shoreline erosion rates that range from 43 to 96 feet per year. This project proposes to create 45,000 feet of critical shoreline protection. The project protects 497 acres within the Biloxi Marsh Wildlife Management Area and will benefit 313 net acres over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$26 million. Mr. Dubois added that USFWS would like to combine the proposed project with the West Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection Project and would like to be the Federal sponsor of the combined project. Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, asked about the difference in shoreline protection length of the proposed projects. Mr. Boudreaux replied that the line created by CPRA, which was used to determine the shoreline protection length, was straighter than the line used by USFWS. The project area is very similar for both projects. The Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection project also extends slightly further to the south.

This project was combined with the R1-PO-07 West Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection Project. The project name will be the Point Aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection Project and USFWS will be the Federal sponsor.

#9 – St. Catherine Island Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The project is located in the Bayou Sauvage NWR near Bayou Chevee and Chef Menteur Pass. The marsh in Lake Pontchartrain experienced mechanical scouring during Hurricane Katrina, which destroyed thousands of acres of marsh within the Lake. Wind generated waves contribute to the estimated 18 feet per year average shoreline erosion rate in the project area. The project proposes 18,000 linear feet of foreshore rock dike and 173 acres of marsh creation and nourishment behind the shoreline protection. The proposed shoreline protection and marsh creation project will continue the existing Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection (PO-22) project, which lies to the west of the proposed project area. The project team has proposed five marsh creation polygons. The project protects 28,000 to 33,000 linear feet of shoreline and 361 acres of marsh and shallow open water, with net acres after 20 years of 287. A borrow site has been identified in Lake Pontchartrain. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$19 million. There are several species of concern in the project area, and protecting crucial habitat can prevent animals from being placed on the endangered species list.

#10 – Golden Triangle Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Patrick Williams, NMFS. NMFS and USACE have been working together to develop this project. The project proposes to restore shallow areas of open water created by construction of the New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) surge barrier. The project area has an existing sheet pile structure, where material has been placed using unconfined containment in the past. The shallow depth allows for minimal costs when creating a large amount of acreage. The USACE will need approximately 18 acres to allow for future disposal of

material produced by surge barrier maintenance. After removing those 18 acres, the six marsh creation cells total 440 acres of marsh creation. The borrow area is in Lake Borgne, which is Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The majority of the project area is located on privately-owned land, with a small portion located on the Bayou Sauvage NWR acquisition boundary. The project will protect 389 net acres after the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$22.3 million.

#11 – Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing. This project was presented by Mr. Patrick Williams, NMFS. The project area lost a significant amount of marsh after Hurricane Katrina and has not recovered. The project proposes to construct 338 acres of marsh creation and nourishment, as well as 64,000 linear feet of terracing with four culverts to restore water exchange. The project is located on a combination of private land and the Big Branch NWR. It will be coordinated with the existing mitigation projects for the HSDDRS and beneficial use projects proposed by St. Tammany Parish. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$20.1 million and a fully-funded cost of \$25 to \$30 million. The project will protect 308 net acres over the 20-year project life. Las Conchas is the landowner of the property to the south of Salt Bayou, and they have supportive in previous years. Mr. Danny Breaux, Big Branch NWR, stated that the Parish is working to construct a marsh creation project. The project has not moved forward recently but the Parish is working to protect the area. Mr. Brunet stated that the Parish is working on a large beneficial use project. The marsh creation project coordinated with the City of Slidell has not been finalized. Mr. Jason Kroll, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Habitat Restoration Center, stated that this large area will be healed through a combination of synergistic projects that include marsh creation, terracing, mitigation, and beneficial use projects.

Mr. Brown, CPRA, made a general comment that was not project specific. He stated that there are currently 25 viable CWPPRA projects in Phase I, with an additional four projects added each year. These Phase I CWPPRA projects will compete with 15 to 18 projects for Phase II CWPPRA funding. Mathematically, it is highly unlikely for a project to be funded for construction through CWPPRA, yet nominators continue to design projects based on the constraints of CWPPRA Phase II funding. Historically, CWPPRA has been an incubator for other programs, and Mr. Brown urged nominators to consider designing larger, more cost-effective projects that may be funded for construction through other sources.

Nominations were closed for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

b. Mr. Brown opened the floor for nominations for demonstration projects.

Nominations were closed for demonstration projects.

c. Mr. Brown opened the floor for nominations for coast-wide projects.

#1 – Southwest Louisiana Salvinia Weevil Propagation – This project was presented by Mr. Ronald Paille, USFWS. *Salvinia* is an invasive, exotic aquatic plant that can form dense colonies up to 6” thick. *Salvinia* harms fish and wildlife habitats by depleting oxygen and blocking sunlight for native plants. The project consists of developing and operating a facility on existing

ponds, provided by USFWS in the Lacassine NWR, to produce the Brazilian *cyrobagous salviniae* weevil, which is a biological control for *Salvinia*. The facility will distribute the weevil throughout the State to control the fast-growing *Salvinia* in freshwater marshes along the coast. The estimated construction cost is \$67,000 and the total cost to develop and operate the facility is \$1 million for ten years or \$2 million for 20 years. Requirements for the facility include a freshwater source, good roadway access, and labor. It takes approximately two years to produce weevils and up to three years from weevil introduction to control *Salvinia*. The weevil is currently being distributed by a Louisiana State University (LSU) facility in Houma, Louisiana; however, the facility has limited funding and an additional facility is needed to expand the process. The existing LSU facility provides weevils to landowners free of charge. The proposed facility would follow the same methodology. Weevils and *Salvinia* accidentally populated in Florida in the 1920's. Weevils have been used as a biological control for *Salvinia* in Australia since the 1980's. The first weevil facility in the United States was created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Center in Texas in 1999; this facility has released over two million weevils. Weevils have previously been released in Louisiana without evidence of damage to healthy marsh. USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) is currently operating a facility in Texas, which was opened in 2007. The weevil has been released in 13 countries and three continents. Weevils have been proven as an effective biological control for *Salvinia* at Delta Farms, and the release of the weevil can benefit many species of concern. Mr. Shaffer stated that there is an available space in Hammond, Louisiana that would work great for this facility. Mr. Randy Moertle, Clovelly Farms, stated that he is the land manager to 25,000 acres of land in coastal Louisiana. He has personally released weevils that he obtained from the LSU facility. When the Davis Pond diversion was opened after the oil spill, the increase in freshwater resulted in an explosion of *Salvinia*, which thrives in a freshwater environment. Sustained southeast winds will pick up the *Salvinia* and blanket it over the marsh. The *Salvinia* will then smother the existing emergent marsh. Manchac and Avery Island are experiencing high populations of *Salvinia*. If any entity should be concerned about the effects of the weevil, it would be the Tabasco facility. However, Tabasco is seeking the weevil to take control of *Salvinia* on Avery Island. This project uses a small amount of funding to achieve many benefits for marsh creation and habitat for at-risk species. Mr. Moertle has personally experienced a decrease in alligator nests and waterfowl hunting in areas with high *Salvinia* population. *Salvinia* can be killed using an herbicide; however, it is not affordable as the plant can double its population in four days. Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, agrees that *Salvinia* is a coastwide concern, including in Jefferson Parish. She asked if the United States National Park Service (NPS) would allow a non-native weevil within the parks. Mr. Paille replied that he is aware that there is a *Salvinia* problem but he is not sure if weevils have been released within the parks. Ms. Winter suggested that if the project is not funded through CWPPRA, RESTORE Act funding could be considered. Mr. Paille responded that USFWS will continue to seek funding. Ms. Cindy Steyer, NRCS, stated that *Salvinia* is contributing directly to land loss. She added that some areas have experienced a five to ten feet loss on the edges of emergent marsh due to *Salvinia*. She added that it appears that releasing weevils is a better solution to the *Salvinia* problem than herbicides. Ms. Steyer asked what distribution rate of the weevil is needed per acre to gain control of *Salvinia*. Mr. Moertle replied that the existing LSU Facility located in Bayou Black has freshwater ponds of roughly one acre in size. The facility grows *Salvinia* and tracks the weevil population. When the weevil population reaches a dense level, the facility notifies landowners. Mr. Chad Courville from Miami Corporation, many duck hunters, and

property owners from across the State arrive at the facility with buckets and burlap sacks. The facility has a conveyer belt that is lowered into the pond. Each person puts their bucket or sack under the conveyer belt and loads as much weevil-infested *Salvinia* as possible.

Nominations were closed for coast-wide projects.

5. Agenda Item #5, Announcement of Upcoming PPL 25, Task Force, Technical Committee and Other Meetings. Mr. Brown repeated that Parish representatives should coordinate with Mr. Wandell to register to participate in the Coastwide Electronic Voting on February 24, 2015. Additional dates are on the agenda.

6. Agenda Item #6, Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Team (RPT) Region 2, Lacombe, LA, 29 Jan 15, 10:00 am

1. Agenda Item #1, Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Brad Inman, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and RPT Region 2 Leader, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The purpose of the RPT meeting is to receive nominations and public comments for projects in Region 2. Region 2 consists of two basins; Barataria and Breton Sound. Mr. Inman welcomed Ms. Janet Rhodus, Launch Leeville, and Mr. Kevin Roy, United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

2. Agenda Item #2, Project Priority List (PPL) 25 Selection Process Brief Overview and Ground Rules for PPL 25 Nomination Meeting. Mr. Inman delivered a PowerPoint presentation, which is available online at the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) website. Mr. Inman asked that the parish-designated voters fill out a voting registration form and provide their contact information to Mr. Scott Wandell, USACE. Parishes eligible to vote for candidates in Region 2 are: Plaquemines, Jefferson, Orleans, Ascension, Assumption, St. Bernard, St. James, St. Charles, Lafourche, and St. John the Baptist.

Nominees must be consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. A project can be nominated from only one basin, except for coastwide projects. If a project crosses multiple basins, excluding coastwide projects, it should be nominated in one basin only, based on the majority area of project influence. Coastwide projects apply across basin boundaries; their benefits are not tied to one basin. Coastwide projects can be nominated from any basin and can be presented at any or all of the RPT meetings.

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4. Agenda Item #4, PPL Project Nominations (Entire RPT).

a. Mr. Inman opened the floor for nominations in the Barataria Basin.

#1 – East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project. This project was nominated by Ms. Janet Rhodus, Launch Leeville. The project was presented by Mr. Patrick Williams, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Problems in the project area include high land loss, strong winds, wave fetch, and tidal erosion. There are also heavy oil and gas exploration impacts in the project area. Leeville Proper, which is the area of Leeville occupied by residents and business owners, has not had any restoration projects to date under any programs. The area includes challenges such as oyster seed grounds and pipelines. Available data sets are relatively new compared to oil and gas exploration in Leeville, which traces back to the 1930's; because of this, there are many historic oil and gas fields, as well as cemeteries, that are not indicated in current data sets. The area west of Highway 1 is difficult to restore due to the hub of oil and gas fields and the area east of Highway 1 has been previously classified as inconsistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The project area was

subsequently clarified with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and the east side of Highway 1 was then determined to be consistent with the Master Plan. The project proposed to restore the framework of the natural marsh by creating “arch” shaped areas of marsh creation. Marsh creation cells have been selected by targeting shallow water areas. Additional cells have been identified for project expansion if warranted in the future. The project proposes to utilize a borrow site in Little Lake and a pipeline to discharge material to three marsh creation cells. The project totals 352 acres of marsh creation and 130 acres of marsh nourishment. The project will protect 326 net acres over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$25.1 million. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$34.9 million. Ms. Rhodus added that the project was nominated in PPL 24. The proposed project would protect the immediate Leeville Proper, which has a population of 30. She added that Mr. Windell Curole, South Lafourche Levee District, has stated that without the barrier of Leeville, Golden Meadow would have increased levee damage. This project is anticipated to take approximately five years from funding approval. Leeville may not survive five years without protection. The southwest canals at Bayou Lafourche have depths up to 35 feet, as well as high currents. If the north shoreline of the intersection of the canals is breached, Leeville will no longer be inhabitable. Ms. Amanda Phillips, Edward Wisner Land Management, offered to help in any way to expedite the project. Edward Wisner Land Management is the property owner for a majority of the project area. They support the project.

Mr. Inman thanked the members of the public for their attendance. The CWPPRA Program has constructed over 101 projects and spent over \$1 billion dollars in coastal Louisiana. He added that it is a challenging and frustrating process; however, projects are constructed.

#2 – Coffee Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The project is located near many existing projects; Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phases I and II (BA-27), Little Lake Shoreline Protection/Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake (BA-37), and Bayou L'Ours Ridge Hydrologic Restoration (BA-22). CPRA approved a small marsh creation component in 2014, which will aid the shoreline protection feature. The project area experiences erosion rates between ten and 70 feet per year. The project team considered an average erosion rate of 22 feet per year. The project proposes to construct 21,000 linear feet of foreshore rock dike with a 2-foot contour. The project plans to utilize the remaining borrow material from the BA-37 site in Little Lake to create 172 acres of marsh creation and 138 acres of marsh nourishment. The project will protect 28,000 feet of critical shoreline and 219 acres of marsh. It will protect 362 net acres over the 20-year project life. There project will experience challenges with nearby pipelines and the oyster seed ground in Little Lake. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$27 million. Mr. Randy Moertle, Clovelly Farms, stated that he is the property manager for land near the Bayou L'Ours Ridge. Clovelly Farms is in full support of the project. ConocoPhillips and the Parish have installed a series of terraces to protect the Ridge. Pipelines have caused openings and breakup throughout the ridge, which have been worsened by coastal storm and hog impacts.

#3 – Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Quin Kinler, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Problems include a widespread loss of emergent marsh, loss of landmass, and significant expansion of Barataria Bay. The project proposes to create 232 acres of marsh creation and 322 acres of marsh nourishment. It will utilize

traditional containment in the three marsh creation cells. The project area does not have any funded projects. The construction cost estimated including a 25% contingency is \$12 million

#4 – Bay Dosgris Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS. Problems include a widespread loss of emergent marsh and increased shoreline erosion against Little Lake and Turtle Bay. The project team proposes to use an arch alignment to construct 214 acres of marsh creation and 418 acres of marsh nourishment. The marsh creation and nourishment will directly benefit a total of 632 acres of marsh. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$15 million.

#5 – Barataria Bay Waterway East Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS. The project is located near Barataria Bay along an established corridor that has a long distance sediment pipeline from the Mississippi River. The project is consistent with the State Master Plan and proposes to construct 240 acres of marsh creation utilizing the long distance pipeline project. The cost estimate does not reflect the use of the pipeline; however, if the project could be advanced, it would reduce costs through synergies with the BA-34 project. The construction cost is \$31 million. Mr. Williams clarified that that the cost estimate does not include a 25% contingency. Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, thanked CWPPRA on behalf of Jefferson Parish. The Parish would like to leave the pipeline in place to support the synergy of all projects.

#6 – Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2. This project was presented by Mr. Adrian Chavarria, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project is consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. It proposes to create 257 acres and nourish 256 acres of back barrier marsh habitat utilizing sediment from an offshore borrow site. The project will supplement the existing project along Caminada Beach. The project team is proposing to construct the three cells, referred to as Option 2, immediately adjacent to the beach. The cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$20 to \$30 million. Ms. Winter, Jefferson Parish, stated that the project is in an area of need, which experienced breaches after recent storms. Jefferson Parish supports the project. Mr. Williams asked for the cost estimate that considers only the three proposed marsh creation cells, also referred to as Option2. Mr. Chavarria responded that the cost estimate for Option 2 is \$20.9 million. Ms. Phillips, Edward Wisner Land Management, is in support of the project.

#7 – Bayou Long Ridge Marsh and Ridge Restoration – Increment 1. This project was presented by Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS. The project is located in the lower Barataria Basin near the Grand Liard Ridge. As a framework to break up the wave fetch in the area, the project team proposes to create north-south ridges, which will later support marsh creation. The Parish has recently embarked on an effort to develop a ridge restoration plan for Plaquemines Parish. The project proposes to restore a ridge along the Empire Waterway. The ridge begins at Empire and continues to the Gulf of Mexico. The project proposes ridge restoration with segments of marsh creation. The marsh creation cells were aligned to consider the extensive pipelines in the project area. The project proposes to construct 142 acres of marsh creation utilizing 2.3 to 2.5 million cubic yards of material from the Mississippi, and roughly 9,500 linear feet of ridge habitat at an elevation of +5 feet NAVD 88, and an additional 10,000 linear feet of shoreline protection. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$40 million. Ms. Albertine Kimble,

Plaquemines Parish, stated that the Parish appreciates any help in protecting Grand Liard and the residents of Plaquemines Parish. Mr. J.O. Zach Lea, resident, asked if a pipeline will be constructed to transport the dredged material. Mr. Roy replied that a pipeline will cross the levee and highway infrastructures and then will be brought down the Empire Waterway. Mr. Ken Ragus, landowner, stated that the project was originally proposed in PPL 16. He added that ridge was located on the east bank in 2011 because, at the time, the east bank was shallower. The east bank was the last part of the ridge that existed. Many Empire residents use this waterway; it is a navigation channel and it should be on the USACE dredging schedule to sustain a depth of nine feet. He is in support of dredging the channel to create the ridge as loaded vessels are having problems navigating the channel.

#8 – Grand Bayou Marsh Creation and Terracing. This project was nominated by Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS. The project was selected as a PPL 24 candidate project; however, it was not selected for Phase I funding. The project is located along the Jefferson Canal, south of Lake Hermitage. The project extends from Highway 23 to the West Pointe à la Hache siphons. The project works cohesively with the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project, Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funded projects, and State projects to create a total of 1,000 acres of marsh. The project is near completion. The Bayou Grand Chenier project is also in the nearby area. The project team has worked to create a cost-effective project that will benefit the area and surrounding projects. The proposed project is located along Grand Bayou near Highway 23 and the Levee Protection Area. The project includes 190 acres of marsh creation and 175 acres of marsh nourishment surrounded by 21,700 linear feet of terracing. In an effort to reduce costs, another option, which considers 490 acres of marsh creation and 39,300 linear feet of terracing, was developed. The terracing has been relocated since PPL 24 and is now located on the west side of Grand Bayou. The Environmental and Engineering Work Groups should select the best alternative of the project. The project team proposes to use a borrow site in the Mississippi River to construct the 365 to 490 acres of marsh creation and nourishment. The project will protect between 219 and 396 net acres after the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$27.5 to \$28.4 million. Mr. Mel Landry, NMFS, asked if a ridge component was considered for the project. Mr. Roy replied that a ridge was considered; however, there was not a historical ridge in the area. The project team felt it was redundant to construct a ridge near the Bayou Grand Chenier ridge. Ms. Kimble stated that Plaquemines Parish prefers the marsh creation cells on the east side of the Bayou. Plaquemines Parish supports the project. Mr. Ragus, landowner, stated that there was a historic ridge on Grand Bayou. The ridge was inhabited by early Plaqueminian Indians. He added that rebuilding a ridge to the Gulf of Mexico would be a great project.

#9 – East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation and Terracing. This project was presented by Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS. The project area is north of Leeville on the east side of Bayou Lafourche. The project has received an extension from CPRA to remain consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The project was nominated in PPL 24; however, the project has been altered to create additional marsh near the Highway 1 corridor at the request of Lafourche Parish. The project proposes to construct 595 acres of marsh creation and 42,200 feet of terracing. The project is ambitious, but could be scaled according to available funding. The project will utilize borrow material in Little Lake to construct two marsh creation cells within existing open water areas in close proximity to Bayou Lafourche. The terracing is proposed in the open water area to the east of the marsh creation component. The terracing will reduce fetch and wave energy in the

open water areas. Borrow material will be pumped nine to ten miles and will require two boosters to reach the northern-most cell. The project will protect 524 net acres after the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$28.5 million.

#10 – Bay Coquette Ridge Restoration. This project was presented by Ms. Sharon Osowski, EPA. The project is located in Barataria Bay, west of Venice and “the wheel”. It is located at the end of Spanish Pass Ridge. The project provides additional sediment trapping for the proposed diversion. The project team has created two alternatives. Option B, which considered marsh creation with a ridge on the front side, is preferred by Plaquemines Parish. This option proposes to create 586 acres of marsh utilizing 2.9 million cubic yards of dredged material, 13,814 linear feet of ridge habitat, and 11,287 linear feet of living shoreline. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$30 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million.

#11 – Rattlesnake Bayou Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Ms. Sharon Osowski, EPA. The project is located near Port Sulphur and is consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The goal of the project is to create marsh along the canal, which will reduce wave erosion. The project has potential to use the Mississippi River as a borrow site. The project will create a total of 545 acres of marsh creation in three marsh creation cells. It will aid the existing ConocoPhillips P1 concept. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$17 million. Mr. John Jurgensen, NRCS, asked about the wells in the project area. Ms. Osowski replied that there are three active wells in the immediate project vicinity. The majority of wells in the project area are inactive or plugged. Ms. Kimble thanked the EPA for nominating the project. Plaquemines Parish supports the Bay Coquette Ridge Restoration and Rattlesnake Bayou Marsh Creation projects. Mr. Dubois asked if the living shoreline will be constructed with oyster mats. Ms. Osowski replied that the living shoreline will be constructed with a soft structure.

#12 – Spanish Pass Ridge and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Ms. Kimberly Clements, NMFS. The project consists of 10,250 linear feet of ridge creation and 370 acres of marsh creation running east to west from the Mississippi River. The project area has challenges such as pipelines and water depths. A borrow site in Yellow Cotton Bay has been identified. It is northwest of the project area and will be used to construct a ridge on the north side of the historic Spanish Pass Ridge. Areas have been identified for project expansion, if warranted. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$26.5 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million. Mr. Ragus, landowner, stated that the oyster leases in the area are likely not active, particularly near Yellow Cotton Ridge. As a result of dredging healthy marsh, areas in the channel that were previously 90 feet deep are now 13 to 14 feet deep. Ms. Clements responded that any dredged areas will be backfilled to marsh elevation. Mr. Jurgensen questioned the project’s consistency with the 2012 State Master Plan. Mr. Stuart Brown, CPRA, stated that this project is consistent with a feature of the Master Plan despite the inconsistency in borrow source. Ms. Kimble stated that Plaquemines Parish supports the project. Ms. Clements added that there will be added vegetative plantings.

#13 – Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery – Marsh Creation #4. This project was presented by Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA. This project was originally proposed in PPL 23 and was proposed again in PPL 24. Problems include the impacts of oil and gas exploration and wave fetch. It is consistent with the State Master Plan; it is a portion of a 9,070 acre marsh creation cell. The

solution is to build 300 acres of marsh creation using the pipeline corridor. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$22.5 million. Mr. Lea asked where the water will go after the sediment has been pumped into the area. He also asked if the project will have an impact on oyster production. Mr. Crawford replied that the relatively small amount of water would be delivered to the Barataria Basin. He added that freshwater would be beneficial to the basin. Ms. Winter, Jefferson Parish, stated that the Parish would like to see the project move forward. The Parish supports the long distance sediment pipeline. Mr. Crawford replied that the project team plans to continue the concept of the long distance sediment pipeline. Ms. Kimble stated that Plaquemines Parish is not concerned about the water as a result of pumping. The Parish fully supports the project.

#14 – Grand Pierre Island Restoration This project was presented by Mr. Mel Landry, NMFS. The proposed project represents a significant milestone for the State. Aside from Grand Pierre Island, every barrier island in the State has been restored or has funding to restoration. This island is the final jewel in the Gulf of Mexico perimeter defense for Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Orleans, and East Lafourche. It is the missing link within 50 miles of barrier islands and headlands. The project will aid marsh creation projects in Barataria Bay. If the island is lost, the result would be the widest pass in the Barataria Basin. The island has not been identified by the State as a priority for restoration under any funding mechanism. The project proposes typical barrier island restoration of the beach and berm. The project team has identified the borrow sources previously used for Chenier Ronquille. The Team is very confident that the required 1.45 million cubic yards of borrow is available from these locations due to back fill. This will complete the Barataria Basin's barrier island restoration by creating 127 acres of beach and dune. It will also create and nourish 229 acres of marsh. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$19.2 million. Ms. Kimble stated that Plaquemines Parish is in support of the project. Ms. Winter, Jefferson Parish, added that Jefferson Parish also supports the project. Ms. Winter asked if the project could be considered for National Park Service (NPS) Historic Preservation Fund Grants, if the project was not funded through CWPPRA. Mr. Landry responded that Grand Pierre Island is not on the list for Historic Preservation Funds.

#15 – Wilkinson Canal Marsh Creation and Terracing. This project was presented by Mr. Patrick Williams, NMFS. The project proposes to construct 465 acres of marsh creation and 24,150 linear feet of terracing within a 345-acre terrace field utilizing a borrow site in the Mississippi River. The borrow site is located adjacent to Poverty Point. The project will protect 399 net acres after the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$28.1 million. The project team will consider dropping the 65-acre site, which will make the construction cost approximately \$25 million, if necessary.

Nominations were closed for the Barataria Basin.

b. Mr. Inman opened the floor for nominations in the Breton Sound Basin.

#1 – 40 Arpent Canal Diversion. This project was presented by Mr. Loland Broussard, NRCS. The project began four to five years ago as a part of the South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16) project. The project is located near the Caernarvon Conversion at the Caernarvon Outfall. The majority of the outfall flows through Bayou Mandeville and into Lake

Lery, then to the Gulf of Mexico. There is a 7,000-acre area which receives very few benefits from the existing project. The BS-16 and Terracing & Marsh Creation South of Big Mar (BS-24) projects benefit the south and eastern side of Lake Lery. The north side of the lake has not been addressed. The north side of Lake Lery was one of the largest land loss areas in the State immediately following Hurricane Katrina, and has had little to no recovery as of 2013. The project proposes to clear the 40 Arpent Canal to the Credece Canal including several diversion openings to the 7,000-acre area. In addition, the project will construct a water conveyance system from the Caernarvon Diversion Outfall Channel into the 40 Arpent Canal, create 100 acres of emergent marsh along the perimeter of Lake Lery, construct a series of earthen terraces to reduce fetch and trap sediment, and create a living shoreline to protect the northern bankline of Lake Lery. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$10 million. Mr. Blaise Pezold, resident of Kenilworth, St. Bernard Parish, is in support of the project and hopes that it is added to the 2017 Master Plan.

Mr. Brown stated that the project is not consistent with the 2012 Master Plan. He urged Mr. Broussard to nominate the project to be considered for the 2017 Master Plan.

Nominations were closed for the Breton Sound Basin.

c. Mr. Inman opened the floor for nominations for coastwide projects.

Nominations were closed for coastwide projects.

d. Mr. Inman opened the floor for nominations for demonstration projects.

Nominations were closed for demonstration projects.

Mr. Inman thanked Ms. Michelle Fischer, United States Geological Survey (USGS), for providing geographic information system (GIS) maps and Mr. Randy Perkins for operating the sound equipment. He also thanked Mr. James Harris for use of the facility. It was a great facility and it was appreciated.

5. Agenda Item #5, Announcement of Upcoming PPL 24, Task Force, Technical Committee and Other Meetings. Mr. Inman announced that the Coastwide Electronic Voting will be on February 24, 2015 and the Technical Committee meeting will be on April 16, 2015. Additional dates are on the agenda.

6. Agenda Item #6, Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Team (RPT) Region 3, Houma, LA, 28 Jan 15, 9:00 am

1. Agenda Item #1, Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Ron Boustany, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and RPT Region 3 Leader, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The purpose of the RPT meeting is to receive nominations and public comments for projects in Region 3. Region 3 consists of three basins; Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, and Teche-Vermilion. Mr. Boustany welcomed Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish; Mr. Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish; Mr. Kevin Sagrera, Vermilion Parish; and Mr. Robert Freeman, Iberia Parish. Mr. Boustany acknowledged the former Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron, for her new position as the Director of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). Mr. Boustany introduced CWPPRA Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee and Work Group members Mr. Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); Mr. John Jurgensen, NRCS; Mr. Stuart Brown, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Mr. Kevin Roy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and Mr. Adrian Chavarria, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Boustany introduced Ms. Michelle Fischer, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), who provided geographic information system (GIS) maps of the 2012 State Master Plan. Mr. Boustany asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Agenda Item #2, Project Priority List (PPL) 25 Selection Process Brief Overview and Ground Rules for PPL 25 Nomination Meeting. Mr. Boustany delivered a PowerPoint presentation, which is available online at the CWPPRA website. Mr. Boustany asked that the parish-designated voters fill out a voting registration form and provide their contact information to Mr. Jurgensen. Parishes eligible to vote for nominees in Region 3 are: St. Mary, Terrebonne, Assumption, Lafourche, Iberia, and St. Martin.

Nominees must be consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. A project can be nominated from only one basin, except for coastwide projects. If a project crosses multiple basins, excluding coastwide projects, it should be nominated in one basin only, based on the majority area of project influence. Coastwide projects apply across basin boundaries; their benefits are not tied to one basin. Coastwide projects can be nominated from any basin and can be presented at any or all of the RPT meetings.

Presenters were asked to complete a project information sheet for each project nominee, including demonstration project nominees, with the name of the proposed project and the presenter's contact information, if a fact sheet was not provided. Mr. Boustany announced that Mr. Jurgensen could help attendees fill out this form if they required assistance. Presentations should be limited to five minutes and five PowerPoint slides. Public comments on project proposals will be accepted orally during the meeting and in writing until February 18, 2015. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Inman. Mr. Boustany asked that attendees limit comments and questions to the PPL 25 proposals and processes.

Coastwide projects propose a technique applicable across the entire coast. Only one coastwide nominee may be selected during the Coastwide Electronic Voting on February 24, 2015. The Technical Committee may or may not select a coastwide project at the April 16, 2015 meeting. Demonstration projects demonstrate a technology which can be transferred to other areas in coastal Louisiana. The Engineering and Environmental Work Groups will determine whether or not a project meets CWPPRA criteria. The RPT will select up to six demonstration projects; the Technical Committee may select up to three demonstration projects at the April 16, 2015 meeting. The Work Groups may recommend that no demonstration projects move into the candidate stage. Previous demonstration projects must be re-nominated to be considered for PPL 25.

3. Agenda Item #3, Explanation of Coastwide Voting Process. The Coastwide Electronic Voting will be held on February 24, 2015. The RPTs will select four projects per basin in the Terrebonne and Barataria Basins; three projects per basin in the Pontchartrain, Mermentau, and Breton Sound Basins; two projects per basin in the Teche-Vermilion and Calcasieu-Sabine Basins; and one project in the Atchafalaya Basin. If proposed, one coastwide project may be chosen for inclusion as a nominee. In addition, the RPTs will select up to six demonstration projects for further evaluation.

Parishes must identify their voting representative at the RPT meeting to be eligible to vote. No additional projects can be nominated and no significant changes can be made to projects after the RPT meeting. If projects overlap, nominators will have the option to combine them into one project prior to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Boustany explained the voting process. Excel spreadsheets will be provided to the voting representatives one week prior to the vote. Voters must email or fax their votes to Ms. Allison Murry, USACE, by 10:30 am on February 24, 2015.

Following the Coastwide Electronic Voting, an agency will be assigned to each project to prepare a fact sheet and map if one is not already prepared. The CWPPRA Engineering and Environmental Work Groups will then review the draft features and assign preliminary costs and benefits. They will also verify that the coastwide and demonstration projects meet PPL 25 requirements.

Mr. Boustany reviewed the remaining steps in the PPL 25 process. Ten candidate projects and up to three demonstration projects will be selected on April 16, 2015 at the Technical Committee Meeting. Written public comments should be submitted to Mr. Inman at the addresses in the agenda by April 2, 2015. Oral comments will be accepted at the Technical Committee Meeting. Candidate projects will undergo further review between May and October, and the Technical Committee will vote to recommend up to four projects for Phase I Engineering & Design (E&D) on December 10, 2015. The Task Force will make the final decision in January 2016.

4. Agenda Item #4, PPL Project Nominations (Entire RPT).

a. Mr. Boustany opened the floor for nominations in the Teche-Vermilion Basin.

#1 – Northwest Vermilion Bay Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection. This project was presented by Mr. Ralph Libersat on behalf of Vermilion Parish. This project is located on the northwest shoreline of Vermilion Bay. The project will protect and benefit approximately 3,400 acres of wetlands. The main feature of the project consists of 18,000 linear feet of shoreline protection; the project also creates 206 acres of marsh behind the shoreline protection structure. The project will mimic the East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation & Terracing (TE-09) project, which accumulated sediments after the rock embankment was constructed. The project area has experienced accelerated erosion and several shoreline breaches. The shoreline protection containment will be determined in E&D; however, the structure will be designed to allow sediment to pass over the top of the structure. Vermilion Parish would like to consider earthen material for willow tree plantings. The construction cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$27 million. Mr. Sagraera added that the Coastal Restoration Committee of Vermilion Parish fully supports this project, which will protect the cities just north of the project area.

#2 – West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Adrian Chavarria, EPA, and Ms. Cindy Steyer, NRCS. The project area has experienced both wetland loss and shoreline erosion due to the compounding effects of subsidence, storm surge, sea level rise, and altered hydrology. The project is jointly-sponsored by NRCS and EPA. It will include 17,045 linear feet of shoreline armoring along Vermilion Bay between Bayou Prien and Hog Bayou, as well as 465 acres of marsh creation and nourishment utilizing a borrow source in Vermilion Bay. If protection is not completed, there is a risk of breaching into Vermilion Bay. The project team would prefer unconfined marsh creation where possible. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is estimated at \$20 million. Mr. Randy Moertle, Rainey Conservation Alliance and McIlhenny Enterprises, stated that the project is located on State property. Members of the Rainey Conservation Alliance own the land east of Freshwater Bayou Channel. The Alliance has worked with both agencies and is in full support of the project. Mr. Cassidy Lejeune, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), added that the project falls entirely on property owned and managed by LDWF. The LDWF is in full support of the project and is investigating taking responsibility for the liability of the project after completion. Mr. Sagraera added that the project is key to the Parish and expressed his appreciation that the State is considering maintaining the project following its 20-year life in CWPPRA.

#3 – South Humble Marsh Creation and Nourishment. This project was presented by Mr. Ronald Paille, USFWS. This project will protect the Freshwater Bayou Canal and associated freshwater ponds. Problems in the area include saltwater intrusion and hydrologic changes associated with increasing tidal influence, storm surge impacts, and herbivory. The project will create and nourish 516 acres of marsh and will fill in some existing open water areas while adding tidal creeks and vegetation. Boat traffic is creating tidal energy, which is moving water both in and out of the marsh. The marsh creation component would reduce wave fetch utilizing material from the Gulf of Mexico. The construction cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$26 million and the project will result in 294 net acres after the 20-year project life.

#4 – Lake Sand Complex Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Ms. Cindy Steyer, NRCS. The 2,010-acre project area on the eastern tip of Marsh Island Refuge has been severely impacted by storms, which have fragmented the marsh platforms that separate three lakes, and the marsh is at risk for breaching. The project proposes to add 16,740

linear feet of rock breakwaters in addition to 275 acres of marsh creation and 156 acres of unconfined marsh nourishment. This project will aid the nearby Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) project and work synergistically with other nearby CWPPRA projects. The project will use borrow material remaining from the East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21) project. The landowner fully supports the project. The construction cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$20 million. Mr. Lejeune added that the project area is on a refuge owned by LDWF. There are concerns that the interior lakes will be captured by Cote Blanche Bay. LDWF has volunteered to accept liability and ownership for the shoreline protection feature after project completion. Mr. Robert Freeman, Iberia Parish Soil and Water Conservation District, added that this project is very important and is supported by the Parish.

Mr. Brown stated that an additional 400 acres of marsh creation and nourishment is not consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. He urged project nominators to work with CPRA prior to the RPT meetings. The marsh creation feature will not be supported by CPRA and cannot be voted upon. The shoreline protection feature is supported by the 2012 State Master Plan. The project nominators agreed to revise the project and fact sheet to include only the shoreline protection component. The revised project will construct 20,262 linear feet of rock breakwater shoreline protection. It will protect 125 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency for the revised project is \$15.2 million.

Nominations were closed for the Teche-Vermilion Basin.

b. Mr. Boustany opened the floor for nominations in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Nominations were closed for the Atchafalaya Basin.

c. Mr. Boustany opened the floor for nominations in the Terrebonne Basin.

#1 – Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Ms. Mary Frances Cannata, Vandebilt Catholic High School; Ms. Mallory Robichaux, South Terrebonne High School; and Mr. Hayden Robichaux, South Terrebonne High School, representing the Wetlands Discovery Center and Youth Advisory Council of Terrebonne Parish on behalf of Mr. Boustany. The project is sponsored by NRCS. It is located in Bayou Dularge at Grand Pass. The Bayou Dularge Ridge has historically restricted the salinity in Lake Mechant. Grand Pass, which is a 900-foot cut in the ridge, has allowed unhealthy amounts of saltwater to enter Central Terrebonne marshes. This project proposes to sustain and rebuild the historic ridge, as well as nourish the existing marsh, which has been damaged by storm surge. The project will aid the existing Lake Chapeau Sediment Input and Hydrologic Restoration, Point Au Fer Island (TE-26) project and work cohesively with corporate investments to the north. The project includes 354 acres of marsh creation and 30,567 linear feet of ridge restoration along the southern bank of Bayou Dularge. Material will be bucket dredged from Bayou Dularge to avoid dredging healthy marsh. The proposed ridge height ranges from four to six feet. Ms. Betsy Brien, ConocoPhillips, thanked the students for their presentation. ConocoPhillips is the landowner in the project area and fully supports the project. Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron, Director of BTNEP, thanked Mr. Boustany and Mr. Jurgensen for engaging the students. Ms. Wendy Billiot, Bayou Dularge resident and business owner, supports the project. Ms. Billiot is a tour guide and has

experienced the shoreline erosion first hand. The project will work synergistically with Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement (TE-66). Mr. Matherne added that he participated in a field trip to the project area last year. Many parties were excited about the project and it was very disappointing to discover the cost prohibitive features, including dredging healthy marsh to create the ridge and then recreating that marsh. He thanked Mr. Boustany and Mr. Jurgensen for altering the project, which will protect a critical feature of western Terrebonne Parish. Mr. Chaisson stated that Lafourche Parish supports the project. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is estimated at \$18.3 million.

#2 – Cocodrie East Marsh Creation and Ridge Restoration. This project was presented by Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA. The project features 9,302 linear feet of living shoreline, 511 acres of marsh creation, and 219 acres of marsh nourishment, which includes tidal creeks and ponds. Mr. Chavarria added that the project is currently considering an earthen berm for a living shoreline feature. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$30 million.

Mr. Brown stated that 700 acres of marsh creation and nourishment is not consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. He added that the ridge restoration component is consistent. He again urged project nominators to work with CPRA prior to presenting projects at the RPT meetings. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Chavarria agreed to reconfigure the marsh creation components to remain consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan and update the fact sheet accordingly.

#3 – Bayou De Cade Bankline and Marsh Restoration. This project was presented by Ms. Kimberly Clements, National Marine and Fisheries Service (NMFS). The project is located southwest of Houma in the Terrebonne Basin. Problems in the area include high land loss rates and high subsidence. The area has experienced a 20% land loss from 1932 to 1990. It is currently estimated that between 4,500 and 6,500 acres are lost per year. Additionally, saltwater intrusion has caused a loss of brackish habitat, which is used for fisheries. The project proposes to consider two options; the first consists of 400 acres of marsh creation and 10,560 linear feet of ridge construction, and the second consists of 335 acres of marsh creation and 15,400 linear feet of ridge construction. Material will be sourced from a borrow area in either Lake De Cade or Raccourci Bay. The first option would avoid mitigation costs associated with camps in the area. The ridge would be constructed to a +5 feet NAVD88 elevation with a 20-foot width. The total habitat restored ranges from 362 to 418 acres, which includes 335 or 400 acres of marsh and two to three miles of ridge. This project would provide support to the existing TE-09 project. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$22.6 million. Mr. Blaise Pezold, Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District, asked if modeling has been done for surge alignment. Ms. Clements responded that she is unaware of modeling efforts for the project-specific features. Mr. Brown added that modeling was completed for the 2012 State Master Plan, but it was completed collectively.

#4 – Bayou Jean Lacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing. The project was presented by Ms. Kimberly Clements, NMFS. The wetland loss for the Wonder Lake sub-unit is 0.87% per year. There is limited protection in the area. The project will restore 360 acres of marsh creation south of the Twin Pipeline and 390 acres of terraces. The terracing will be restricted to 10% of the costs, or 17 acres of terracing, to remain consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The terracing will reduce the fetch in open water areas and will aid the marsh creation components.

The project re-establishes a portion of historic Bayou Jean Lacroix. The project supports the efforts of Ducks Unlimited and TE-09 in the project area. The construction cost plus a 25% contingency is \$20.5 million. Mr. Matherne stated that there has been a lot of work to advance the project and thanked the agencies for their support. He added that the project protects a road recently reconstructed by the Parish for approximately \$8 million. The roadway provides the only vehicle access for a Native American community on Isle De Jean Charles. The project also supports habitat on the Isle. Mr. Chaisson gave the project his full support. Ms. Brien stated that ConocoPhillips is the landowner in the project area and fully supports the Parish and project.

#5 – Bayou Lafourche Twin Pipeline Marsh Restoration. This project was presented by Ms. Kimberly Clements, NMFS. The project is located south of Golden Meadow near Highway 1. The land loss rate in the Pointe-aux-Chenes State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) subunit is an estimated 0.89% per year. The marsh creation cell will be placed in an open water area on the west side of Highway 1. The project will create and nourish 400 acres of marsh in addition to 37 acres of terraces utilizing a borrow source from Little Lake. The project will reduce wave erosion from Belle Pass to Golden Meadow, support the TE-09 project, and promote the protection of Highway 1. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is estimated at \$25 million. Mr. Chaisson stated that he fully supports the project and added that protection to Highway 1 is critical for the Parish. There are over 2,000 people that travel Highway 1 daily to Port Fourchon, which supports 90% of deep-water oil and gas explorations in the Gulf of Mexico and 20% of gas in the United States. Port Fourchon is an economic driver to the Parish and contributes \$67 million to the State and \$1.2 billion to the national economy. Due to tide and sea-level rise, the sole access to the Port through Highway 1 is limited over 20 times per year. Ms. Leslie Suazo, Ducks Unlimited, added that her agency is in partnership with ConocoPhillips and CPRA to create a small marsh creation component near the project vicinity. The proposed project would coordinate with her agency's project successfully. Mr. Darin Lee asked for the project elevation. Mr. Chaisson replied that LA 1 is expected to run parallel with the existing Highway 1, which may cause some mitigation issues, but Lafourche Parish is working with EPA to reduce the effects. Mr. Mel Landry, NMFS, asked the cost of the proposed LA 1 project. Mr. Chaisson replied that the cost will be approximately \$340 million, and it will hopefully be sponsored by the LA Coalition.

#6 – South Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing. This project was presented by Mr. Ron Boustany, NRCS. The project presents a new concept that combines marsh creation and terracing. The Louisiana coast has a lot of historic bayous. The bayous increase in elevation along the banks to create a ridge. Over time, subsidence occurs and breakdown continues due to hurricane damage or salinity intrusion, which creates large open water areas. Many of the open water areas are too large to feasibly conduct marsh creation projects for the entire area. In an effort to optimize the use of borrow materials, this concept was created to strategically place fill into marsh creation "islands", which are then strategically surrounded by terracing. The marsh creation component is an anchor that is stabilized by terracing. The proposed project area is south of Catfish Lake and contains a large, open water area. The project will create 170 acres of marsh surrounded by terracing utilizing borrow material from Catfish Lake. There are significant benefits to species of concern and fish habitats due to the remaining functional shallow water areas. Mr. Chaisson thanked Mr. Boustany for his nomination. Lafourche Parish has experienced several successful projects in the northern rim from CIAP, Ducks Unlimited,

and ConocoPhillips; this project will support the existing infrastructure. Mr. Moertle stated that some of the highest value to landowners is leases for alligator and waterfowl activities. The project area is used for hunting and he fully supports the concept of combining marsh creation and terracing. Mr. Moertle has experienced a decrease in alligator nest counts and waterfowl hunting when marsh creation is added without open water. Ms. Leslie Suazo, Ducks Unlimited, thanked Mr. Boustany for nominating the project and offered to coordinate efforts for creating synergy with existing projects.

#7 – South Bayou Pointe aux Chenes Marsh Creation and Terraces. This project was presented by Mr. Ron Boustany, NRCS. The project area is a complex open water area. It is located near borrow sources in the Bay, Lake Felicity, and Catfish Lake. The project proposes to re-establish and nourish marsh utilizing 250 acres of marsh creation and terracing centered on the existing marsh remnants in the 1,200-acre project area. Mr. Matherne stated that the concept of this project should create more benefits per dollar spent and has tremendous potential for future applications. He added that, if warranted, the terracing could be filled in at a later date. Mr. Jonathan Foret, Wetlands Discovery Center, stated that he encourages his students to think outside of the box. He added that his students are excited for this concept and he thanked Mr. Boustany for introducing the project and concept. Mr. Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish, added that the State Master Plan is about sustainability. This project is sustainable and spends funds in a way that will last.

#8 – Grand Bayou Freshwater Enhancement. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The project area is between Bayou Lafourche and Bayou Terrebonne, south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). It was a PPL 23 candidate project and is being proposed again. Problems include increasing salinities, subsidence, and continued marsh loss south of the project area. There has also been a loss of freshwater flow from the GIWW. CRMS data displays that marsh in the project area has changed from fresh and intermediate marsh to a more saline environment from 2005 to 2014. The project proposes to dredge the existing four to five-foot-deep Grand Bayou to a ten to 12-foot depth near the GIWW, which will increase the flow of freshwater from 600 cfs. to 1600 cfs. The dredged material will be deposited into the existing fresh and intermediate marsh, as well as some open water areas. An existing earthen plug will be removed to further increase freshwater flow. The project will create 126 acres of marsh, replace an existing rock plug, remove the existing earthen plug, and increase freshwater flow to 325 acres of marsh. Increasing freshwater flow to the marsh may benefit rare species of concern, such as bald eagles, mottled duck, and brown pelicans. The project will protect 676 net acres over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$15 million. Mr. Lee asked if the project team has coordinated with the Levee District to confirm that the closure gate can handle 1,600 cfs. Mr. Dubois replied that the project will consider the USACE recommendation when permitting takes place. Mr. Matherne stated that the project is considered a part of the 2012 State Master Plan “Atchafalaya Flow to Eastern Terrebonne Marshes” project. Mr. Chaisson thanked Mr. Dubois for his nomination. He added that increased freshwater is needed in this rapidly disappearing marsh. Lafourche Parish supports this project.

#9 – Bayou Barre Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The proposed project is not a part of the 2012 State Master Plan; however, the project received

an exemption in PPL 24. It is located between Bayou Lafourche and Bayou Terrebonne. This area has experienced wetlands loss due to subsidence, salt water intrusion, and oil and gas activities. The land loss rate was approximately 2.29% per year from 1982 to 2011. The project proposes to create 400 acres of marsh in five cells utilizing material from a borrow site in Wonder Lake. There have not been any CWPPRA projects located in the project area; however, the proposed project would work synergistically with the existing Madison Bay and Island Project. The project protects 353 net acres over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$25.6 million.

#10 – Lake Felicity Oyster Reef Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The immediate project area has experienced erosion rates ranging from 29.53 to 4.65 feet per year, and land loss rates in the nearby interior marshes range from three to 34 feet per year. The project proposes to install 22,000 linear feet of gabion mat structures and 8,000 linear feet of concrete, oyster reef foreshore structures. The project will also create 132 acres and nourish an additional ten acres of intertidal marsh utilizing hydraulic dredging. The proposed gabion mat structures have been proven effective by the Terrebonne Bay Shore Protection Demonstration (TE-45) project. The mats are 5’ wide, 20’ long, 1’ deep, and are filled with limestone. When compared to rock alternatives, the gabion mat structure has lower maintenance costs and can withstand hurricane damage. The project will protect 221 net acres of brackish marsh after the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$19 million. Mr. Jurgensen proposed that the project team consider a large area of marsh creation as opposed to numerous small marsh creation cells. Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish, stated that an oyster-based artificial shoreline would be beneficial to this area. Terrebonne Parish supports this project. Mr. Tyler Ortego, Wayfarer, stated that his company constructs the proposed artificial oyster reefs. The company is working to increase production capacity and hopes to be able to install 600 feet of shoreline per day of construction.

#11 – Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Stuart Brown, CPRA. The proposed project was evaluated by the Environmental and Engineering work groups in PPL 23. The project is located near Terrebonne Bay, which was historically structured by north and south ridges that formed from distributaries of Bayou Lafourche. The historic ridges have subsided and exist today as low-lying marsh. The proposed project will rebuild 3.9 miles of the Bayou Terrebonne Ridge, 7,100 feet of artificial oyster reef, and prevent saltwater flow to the basin. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$21.2 million. Mr. Matherne added that this nomination is more palatable for the CWPPRA Program compared to the previous, larger proposal. The project would be beneficial for local fisherman by utilizing the bayou as a borrow source. Terrebonne Parish supports the project. Ms. Clements stated that as the Project Manager of a similar project, Bayou Grand Liard, she recommends considering utilizing the bayou and interior marshes as a borrow source.

#12 – East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing. This project was presented by Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS. The project is located in an area near Leeville and Catfish Lake. It was proposed in PPLs 23 and 24; the project has not received any significant changes to project features after review from the Environmental and Engineering Workgroups in 2014. The project proposes 610 acres of marsh creation in multiple cells, as well as two cells of terracing that total 26,000 linear feet. The project team would consider utilizing the proposed marsh creation

“island” and terracing methodology as presented by Mr. Ron Boustany. The project area includes many pipelines, which increase the challenges of the project. There are two proposed borrow areas within Catfish Lake. The project creates and protects 501 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$15.9 million. Ms. Amanda Voisin, Lafourche Parish, stated that the Parish is in support of this project.

#13 – Small Bayou Lapointe Marsh and Ridge Restoration. This project was presented by Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS. The project is located near Lake Mechant and was presented in PPLs 23 and 24. The historic bayou has deteriorated to a remnant channel with sections of marsh platforms. The project proposes to create 18,500 linear feet, or 23 acres, of ridge habitat that will work synergistically with the North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44) project. The project team has considered creating the ridge on both the north and south sides of the historic bayou. Ridge restoration will lower salinity from nine to four parts per thousand (ppt.). The proposed project will reduce wave fetch between Lake Mechant and Caillou Lake. The project will protect 279 net acres over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$24.7 million. Mr. Matherne asked what the negative consequences of dredging the bayou are. Mr. Jurgensen stated that the Bayou Dularge Project created ridge utilizing material from the south side of the historic ridge. The project then replaced the dredged marsh. He added that the distance between the bayou and the ridge may cause a need for a containment dike. Dredging the bayou could potentially reduce costs; however, it would need to be considered by the Environmental and Engineering Work groups. Mr. Darin stated that if the ridge is created on the north side of Bayou Dupont, the project may negate the existing TE-44 project. He recommended considering ridge creation on the south side of the Bayou.

#14 – Raccoon Island West Reclamation Project. This project was presented by Mr. Loland Broussard, NRCS. The project was first presented in 2008 for PPL 18. In the last ten to 15 years, many barrier islands have been restored. Barrier islands are the first line of defense in hurricane protection. Raccoon Island is the last island in the Isle Dernières Chain needing restoration. The island is located between Whiskey Island and Trinity Island. The size of the island has been declining due to the loss of the island’s shoulder, which previously was used to naturally rebuild the island spit. Breakwaters were constructed in 1997, but losses have continued as a result of coastal storms. The project proposes to close the existing breach in the island, construct additional breakwaters, and replenish the island’s sand shoulder utilizing an estimated 750,000 cubic yards of material. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is estimated at \$25 million, which includes vegetative plantings for the existing island. Mr. Lejeune thanked Mr. Broussard for nominating the project. The Isle Dernière Refuge is owned by the State and is the location of a significant bird colony. There are approximately 60,000 nests of species of concern located on Raccoon Island. The island is visited by several hundred thousand birds, including migratory birds in winter months. Mr. Landry added that expanding an existing colony is much different than building habitat elsewhere. Mr. Lejeune confirmed that it is important to expand existing colonies, as it is known that birds already inhabit the area. Ms. Billiot stated that as a tour guide, she has taken tourists to view the birds on Raccoon Island. She added that there are many birds on the right side of the island, and there is a preferred fishing spot on the opposite end. The birds are overcrowded and it is an ideal place to create bird habitat. Restoration of barrier islands is the first line of defense for the entire coastal area. Mr. Mike Carles, Ducks Unlimited, is a former LDWF employee. He stated that he has previously tried to relocate

pelicans; however, it is very difficult and the pelicans prefer to return to the existing habitat. He thanked all agencies that have listed the species of concern affected by the nominated projects.

#15 – West Leeville Marsh Creation and Shoreline Stabilization. This project was presented by Adrian Chavarria, EPA, at the Region 2 RPT Meeting in Lacombe, LA. The P&E Subcommittee agreed that the project would be accepted for the Terrebonne Basin. The EPA has been working with ConocoPhillips to develop this project. The project is consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan and is located next to Lake Raccourci. There have been 324,000 acres lost in the area from 1932 to 2010, and the area has experienced the highest land loss rate across the State from 1985 to 2004. The project team has identified four cells for marsh creation, which will be located adjacent to the shoreline stabilization component to reduce erosion and wave energies. The project will create and nourish 400 acres of emergent marsh with sediment from Little Lake and armor approximately 12,500 linear feet of shoreline along the Southwest Louisiana Canal. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$24.3 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$25 to \$30 million. Mr. Dubois asked what type of armoring the project team has considered. Mr. Chavarria responded that the project team is proposing rock.

Mr. Matherne made a general comment that was not project-specific. He stated that Terrebonne Parish has not finalized their prioritization of nominees. He added that the preliminary priority projects for the Parish include the Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation, Lake Felicity Oyster Reef Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation, Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation, South Bayou Point aux Chenes Marsh Creation and Terraces, and Bayou Jean Lacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing projects. He added that the Parish will also support the Cocodrie East Marsh Creation and Ridge Restoration project, if it is supported by the 2012 State Master Plan. The Parish will prioritize projects based on emergency need; however, they appreciate and support all of the projects.

Nominations were closed for the Terrebonne Basin.

c. Mr. Boustany opened the floor for nominations for coastwide projects.

#1 – Southwest Louisiana Salvinia Weevil Propagation. This project was presented by Mr. Ronald Paille, USFWS. *Salvinia* is an invasive, exotic aquatic plant that can form dense colonies up to 6” thick. *Salvinia* harms fish and wildlife habitats by depleting oxygen and blocking sunlight for native plants. The project consists of developing and operating a facility on existing ponds, provided by USFWS in the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), to produce the Brazilian *cyrobagous salvinae* weevil, which is a biological control for *Salvinia*. The facility will distribute the weevil throughout the State to control the fast-growing *Salvinia* in freshwater marshes along the coast. The estimated construction cost is \$67,000 and the total cost to develop and operate the facility is \$1 million for ten years or \$2 million for 20 years. Requirements for the facility include a freshwater source, good roadway access, and labor. It takes approximately two years to produce weevils and up to three years from weevil introduction to control *Salvinia*. The weevil is currently being distributed by a Louisiana State University (LSU) facility in Houma, Louisiana; however, the facility has limited funding and an additional facility is needed to expand the process. The existing LSU facility provides weevils to landowners free of charge. The proposed facility would follow the same methodology. Weevils and *Salvinia* accidentally

populated in Florida in the 1920's. Weevils have been used as a biological control for *Salvinia* in Australia since the 1980's. The first weevil facility in the United States was created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Center in Texas in 1999; this facility has released over two million weevils. Weevils have previously been released in Louisiana without evidence of damage to healthy marsh. USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) is currently operating a facility in Texas, which was opened in 2007. The weevil has been released in 13 countries and three continents. Weevils have been proven as an effective biological control for *Salvinia* at Delta Farms, and the release of the weevil can benefit many species of concern. Mr. Landry asked if the project could be used in conjunction with a hatchery in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Mr. Paille replied that soft, surface water is best for *Salvinia* growth and weevil production. He added that the proposed location in the Lavasinne NWR is ideal as the Refuge is invested in the problem.

Nominations were closed for coastwide projects.

d. Mr. Boustany opened the floor for nominations for demonstration projects.

#1 – Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR Panel). This project was presented by Mr. David Minton, Cypress Group, on behalf of Dr. John Foret, NMFS. The Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR) Panel is an alternative to shoreline rock, rip rap dikes. The SPPR panel has been installed on the north bank of the GIWW. It is an individual panel system without carbon or steel, which can withstand saltwater environments. Each panel weighs approximately 1,500 lbs. and has a net effective barring weight of 80 lbs. per square foot. When compared to traditional rip rap, the cost savings are estimated to be \$300 to \$400 per foot. The benefits of the SPPR panel include the use of concrete instead of rock, reduced construction costs, reduced maintenance, and the ability to install in shallow water. Project installation timelines and costs can be reduced through the use of the SPPR panel. The 2012 State Master Plan estimates the cost of rip rap for all projects will total \$1.85 billion. If the proposed Master Plan rip rap was replaced with SPPR paneling, the estimated cost would be reduced to a total of \$869 million, saving nearly \$1 billion.

Nominations were closed for demonstration projects.

5. Agenda Item #5, Announcement of Upcoming PPL 25, Task Force, Technical Committee and Other Meetings. Mr. Boustany announced that the Coastwide Electronic Voting will be on February 24, 2015 and the Technical Committee meeting will be on April 16, 2015. Additional dates are on the agenda.

6. Agenda Item #6, Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Team (RPT) Region 4, Lafayette, LA, 27 Jan 15, 11:00 am

1. Agenda Item #1, Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and RPT Region 4 Leader, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The purpose of the RPT meeting is to receive nominations and public comments for projects in Region 4. Region 4 consists of two basins: Calcasieu-Sabine and Mermentau. Mr. Clark welcomed Mr. Kevin Sagera, Vermilion Parish; Mr. Ryan Bourriaque, Cameron Parish; and Ms. Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish. Mr. Sagera thanked all attendees on behalf of Vermilion Parish. Mr. Bourriaque thanked the Technical Committee and the Task Force for the recently approved Project Priority List (PPL) 24 projects. Ms. Cormier thanked the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Program for the funding received at the previous Task Force Meeting and added that when Cameron Parish is protected, Calcasieu Parish is also protected. Mr. Clark announced that three projects were funded in PPL 24 from Region 4. The Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration (CS-59) and Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54) Projects were approved for Phase II Construction funding, and the No Name Bayou Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project was approved for Phase I Engineering & Design (E&D) funding. Mr. Clark introduced CWPPRA Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee and Work Group members Mr. Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mr. John Jurgensen, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Mr. Stuart Brown, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). He also introduced Mr. Brad Crawford, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ms. Michelle Fischer, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), who provided geographic information system (GIS) of the 2012 State Master Plan. Dr. John Foret, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), welcomed everyone to the Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center. Mr. Clark asked all attendees to introduce themselves. Mr. Clark acknowledged Ms. Nedra Davis, Director of the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, and Ms. Kelia Bingham, the newly appointed CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator.

2. Agenda Item #2, Project Priority List (PPL) 25 Selection Process Brief Overview and Ground Rules for PPL 25 Nomination Meeting. Mr. Clark delivered a PowerPoint presentation, which is available online at the CWPPRA website. Mr. Clark asked that parish-designated voters fill out a voting registration form and provide their contact information to Mr. Scott Wandell, USACE. Parishes eligible to vote for nominees in Region 4 are: Cameron, Calcasieu, and Vermilion. The parish representatives in attendance were Mr. Ralph Libersat, Mr. Bourriaque, and Ms. Cormier.

Nominees must be consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. A project can be nominated from only one basin, except for coastwide projects. If a project crosses multiple basins, excluding coastwide projects, it should be nominated in one basin only, based on the majority area of project influence. Coastwide projects apply across basin boundaries; their benefits are not tied to one basin. Coastwide projects can be nominated from any basin and can be presented at any or all of the RPT meetings.

Presenters were asked to complete a project information sheet for each project nominee, including demonstration project nominees, with the name of the proposed project and the presenter's contact information, if a fact sheet was not provided. Mr. Clark announced that Mr. Wandell could help attendees fill out this form if they required assistance. Presentations should be limited to five minutes and five PowerPoint slides. Public comments on project proposals will be accepted orally during the meeting and in writing until February 18, 2015. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Inman. Mr. Clark asked that attendees limit comments and questions to the PPL 25 proposals and processes.

Coastwide projects propose a technique applicable across the entire coast. Only one coastwide nominee may be selected during the Coastwide Electronic Voting on Feb 24, 2015. The Technical Committee may or may not select a coastwide project. Demonstration projects demonstrate a technology which can be transferred to other areas in coastal Louisiana. The Engineering and Environmental Work Groups will determine whether or not a project meets CWPPRA criteria. The RPT will select up to six demonstration projects; the Technical Committee may select up to three demonstration projects at the April 16, 2015 meeting. The Work Groups may recommend that no demonstration projects move into the candidate stage. Previous demonstration projects must be re-nominated to be considered for PPL 25.

3. Agenda Item #3, Explanation of Coastwide Voting Process. The Coastwide Electronic Voting will be held on February 24, 2015. The RPTs will select four projects per basin in the Terrebonne and Barataria Basins; three projects per basin in the Pontchartrain, Mermentau, and Breton Sound Basins; two projects per basin in the Teche-Vermilion and Calcasieu-Sabine Basins; and one project in the Atchafalaya Basin. If proposed, one coastwide project may be chosen for inclusion as a nominee. In addition, the RPTs will select up to six demonstration projects for further evaluation.

Parishes must identify their voting representative at the RPT meeting to be eligible to vote. No additional projects can be nominated and no significant changes can be made to projects after the RPT meeting. If projects overlap, nominators will have the option to combine them into one project prior to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Clark explained the voting process. Excel spreadsheets will be provided to the voting representatives one week prior to the vote. Voters must email or fax their votes to Ms. Allison Murry, USACE, by 10:30 am on February 24, 2015.

Following the Coastwide Electronic Voting, an agency will be assigned to each project to prepare a fact sheet and map if one is not already prepared. The CWPPRA Engineering and Environmental Work Groups will then review the draft features and assign preliminary costs and benefits. They will also verify that the coastwide and demonstration projects meet PPL 25 requirements.

Mr. Clark reviewed the remaining steps in the PPL 25 process. Ten candidate projects and up to three demonstration projects will be selected on April 16, 2015 at the Technical Committee Meeting. Written public comments should be submitted to Mr. Inman at the addresses in the agenda by April 2, 2015. Oral comments will be accepted at the Technical Committee Meeting.

Candidate projects will undergo further review between May and October, and the Technical Committee will vote to recommend up to four projects for Phase I E&D on December 10, 2015. The Task Force will make the final decision in January 2016.

4. Agenda Item #4, PPL Project Nominations (Entire RPT).

a. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominations in the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin.

#1 – Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment. This project was presented by Dr. John Foret, NMFS. This project is located in Cameron Parish near Holly Beach. The proposed project is an extension of the Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration (CS-59) Project and will use the remaining material from the CS-59 borrow area. The project proposes to create 400 to 500 acres of saline marsh and 10,000 linear feet of tidal creeks. The area has experienced interior marsh breakup and coalescence of Oyster Lake as a result of saltwater intrusion, hurricane damage, and oil and gas exploration. The marsh creation will offset the wave movement from the Calcasieu Ship Channel (CSC) to Oyster Bayou by re-establishing the historic landbridge near Highway 82. There is an estimated 3.7 million cubic yards available in the proposed borrow area and the project could be expanded up to 800 acres of marsh creation or a combination of marsh creation and terracing, if warranted. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$27 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million.

#2 – West Cove Marsh Creation and Nourishment. This project was presented by Dr. John Foret, NMFS. The project is located in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) north of Mud Lake, between Highway 27 and West Cove. Hurricanes, saltwater intrusion, and oil and gas exploration have caused significant damage to this marsh. The project proposes to mine an existing 325-acre upland disposal site located on USFWS property near Hog Island. Approximately 50% of the site will be reduced to a +2 feet NAVD 88 elevation to create intertidal marsh. The mined material will then be utilized to restore 500 acres of marsh near Rabbit Island. The total project will create and nourish 675 acres of marsh including 10,000 linear feet of tidal creeks, which will re-establish the historic land bridge, marsh platform, ponds, and tidal creeks. The project will provide protection to Hackberry and Lake Charles. Assuming that the marsh creation components will be fully-confined, the construction cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$26 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million.

#3 – East Holly Beach Gulf Shoreline Protection. This project was presented by Mr. Ryan Bourriaque, Cameron Parish. There has been rapid land loss in the project area due to coastal storm events. In some areas, the Gulf of Mexico is less than 25 feet from Highway 82. In 2010, the State used surplus funding to pump nearly two million cubic yards of sediment from the Gulf to the east side of Holly Beach. The berm has remained larger after that nourishment event. The area was recently hit by a meteo-tsunami, which was a large wave that affected sand fencing and vegetative plantings completed by CPRA. The project area is adjacent to a \$20 billion expansion of a liquid natural gas (LNG) facility in Cameron Parish. Additionally, there are three other LNG export facilities, worth \$5 billion, \$9 billion, and \$400 million, currently in permitting to be constructed near the project. The proposed project would protect the proposed large investments within the project's vicinity and the Cameron Parish economy. The economic impact of a major storm event on the area of Holly Beach without a shoreline protection project would be

detrimental to the Parish. The goal of the project is to protect Holly Beach, Hackberry, and other nearby areas. The project proposal consists of 15,000 linear feet of breakwaters. The project would protect 267 acres of beach and supratidal habitat. It is supported by the Cameron Parish Coastal Restoration Committee and is a part of the 2012 State Master Plan and the Cameron Parish Coastal Master Plan. This is a critical habitat area for the piping plover and is the highest priority for the Parish. The project is also supported by the landowners. The preliminary construction cost, including a 25% contingency, is \$15.1 million.

#4 – East Calcasieu Lake Marsh Restoration. This project was presented by Mr. Ron Boustany, NRCS, on behalf of Mr. Troy Mallach. Saltwater intrusion from the CSC and a reduction of historic freshwater marsh are the major problems in this area. The project proposes a spillway structure in the Cameron-Creole Levee at East Calcasieu Lake to allow high water to exit the area. Two areas have been identified where spillways could be placed. The type and elevation of the structure would be determined during E&D. There are existing sheet piles at the proposed locations for a safe and straightforward construction. The project also includes 230 acres of marsh creation and nourishment in the northern portion of the project area to help manage the salinity. The project would reduce prolonged periods of inundation by relieving flooding stress and would restore function, value, and sustainability to approximately 7,500 acres of marsh. The preliminary construction cost, including a 25% contingency, is \$20 million. Mr. Jurgensen added that the structure will be designed so that the elevation could be modified throughout the project life. Mr. Chad Courville, Miami Corporation, stated that the project will aid the Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project by providing outlets for saltwater inundation. The current water elevation in the project area is +6.8 feet NAVD 88, which is 0.2 feet above target elevation; therefore, if the structure was built it would currently be operating. The project is supported by the majority landowners, Miami Corporation.

#5 – North West Cove Bank Stabilization and Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Adrian Chavarria, EPA. The original project name was the West Cove Bank Stabilization and Marsh Creation Project; the name was updated to differentiate the project from other nominees. The project is located on the northern shore of West Cove, south of Highway 27. Hurricanes, erosion-related breaching, and saltwater intrusion have caused significant damage to the marsh. The project proposes to utilize material from the CSC or an upland disposal site to create 33,000 linear feet of bank stabilization, consisting of earthen berm and vegetative plantings, and create and nourish four parcels of emergent brackish marsh totaling 1,200 acres. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$20 to \$22 million, and the fully-funded cost is anticipated to be \$25 to \$30 million. Mr. Wandell added that the project will work synergistically with the 400 and 450 acre marsh creation projects in the nearby area.

Mr. Brown commented that Parcels 1 & 2 of the four marsh creation components are not consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The project sponsors agreed to revise the project to include only Parcels 4 & 5 of the marsh creation component and the bank stabilization feature to remain consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan. The revised project will construct 33,000 linear feet of earthen berm with vegetative plantings, as well as create 210 acres and nourish 140 acres of marsh. The construction cost including a 25% contingency for the revised project is \$19 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$15 to 20 million.

#6 – East Prong – Grand Bayou Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Ms. Angela Trahan, USFWS. The proposed project is a continuation of the Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54) Project, which has recently been approved for construction. The project is located near Grand Bayou in the East Prong. Problems include saltwater intrusion from the CSC, recent hurricanes, wave induced erosion, subsidence, and wind fetch, which have led to the expansion of existing ponds. As the area has lost marsh, the natural bayou has filled in with sediment. Several water management projects have been constructed in the area through CWPPRA, and terracing projects have been constructed in the area by Ducks Unlimited, as well as other agencies. The project consists of 511 acres of marsh creation and 75 acres of marsh nourishment within two polygons. There will be an additional 207 acres of spray dredging bankline marsh nourishment which will re-establish the natural tidal flow for 60,000 linear feet of bayous. The depth of the bayous will be tapered based on the depth of the existing bayous. The project will create 480 net acres over the 20-year project life. The project has considered both fully-confined and semi-unconfined marsh creation areas. The construction cost estimate, including a 25% contingency, is \$20 million, assuming that the material would be sourced from Calcasieu Lake. CWPPRA will have to work closely with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) because the Lake is an oyster seed ground.

#7 – Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 6 & 7. This project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS. The proposed project is an extension of the existing Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation (CS-28) Project. Cycles 1, 2, 3, & 4 of the CS-28 project have been completed, and Cycle 5 is currently under construction. The continuation of the project will include two cells that are 243 and 224 acres, respectively, of marsh creation to complete Cycles 6 and 7 and will use the existing permanent pipeline, which was a \$10 million CWPPRA investment. The 467 total acres of marsh creation would be earthen contained. The project would reduce wave fetch and protect and create habitat for many species of concern on the Sabine NWR. The project is expected to produce 456 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is approximately \$7 million.

Mr. Brown declared that this project is not consistent with the 2012 Coastal Master Plan. It will not be considered for the Coastwide Electronic Voting. He recommended seeking inclusion in the 2017 State Master Plan or applying for an exemption.

Nominations were closed for the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin.

b. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominations in the Mermentau Basin.

#1 – Umbrella Bay Shoreline Protection. This project was presented by Mr. Ronald Paille, USFWS. The project is located along the eastern Grand Lake-Umbrella Bay shoreline. The area has experienced shoreline erosion at a rate of 15 feet per year and shoreline breaches have caused interior lakes and ponds to coalesce with Grand Lake. The goals of the project are to halt shoreline erosion and prevent further breaches into interior ponds. The project proposes to bucket dredge the natural bayous to gain access to the site and then beneficially use the dredged material to create 52 acres of marsh behind 35,100 linear feet of shoreline stabilization. The shoreline protection component would feature 50-foot-wide gaps every 1,000 linear feet and the earthen spoil would

include vegetative plantings. Approximately 183 acres of marsh will be protected over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$20 to \$25 million.

#2 – Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation and Freshwater Enhancement. This project was presented by Mr. John Jurgensen, NRCS, on behalf of Mr. Troy Mallach. The proposed project is located along the southwest shoreline of Grand Lake near Highway 82. The project was the 5th ranked Phase I project in PPL 24 and was very close to receiving funding. The project proposes to create 250 acres of marsh and 85,000 linear feet of terracing. The project team proposed to create up to 130,000 feet of terracing; however, to stay consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan, the terracing cannot exceed 10% of project costs. The concept of the project is to create marsh pockets surrounded by terracing to maximize the wave reduction in a cost effective manner. The project will also replace existing culverts to increase freshwater flow into the impounded marsh. Mr. Randy Moertle, Rainey Conservation Alliance, remarked that the project area is outstanding waterfowl habitat and that related activities are a large income producer for the landowners. Circular terracing creates areas for duck hunters and can re-establish historic shallow ponds. Mr. Sagrera, Vermilion Parish, stated that the project is in the Vermilion Parish Master Plan and is fully supported by the Parish. Mr. Billy Broussard, Vermilion Corporation, added that the area has not seen direct freshwater for 70 to 80 years. The project will create tidal ponds and divert freshwater to the marsh, which is valuable to the property owners. The construction cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$25 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million.

#3 – East Pecan Island – Increment 1. This project was presented by Ms. Sharon Osoushi, EPA. This project is located in Vermilion Parish, east of Pecan Island. The area has experienced subsidence due to salt water intrusion and hurricane impacts, which has created shallow open water ponds. The goal of the project is to create marsh through dedicated dredging and vegetative plantings on the western side of Freshwater Bayou. The project will create 506 acres of marsh utilizing 3.5 million cubic yards of material and include 5,800 linear feet of tidal creeks. The project would create 450 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life. The construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$30 to \$35 million.

#4 – South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation Increment #3. This project was presented by Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA. The project was originally presented as the South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation Increment #2 project. This project is located in Cameron Parish; it is a portion of a 7,000-acre 2012 State Master Plan project and is an extension of the South Grand Chenier – Baker Tract Project presented by NRCS in PPL 24. Problems include subsidence, compaction, and erosion of organic soils, which contribute to land loss in the area. The project includes 413 acres of marsh creation and tidal ponds utilizing an offshore borrow site. The project will protect 390 acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$20 to \$25 million. Mr. Clark proposed that the name be altered to South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation Increment #3 as there are already two other South Grand Chenier projects, South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation (ME-20) and South Grand Chenier – Baker Tract (ME-32).

#5 – Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation and Nourishment. This project was presented by Dr. John Foret, NMFS. The project is located south of Grand Chenier Ridge and west of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near the existing ME-20 and ME-32 projects. The project proposes to use the

existing conveyance route to create 400 to 500 acres of marsh and re-establish 9,000 to 10,000 linear feet of tidal creeks utilizing offshore borrow. The unique feature of this area is water movement to the west and to the north, which eventually flows through Club Canal and into the Gulf; the water movement causes ponding and prohibits freshwater retention. The project area has room for expansion. The landowners are in support of the project. The estimated construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$26 million. The fully-funded cost range is \$30 to \$35 million.

#6 – North Big Marsh Restoration. This project was presented by Mr. Darryl Clark, USFWS. This project is co-nominated by USFWS and Vermilion Corporation. The goal of the project is to restore and nourish approximately 450 acres of marsh northeast of Pecan Island and introduce freshwater from White Lake. The area lost 4,000 acres of marsh from 1932 to 1990 due to the dredging of Freshwater Bayou. Aerial photography from 1998 to 2005 displays drastic marsh loss in the project area. The project includes freshwater introduction through three 48-inch diameter culverts located at Highway 82, as well as restoration and nourishment of 450 acres of fresh and intermediate marsh using a Gulf borrow site. The project would restore the northern portion of Big Marsh and provide habitat protection to many species of concern including blue herrings and waterfowl. The project will create 433 net acres over the 20-year project life. The estimated construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$17 to \$20 million.

#7 – South Pecan Island Marsh Creation. This project was presented by Mr. Darryl Clark, USFWS. This project is a partnership between the Vermilion Corporation and USFWS. The project is near many existing projects including NMFS terracing, USACE shoreline protection, Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), and (Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection) ME-04. The project area experienced a 25% loss of marsh (11,000 acres) between 1932 and 1990. Another 20% is expected to be lost by 2050 if there is no restoration in the area. The goal of the project is to restore and nourish 630 acres of intermediate brackish marsh utilizing an offshore borrow site. This project will benefit species of concern, such as waterfowl. The project is supported by the landowners. The cost of construction including a 25% contingency is \$18 to \$20 million.

Nominations were closed for the Mermentau Basin.

c. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominations for coastwide projects.

*#1 – Southwest Louisiana *Salvinia* Weevil Propagation.* This project was presented by Mr. Ronald Paille, USFWS. *Salvinia* is an invasive, exotic aquatic plant that can form dense colonies up to 6” thick. *Salvinia* harms fish and wildlife habitats by depleting oxygen and blocking sunlight for native plants. The project consists of developing and operating a facility on existing ponds, provided by USFWS in the Lacassine NWR, to produce the Brazilian *cyrobagous salviniae* weevil, which is a biological control for *Salvinia*. The facility will distribute the weevil throughout the State to control the fast-growing *Salvinia* in freshwater marshes along the coast. The estimated construction cost is \$67,000 and the total cost to develop and operate the facility is \$1 million for ten years or \$2 million for 20 years. Requirements for the facility include a freshwater source, good roadway access, and labor. It takes approximately two years to produce weevils and up to three years from weevil introduction to control *Salvinia*. The weevil is

currently being distributed by a Louisiana State University (LSU) facility in Houma, Louisiana; however, the facility has limited funding and an additional facility is needed to expand the process. The existing LSU facility provides weevils to landowners free of charge. The proposed facility would follow the same methodology. Weevils and *Salvinia* accidentally populated in Florida in the 1920's. Weevils have been used as a biological control for *Salvinia* in Australia since the 1980's. The first weevil facility in the United States was created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture Research Center in Texas in 1999; this facility has released over two million weevils. Weevils have previously been released in Louisiana without evidence of damage to healthy marsh. USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) is currently operating a facility in Texas, which was opened in 2007. The weevil has been released in 13 countries and 3 continents. Weevils have been proven as an effective biological control for *Salvinia* at Delta Farms, and the release of the weevil can benefit many species of concern. Mr. Randy Moertle stated that giant *Salvinia* can double in population in approximately four days. He added that strong south winds will carry the aquatic plant over healthy marsh until the emergent marsh has been smothered and dissolved. *Salvinia* thrives in freshwater and is an increased problem in Louisiana. As a spokesperson for Clovelly Farms in Cutoff, Louisiana, Vermilion Corporation, and the Rainey Conservation Alliance, he fully supports the project. Mr. Ron Boustany commented that the project is a great idea, but he expressed concern that the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups will not be able to quantify the existing *Salvinia* damage to calculate project benefits.

Mr. Brown recommended that the project remain a coastwide project. He added that the project is beyond the ability of what the Master Plan is able to model. The 2012 State Master Plan does provide a broad statement depicting the goal to reduce Salvinia across the State and it would be unfair to disallow this project on account of the Master Plan.

Nominations were closed for coastwide projects.

d. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominations for demonstration projects.

#1 – The Wave Robber (Wave Suppressor Sediment Collection System). This project was presented by Dr. John Foret, NMFS. The Wave Suppressor Sediment Collection System (WSSC) consists of a floating, easily transportable module which allows water and sediment to pass through the system through pipelines. The project proposed to place the modules at a 2-foot water depth. Wave energy will hit the gutter system and sediment would be deposited behind the structure. The module can be operated in both high and low wave energy areas. The demonstration project proposes to use five to ten modules combined together with varying unit spacing between each module. The project is proposing three distinct areas with 500-foot sections in each. Pierce Industries has constructed one module near Cut Off, Louisiana. Over the 10-month trial period, there has been sediment deposited and it appears that the system is working. The current construction cost estimate including a 25% contingency is \$1 million.

#2 – Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR Panel). This project was presented by Dr. John Foret, NMFS. The goal of the Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR) Panel is to dissipate wave energy and trap sediment. The unit is a

prefabricated concrete panel produced for easy implementation and without steel reinforcement. The project would consist of many singular units linked together, contoured to the shoreline. The units have a porous face to allow sediment to travel through and around the structure. The unit can produce a 60 to 80% cost savings for projects that would otherwise use traditional rip rap. The project team proposes to try both firm and soft shoreline during the demonstration project. The project could use either Sweet Lake or Weeks Bay for the soft shoreline area. A firm shoreline area such as a ship channel or bay could also be considered. To construct 900 linear feet in three locations, the estimated construction cost including a 25% contingency would be \$1.01 million

Nominations were closed for demonstration projects.

Mr. Brown made a general comment that was not project-specific. He stated that there are 26 viable projects currently in E&D through the CWPPRA Program. There will be an additional four projects in E&D this upcoming year. The Phase I projects are competing for construction funds against 12 to 18 projects, and the odds of receiving Phase II CWPPRA funding is extremely low. However, many projects are being picked up by other agencies. Despite this, agencies are still proposing and planning projects under the size constraints of Phase II CWPPRA funding. He would like stakeholders to consider this moving forward. Mr. Libersat agreed with Mr. Brown. He would support the different agencies coming together and presenting their projects to the Parish prior to the meeting. The Parish could support more projects and they could consider the synergy of multiple projects. Mr. Randy Moertle added that there is a budget limit for Phase I Engineering and Design funding. It takes more Phase I funding to engineer and design a larger project. He added that the west side of the State is scrounging for CWPPRA funds and they would be very disappointed if one large project received Phase I funding rather than four smaller projects. Mr. Brown responded that he is not proposing any changes to the CWPPRA process. He added that he is asking the Work Groups to consider the efficiency of slightly larger projects. Ms. Davis stated that the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority was developed to bring all three Parishes together in a regional fashion. The Authority has also signed a contract to work with the Texas portion of the region. She added that the Authority is not looking to change existing processes but would consider current Parish priorities and propose projects that work together synergistically. She suggested that agencies participate in their efforts to create more synergistic projects at the regional level. Mr. Clark added that the CWPPRA Program is often referred to as an incubator and has successfully transferred six projects, which received Phase I funding through CWPPRA, to other programs for construction. He proposed discussing this topic with the P&E Subcommittee and the Technical Committee.

5. Agenda Item #5, Announcement of Upcoming PPL 25, Task Force, Technical Committee and Other Program Meetings. Mr. Clark announced that the Coastwide Electronic Voting will be on February 24, 2015 and the Technical Committee Meeting will be on April 16, 2015. Additional dates are on the agenda.

6. Agenda Item #6, Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm.