

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 1 April 2021 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. The meeting was initiated at 9:30 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Patrick Williams, NOAA Fisheries
Mr. Mark Wingate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chairman
Mr. Brian Lezina, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Mr. Kevin Roy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

A copy of the agenda is included as **Encl 1**. A copy of the attendee sheet is included as **Encl 2**.

2. Agenda Item 1. Meeting Initiation

The meeting was conducted via WebEx virtual meeting platform, due to the COVID 19 pandemic and public gathering restrictions. Mr. Wingate introduced himself, and he called upon Technical Committee members in attendance to introduce themselves. Mr. Wingate asked for any opening comments from the Technical Committee; none were proffered. He briefed those in attendance of procedures for public participation.

Mr. Wingate asked for the Technical Committee to present any changes to the agenda for today's proceedings. Mr. Williams pointed out that (in agenda item #10) the Mud Lake project is sponsored by EPA rather than NMFS as indicated. No other alterations to the agenda were forthcoming.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Ms. McCormick seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

3. Agenda Item 2. Announcement: Retirement of Dr. Charles Sasser, CWPPRA Academic Advisory Group (AAG) Chair

Mr. Wingate announced the retirement of Dr. Charles Sasser, who has served on the AAG since the inception of the CWPPRA program. Ms. Bradley provided an overview of the role of the AAG within the CWPPRA program, which is to work with the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee and the Environmental and Economic workgroups as an augment to the process of screening, developing, and ranking candidate and demonstration projects. Dr. Sasser is current chair of the CWPPRA AAG, having served in that capacity since 2014; he is expected to retire this year. Mr. Erick Swenson will serve as acting chair though PPL-31, at which point a permanent replacement will be named. Ms. Bradley presented a list of all current AAG members.

Mr. Wingate invited comments from the Technical Committee. Mr. Williams and Mr. Paul each spoke of their appreciation of Dr. Sasser's expertise, pioneering research efforts, and the

integration of research into restoration goals. Referred to as a “champion of restoration”, Dr. Sasser was wished the best in retirement.

Mr. Wingate invited comments from the public. None were proffered. Dr. Sasser was not available for comment.

4. Agenda Item 3. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Jernice Cheavis, USACE)

Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE, presented an overview of the status of CWPPRA funds as follows: The fully funded total program estimate since its inception through PPL 1 – 30 is \$3.149 billion. Total projected state and federal sources of funding (through FY21) for all authorized projects in addition to projected Department of the Interior (DOI) funds is \$2.130 billion. A potential gap of \$1,019 billion remains if the Program were to construct all projects to date. Current Task Force-approved budgets for projects in Phase I, Phase II and O&M totals \$2.256 billion. Authorized funding obligated to each agency for approved project phases currently totals \$1.921 billion.

Ms. Cheavis continued with an overview of funding as it relates to an expected funding request at today’s proceedings, namely a budget increase of \$4,831,086 in the Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04) project. If authorized, that amount would be subtracted from the total available program funds (\$12,661,338 as of April 2021), and result in a remaining total of \$7,830,252 available in the Construction Program.

A request for approval of the FY22 Planning Program budget is on the agenda. A total of \$597 has been carried over from FY21. Added to that is the expected allocation of \$5,000,000 for Planning activities. Today’s funding request for FY22 Planning and Outreach totals \$4,999,132. If approved, a surplus of \$1,465 would remain for FY23.

Ms. Cheavis then presented a pie chart summarizing projects as follows: CWPPRA has authorized 229 projects. There are 126 active projects including 29 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 17 in Phase 2 Construction, 75 projects that have been completed and are now in Operations, Maintenance and/ or Monitoring phase, and 5 program support projects. Additionally, CWPPRA has completed 39 projects (i.e. reached the 20-year life mark), deauthorized 49 projects, transferred 10 projects, and placed 5 in the inactive category.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered.

Ms. Bradley was given the floor briefly to acknowledge Ms. Cheavis’s birthday today; Mr. Wingate offered her well-wishes on behalf of all present.

5. Agenda Item 4. Report/Decision: 2021 CWPPRA Report to Congress (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)

Ms. Carriere began with the reminder that a Report to Congress is required by law every 3 years to demonstrate the efficacy of CWPPRA projects. As is typical, the USACE leads the multi-agency effort. The first draft of the 2021 report has been provided in the Technical Committee meeting binders. It was sent to the P&E Subcommittee on March 8, 2021 for review and comment. Ms. Carriere stated that comments have been received from all agencies, but have

thus far not been “substantial”; all comments will be addressed prior to the May 2021 Task Force meeting. Today (and at the next Task Force meeting) approval is being sought to proceed initially with technical content editing, and subsequently with graphic design elements. Ultimately a request for approval of the final draft is expected during fall (2021) proceedings.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approved the path forward for the Report to Congress as iterated. Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Williams seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

6. Agenda Item 5. Report: Status of Development of the Support Programmatic Project for Signage (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)

Mr. Kent Bollfrass provided an update on the development of a new CWPPRA support project to address the maintenance of existing/remaining navigational aids after projects reach their 20-year life span. The bulk of his report is budgetary in content, and heavily based on CPRA field office experience (the entity currently responsible for navigational aids and signage within a project’s life-span, and within its operational budget). Mr. Bollfrass detailed the rationale for developing the budget on a ten-year perspective, and presented a flow chart to illustrate how preliminary annual cost estimates were derived. Technical Committee members were given an annualized program budget estimate from year 2022--2031 that included the estimated number of projects likely to be enrolled. He pointed out that the number of projects served by this program would continue to increase, as more projects enter their end-of-life period (past their 20-year active stage). The numbers presented have not been reviewed by any workgroup(s), and are subject to inherent project uncertainties (i.e. navigational aid removal, project extension) and land rights issues. Mr. Bollfrass continued with an informal request for input from the Technical Committee regarding the continued development of this program. He substantiated his request with a list of issues requiring input from various workgroups and agencies in order to reach a fully funded cost estimate for TC/TF consideration during Fall 2021 meetings. Finally, (and as an aside) Mr. Bollfrass summarized efforts to provide NOAA Nautical Data Branch with relevant CWPPRA project information in order to update NOAA Navigational charts.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee. Mr. Roy, Mr. Paul, and Ms. McCormick commended the P&E subcommittee for its efforts, agreed with the prospective program management as it was presented, and voiced support of further refinement of management and budgetary details. Mr. Williams asked that such information be made available by the mid-August due date for binder materials.

7. Agenda Item 6. Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)

Ms. Carriere began with a review of the process by which paths forward are determined for projects that are reaching their end-of-life (year 20) stage. The P&E subcommittee utilizes an established matrix/flow chart beginning at project year 15; at its annual review on February 22, 2021, a path forward for the following projects was derived.

- a. Projects requesting approval for project closeout with no additional cost increase:

BS-11	Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip	FWS	14-Dec-26
ME-22	South White Lake Shoreline Protection	COE	29-Aug-26
TV-13a	Oaks/Avery Canal Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS	11-Oct-22

On behalf of project sponsors, Ms. Carriere summarized each project location, features, performance/ success, close-out date and final activities (if warranted), thus making the recommendation for Technical Committee consideration. Additionally, Ms. Carriere provided a list of projects expected to be closed out since the May 2020 Task Force meeting.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approved the path forward for the above-listed projects as iterated. Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Williams seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Stanley Aucoin, CPRA, was called upon to present the following (single) request:

- b. Projects requesting approval for a cost increase contingent upon CWPPRA workgroup review, a 5 year extension, and subsequent closeout:

TV-04	Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS	15-Dec-18
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Mr. Aucoin reviewed the project location, original goals, and construction and maintenance history. This is a PPL-3 project, originally constructed in 1999. Today’s request is based on several features (at specific locations within the project area) that require various O&M action – i.e. repositioning of rock, additional bolstering of rock or sheet pile weirs, or complete removal of features that have been ineffective and have now become navigational hazards. Maintenance will be required at one location for U.S. Coast Guard-mandated signage. Mr. Aucoin explained the rationale for the requested budget increase of \$4,831,086, and the five-year extension.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee. Mr. Williams expressed general support of this request, but urged the Technical Committee to discuss the judicious acquisition of project information, so that programmatic timeliness may be achieved.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approve the budget cost increase and five-year time extension for the TV-04 project, contingent upon workgroup review. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Kevin Roy, USFWS, was called upon to present the next request.

- c. Projects pursuing project extension through formal evaluation:

CS-23	Sabine Refuge Structure Replacement (Hog Island)	FWS	10-Sept-23
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Mr. Roy began his review of this PPL-3 project, which was constructed in 2003. Mr. Roy reminded attendees of the recent (September 2020) increase in O&M funding for the project; that

increase was approved to facilitate control of water levels and provide intensive management of salinities in the adjacent marsh. Utilizing the decision matrix, Mr. Roy provided cost/ benefit justification and a preliminary cost estimate to extend O&M and Monitoring for this project beyond its 20-year life.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approve the request for CS-23 project extension through formal evaluation. Mr. Roy made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

8. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for a One-Year Time Extension and Budget Transfer of Approved Monitoring to Approved O&M for Fritchie Marsh Restoration (PO-06) Project (Barry Richard, CPRA)

Barry Richard, CPRA, was called to present the request. Instead, Mr. Bollfrass made the formal request for a Technical Committee recommendation for approval of a one-year time extension, and the transfer of \$100,000.00 from Monitoring to O&M to facilitate completion of project close out. Total approved project cost would not be revised. Without a power point, he simply referred to the information provided in the Technical Committee binders.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approve the request for a one-year time extension and budget transfer for project PO-06. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

9. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Request for Transfer of Approved O&M to Approved Monitoring for Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16) Project (Tommy McGinnis, CPRA)

Mr. Bollfrass was asked to continue with a similar request. He made the formal request for a simple transfer of \$5,243.49 from O&M funds to Monitoring funds for LA-16 in order to reconcile the budget and proceed to project close-out.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approve the request for the budget transfer for project LA-16. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition

10. Agenda Item 9. Decision: FY22 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 32 Process, and Presentation of FY22 Outreach Budget (Process, Size, Funding, etc.) (Sarah Bradley, USACE)

Ms. Bradley presented the recommended PPL 32 Process as follows:

- a. A recommendation to the Task Force to approve that the PPL 32 Process include selecting four nominees each in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three projects each in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees each in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Tech/Vermilion Basins; one nominee in the Atchafalaya Basin; and one nominee in the Coastwide category.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to recommend Task Force approval of the PPL-32 process as iterated. Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Roy seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Kathy Ladner, on behalf of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee, presented the request thus:

- b. A recommendation to the Task Force to approve the FY22 Outreach Committee Budget, in the amount of \$452,113.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to recommend Task Force approval of the FY22 Outreach Committee Budget as iterated. Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Ms. Cheavis was called to present the following request; she noted that the total reflects an adjustment made to the general planning amounts previously requested by each agency (considering the smaller-than-usual carryover balance previously presented), and includes the previously approved Outreach budget.

- c. A recommendation to the Task Force to approve the FY22 Planning Budget (includes Outreach Committee Budget), in the amount of \$4,998,132.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to recommend Task Force approval of the FY22 Planning Budget as iterated. Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Williams seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

11. Agenda Item 10. Report/Decision: Selection of Ten Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 31 (Kevin Roy, FWS)

Kevin Roy, FWS, provided an overview (including location, features, goals and estimated costs) of each the PPL 31 Project Nominees in the following table:

Region	Basin	PPL 31 Nominees	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	Bayou Ducros Marsh Creation	NRCS
1	Pontchartrain	Guste Island March Creation	EPA
1	Pontchartrain	East Labranche Shoreline Protection	NRCS
2	Breton Sound	Davant Marsh Creation (Increment 1)	EPA
2	Breton Sound	Bayou Terre aux Boeufs North Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	EPA

2	Breton Sound	Spanish Lake - Grand Lake Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Fifi Island Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Southeast Golden Meadow Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	Barataria	Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension	NRCS
2	Barataria	Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration - Increment 2	FWS
3	Terrebonne	Jug Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing	NMFS
3	Terrebonne	Port Fourchon Marsh Creation	EPA
3	Terrebonne	Bayou Jean Lacroix Marsh Creation	NRCS
3	Terrebonne	West Louisiana Highway 1 Marsh Creation	NMFS
3	Teche-Vermilion	Freshwater Bayou East Marsh Restoration	NRCS
3	Teche-Vermilion	Southeast Marsh Island Marsh Creation and Nourishment	EPA
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation	NRCS
4	Mermentau	West Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation	USACE
4	Mermentau	Gulf Shore Protection at Beach Prong	FWS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	East Cove Marsh Creation	FWS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Mud Lake South Marsh Creation	NMFS
Coastwide		Coastwide Living Shorelines	NMFS
Demonstration		Wave Robber	TBD

Prior to the vote, the Technical Committee was invited to ask questions. Mr. Williams expressed appreciation for updated cost information regarding the Wave Robber Demonstration Project (received yesterday and reflected in the presentation). He asked that the installation costs be made available in the binder materials prior to the May Task force meeting; Mr. Wingate responded affirmatively. The public was given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. Webster Pierce offered additional comments about the Wave Robber product, pointing out the reusability of its component modules and its use as a complement to other restoration techniques. Mart Black reiterated his support for the projects in Terrebonne Parish. Amanda Voisin expressed support for projects in LaFourche Parish. No further questions or comments were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for a recess to allow time for the Technical Committee to consider the preliminary costs and benefits of the 31st Priority Project List (PPL) projects, and select 10 projects as PPL 31 candidates. When proceedings reconvened, Mr. Wingate performed a roll call of Technical Committee members. The voting results were presented in the following table:

CWPPRA PPL 31 Candidate Vote - Technical Committee

29-Mar-21

Region	Basin	Type	Project	COE	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	State	No. of votes	Sum of Point Score
2	BA	MC	Southeast Golden Meadow Marsh Creation	12	5	10	6	4	3	6	40
2	BA	MC/RR	Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration - Phase 2		10	11	5	2	11	5	39
2	BS	MC	Spanish Lake-Grand Lake Marsh Creation	10	3	12	3	5		5	33
4	CS	MC	East Cove Marsh Creation	4			10	10	12	4	36
3	TE	MC	Port Fourchon Marsh Creation	11	12	5			7	4	35
2	TE	MC/TR	Jug Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing	2			12	9	10	4	33
2	BA	MC	Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension			3	4	12	5	4	24
4	ME	MC/TR	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation	1	2		8	11		4	22
4	CS	MC	Mud Lake South Marsh Creation	3	7		1		4	4	15
3	TE	MC	West Louisiana Highway 1 Marsh Creation	6			11		6	3	23
2	BA	MC	Fifi Island Marsh Creation	5		7	7			3	19
3	TV	MC/TR	Freshwater Bayou East Marsh Restoration			9	2	7		3	18
	CW		Coastwide Living Shorelines	8			9		1	3	18
2	BS	MC/RR	Bayou Terre aux Boeufs North Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation		8	6			2	3	16
1	PO	MC	Bayou Ducros Marsh Creation		6	1		8		3	15
2	BS	MC	Davant Marsh Creation - Increment 1		11				8	2	19
4	ME	SP	Gulf Shoreline Protection West			8			9	2	17
1	PO	MC	Guste Island Marsh Creation	7	9					2	16
3	TE	MC	Bayou Jean Lacroix Marsh Creation			4		6		2	10
4	ME	MC	West Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation	9	1					2	10
3	TV	MC	Southeast Marsh Island Marsh Creation & Nourishment		4			3		2	7
1	PO	SP	East Labranche Shoreline Protection			2		1		2	3

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DEMO	Wave Robber (Vote: Y=Yes, N=No)	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N
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- The following voting process will be used by the Technical Committee to select 10 candidate projects under PPL 31:
- Each agency represented in the Technical Committee will be provided one ballot for voting.
 - Each agency represented in the Technical Committee will cast weighted votes for 12 projects. All votes must be used.
 - Each agency will vote for their top projects, hand-written on the above ballot form
 - A weighted score will be assigned (12, 11, 10,...1), to be used in the event of a tie. (12 highest...1 lowest).
 - Initial rank will be determined based upon the number of votes received for a project (unweighted).
 - The Technical Committee will select the top 10 projects as candidates under PPL 31.
 - In the event of a tie at the cutoff of 10, the weighted will be used as a tie-breaker.
 - The tied projects will be ranked based upon a sum of the weighted score.
 - The results of the Technical Committee candidate selection will be reported to the Task Force.

Ms. Bradley iterated ranking procedures and formally summarized the results, noting that the Wave Robber Demonstration Project received a tie vote. The Technical Committee will conduct a final electronic vote to determine the potential recommendation of this project, pending receipt of the refined cost estimate (as requested earlier) prior to the May 2021 Task force meeting.

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to recommend Task Force approval of the top-ranked projects to advance to Phase 0 analysis. Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

12. Agenda Item 11. Additional Agenda Items

None were proffered.

13. Agenda Item 12. Request for Public Comments

None were proffered.

14. Agenda Items 13 and 14. Announcement: Dates of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Sarah Bradley, USACE)

The Task Force meeting will be held May 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

May 6, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD
September 2, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	TBD
October 7, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD
December 2, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	TBD

*subject to change

15. Agenda Item 15. Decision: Adjourn

Mr. Wingate called for a motion to adjourn this meeting. Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded. The motion carried without opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.