

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

August 12, 1991

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Michael Diffley, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the third meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:00 a.m., August 12, 1991, in the District Assembly Room of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Agenda is attached as Enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President Bush on November 29, 1990.

II. ATTENDEES

The Attendance Records for the Task Force meeting are attached as Enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members, all of whom were in attendance, with the exception of Mr. Sewell, who was represented by Mr. David Fruge'.

Mr. David Chambers, State of Louisiana
Mr. Russell Rhoades, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. S. Scott Sewell, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Horace Austin, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Dr. Clement Lewsey, U.S. Department of Commerce
Col. Michael Diffley, U.S. Department of the Army, Chairman

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the second Task Force meeting, held on June 17, 1991, (Enclosure 3) were unanimously approved, as amended, by the Task Force members. Mr. Chambers requested that the underlined portion of IV. M. be added to the minutes. [1/210] *

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

The Task Force voted and passed the following motions:

- A. Revise item V.B.1.m. in Enclosure 4 by deleting "Marsh Committee of the". The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [1/370]

- B. Revise item V.B.1.n. in Enclosure 4 by deleting "(Potential Member)". The Citizen Participation Group will have one representative from the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and one representative from those coastal parishes operating under home rule authority, unless those parishes are represented on the Police Jury Association. The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [1/380]

- C. Revise item V.B. in Enclosure 4 by deleting "Subcommittee" and adding "Participation Group". The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [2/65]

- D. Adopt the "Priority Project List Contents Policy" (Enclosure 5). The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [3/240]

- E. An Environmental Evaluation will be prepared to satisfy Recommendation 3 in the EPA Memorandum authored by Mr. Pat Rankin (Enclosure 6). The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [3/310]

- F. National Environmental Policy Act compliance for projects on the Priority Project List will be achieved according to each lead Task Force member's existing regulations and administrative procedures. The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [3/575]

- G. Approve the "Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project Area Map" (Enclosure 7) and "Definition of Coastal Wetlands" (Enclosure 8). The Task Force voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [3/610]

V. TASKS REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

- A. The Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Technical Committee members, will identify potential means of using CWPPRA funds to support the full participation of the Citizen Participation Group chairman in Task Force activities by reimbursing the chairman's travel costs. This topic will be addressed at the September Task Force meeting. [1/615]
- B. The New Orleans District will determine if a Lead Task Force member has the authority to execute a Local Cooperation Agreement with any or all of the following: [2/460]
1. Political subdivision of the State of Louisiana such as a parish or levee board.
 2. Private organization.
- C. Mr. Chambers asked if the preparation of NEPA documentation for listed projects would be Federally funded from the \$5 million annual allotment identified in Section 306(a)(1). Although there appeared to be agreement that Section 306(a)(1) funds would be used for preparation of NEPA documentation, a motion to that effect was not proposed. Therefore, this issue will be placed on the agenda for the September 24, 1991 Task Force meeting. [2/505]
- D. Following a discussion of the Implementation Plan for Section 303 (Enclosure 9), Mr. Chambers asked that the Priority Project List diagram be modified to reflect a situation in which a Category B. project could enter the construction phase prior to preparation of the next annual list. [2/620]
- E. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee chairman reported that the identification of contract services requirements is proceeding as part of the FY92 budget preparation process. He stated that he would make another report at the next Task Force meeting. [3/30]
- F. Colonel Diffley noted that Ms. Marcia Jones, from Senator Breaux's staff, reconfirmed the November 28, 1991 deadline for submittal of the Priority Project List to Congress. She was responding to an inquiry made by Colonel Gorski at the June 17, 1991 Task Force meeting. [3/615]

- G. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee chairman reported that the deadline for submittal of "Candidate Project Fact Sheets" for the Priority Project List was August 6, 1991. The draft Priority Project List will be addressed at a Task Force meeting in late October or early November. [3/630]

VI. STATUS OF FISCAL MATTERS

- A. Mr. Pittman, Chief of the New Orleans District Program Management Office, stated that he had verbal confirmation from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C., that all FY92 funds appropriated for implementation of Section 303 of the CWPPRA, will be released to the New Orleans District for distribution to the Task Force members. Mr. Pittman stated that written confirmation is expected shortly. [4/65]
- B. Mr. Huntsman, the New Orleans District Comptroller, stated that FY92 funds will be distributed to the other Task Force members, including the State of Louisiana, on a reimbursable basis. Colonel Diffley requested that Mr. Huntsman contact the Comptrollers of the other Task Force members to ensure that all their questions concerning these reimbursable procedures had been answered. [4/90]

VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Ruth Blankenstein, a resident of River Ridge, Louisiana, described her desire to preserve a Mississippi River batture area. Colonel Diffley stated that he would send Mrs. Blankenstein a list of the members of the Citizen Participation Group, when completed, and a copy of the "Candidate Project Fact Sheet", to aid her in the submittal of her proposal for the consideration of the Task Force. [5/110]

VIII. DATE/LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next Task Force meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 23, 1991 in the Assembly Room of the New Orleans District, beginning at 9:00 a.m., however, Mr. Rhoades noted that he would be unable to attend. Colonel Diffley suggested September 24th as an alternative and asked that the other Task Force members confirm the new date as soon as possible. [4/350]

IX. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No written questions or comments were received from the public. [4/400]

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. [4/415]

* The Task Force meeting was recorded on audio tape. These bracketed figures represent the Tape#/Counter# for the discussion of this item.