

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
April 24, 1997

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel William Conner, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the twenty-sixth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:40 a.m. on April 24, 1997, in the Louisiana Room of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The agenda is attached as enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, commonly known as the Breaux Act), which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President Bush on November 29, 1990.

II. ATTENDEES

Listed below are the six Task Force members. All members were in attendance, with the exceptions of Mr. Bigford, who was represented by Mr. Tim Osborn, and Mr. Hathaway, who was represented by Mr. Norm Thomas.

Dr. Len Bahr, State of Louisiana
Mr. William Hathaway, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. David Frugé, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Donald Gohmert, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mr. Thomas Bigford, U.S. Department of Commerce
Colonel William Conner, U.S. Department of the Army,
Chairman

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Task Force meeting held on December 18, 1996 (enclosure 2), were approved unanimously, along with the change to item IV paragraph A, that is highlighted in bold. Mr. Gohmert made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Frugé seconded it.

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Selection of the 6th Priority Project List.

Mr. Schroeder presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the 6th Priority Project List, which included 10 new projects, 2 demonstration projects, and additional allocations for multi-year funded projects approved on the 5th Priority Project List (see enclosure 3). In enclosure 4, the original 6th List summary is dated April 23, 1997. Mr. Schroeder noted that the Environmental Protection Agency, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers had recently agreed to recommend a change in the scope and funding amounts for the Bayou Boeuf Pump Station Project, Increment 1. The change would provide for project evaluation funds over a three-period as follows: Fiscal Year 1997 (6th List Funds), \$150,000; Fiscal Year 1998 (7th List Funds), \$250,000; Fiscal Year 1999 (8th List Funds), \$100,000. Mr. Frugé stated that the Bayou Boeuf evaluation was not a project and recommended that either this work be captured by the Atchafalaya Liaison Group (at no cost to CWPPRA) or that the budget for the effort come out of planning funds. Mr. Thomas noted that there was precedence for funding evaluations out of construction funds due to the fact that the CWPPRA funding stream does not provide a sufficient mechanism to implement complex, large scale projects. Mr. Cancienne stated that Mr. Tauzin's office was in agreement with the change. Mr. Davis suggested that funding the evaluation would provide for a more effective relationship between the Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation Study and CWPPRA. The revised 6th List summary developed as a result of decisions and approvals of this April 24, 1997 Task Force meeting is dated June 20, 1997 in enclosure 4.

Messrs. W. Pallet, Sherrill Sagrera, Judge Edwards, Charles Broussard, and Dr. Karl Derouen expressed concern about the omission of the Cheniere au Tigre shoreline protection demonstration project from the 6th list. Mr. Broussard stated that the project was necessary to save a ridge in Vermilion Parish that protects thousands of acres of wetlands. Mr. Podany noted that the Technical Committee did not include this project in the list because of concerns about: 1. keeping the amount allotted to demonstration projects below \$2.0 million; and 2. whether artificial sea grass or tires would work in a high energy environment. Mr. Frugé stated that if this project were approved, he recommended that the USGS participate in a cooperative design; other Task Force agencies could also participate. Concern was also expressed about the procedure for selecting demonstration projects. After some discussion about the merits of this and other demonstration projects (Nutria Harvest for Wetland Restoration and the Dustpan/Cutterhead Dredging for Marsh Creation), the Task Force voted on the list.

Motion by Mr. Osborn: That the Task Force approve the recommended list, with the Cheniere au Tigre project added and funds for Bayou Boeuf reduced to \$150,000.

Amendment to Motion by Mr. Frugé: To move the consideration of funding the Bayou Boeuf evaluation to the planning budget.

Second to Amendment: None.

Second to Motion: Mr. Thomas
Passed unanimously.

Dr. Bahr requested that he be provided a summary of the vote to provide to the State Wetlands Authority. Colonel Conner

directed that the Technical Committee review the procedure for the selection of demonstration projects, specifically addressing public concerns about the process, and make a report back to the Task Force at its next meeting.

B. Approval of the 7th Priority Project List Selection Process

Mr. Frugé and Mr. Schroeder described the recommendation of the Technical Committee to conduct the 7th List. Based on a cursory evaluation, it appears that less than \$10.0 million will be available (enclosure 3). The procedure calls for a compressed nomination and selection process, using current evaluation procedures. The procedure stresses joint agency development of projects to minimize duplication of effort. Other elements of the process include: 1. candidate projects will have process level impacts; 2. no more than 10 candidates should be evaluated; 3. large-scale barrier islands and major diversion should be deferred; 4. projects with implementation problems will be avoided; and 5. entire process should be completed by January 15, 1998. Once the 7th list process is completed, the 8th list will be started immediately using a regional team approach. Ms. Katherine Vaughan, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, noted that cost overruns on several projects could mean that even less than \$10.0 million is available. Mr. Gohmert expressed concern about limiting the evaluation process to 10 projects. Dr. Bahr indicated that restoring barrier islands are an essential component of efforts to provide a functional coastal ecosystem; he is confident that the current study will show that they are justified unto themselves. Mr. Thomas expressed concern that large-scale projects would be omitted from the process; Mr. Frugé responded that the objective is not to spend money on the 7th List for very large projects, but to await the outcome of the feasibility studies, as per Task Force guidance on this subject.

Mr. Oneal Malbrough stated that the Task Force has a commitment to build barrier island projects despite the ongoing studies. Terrebonne Parish, he said, does not show up for Task Force public meetings because progress on the barrier island restoration effort seems to be delayed indefinitely. Mr. Mark Davis, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, echoed this concern and stated that policies should not be considered dogma; CWPPRA should be concerned with protecting coastal resources such as barrier islands, not just vegetation. Mr. Cheramie requested that the Task Force consider taking some of the projects from the 6th list that did not make the cut and add them in as 7th list projects. Mr. Dave Richard requested that the 7th list process be an open forum that would promote open competition for projects.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force adopt a simplified process for selecting the 7th Priority Project List.

Second: Mr. Osborn.
Passed unanimously.

C. Extension of LUMCON MOA.

Ms. Hawes presented the Technical Committee's recommendation for approval of a \$145,082 extension of the fiscal year 1996 memorandum of agreement between LUMCON and the NOD. The extension will permit completion of additional tasks associated with the Mississippi River Diversion study that were not included in the original budget. A copy of the extension agreement is enclosed (enclosure 4).

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve a \$145,082 extension of the fiscal year 1996 memorandum of agreement between LUMCON and the NOD.

Second: Dr. Bahr.
Passed unanimously.

D. Mr. Podany presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee to return \$30,000 that was deobligated from the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study earlier in the year. The funds were originally intended for use by a Technical Advisor, which the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources later determined was not necessary. The restored funds would be used to cover cost overruns associated with the Phase 1 modeling effort (see enclosure 5).

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve restoring \$30,000 in funds (previously obligated for a Technical Advisor) to cover cost overruns in the Phase 1 modeling effort in the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study.

Second: Dr. Bahr.
Passed unanimously.

E. Construction and Cost Increase Approval for Several Priority List Projects.

Mr. Schroeder briefed the Task Force on the Technical Committee's recommendation for the following: a. Approval for construction of the Point Au Fer (Phase 2), the Lake Salvador Shoreline Demonstration (Phase 1), the Channel Armor Gap, the Jonathan Davis Hydrologic Restoration (PBA-35), the Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-4a), and the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization, Phase 2 (XME-29) projects; b. Approval for construction with cost increase of the Big Island Mining (XAT-7) project (from \$4,136,000 to \$6,044,938) and the Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery (PAT-2) project (from \$908,000 to \$1,664,920); and d. Approval of cost increase for the Raccoon Island (TE-29)

project (from \$1,500,000 to \$2,063,000) and the Red Mud Demonstration (XTE-43) project (from \$470,500 to \$501,350).

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That the Task Force approve the construction and cost increases of the above projects as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: Mr. Frugé.
Passed unanimously.

F. Approval of Monitoring Plans.

Mr. Schroeder briefed the Task Force on the Technical Committee's recommendation for approval of the monitoring plans for the Channel Armor Gap (MR-6), Pass a Loutre Crevasse (MR-7), Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (C/S-21), Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization (ME-13), Brown Lake (C/S-09), GIWW to Clovelly (BA-02), and Raccoon Island Breakwater Projects.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the monitoring plans of the above projects as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: Mr. Osborn.
Passed unanimously.

G. Approval of Budget Increase for Oyster Lease GIS.

Mr. Schroeder briefed the Task Force on the Technical Committee's recommendation to increase the oyster lease GIS budget by \$15,100 for this fiscal year (see enclosure 6).

Motion by Mr. Osborn: That the Task Force approve the an increase in the Fiscal Year 1997 budget of \$15,100 for the oyster lease GIS, as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: Mr. Thomas.
Passed unanimously.

H. Construction and Cost Increase Approval for Several Priority List Projects.

Mr. Schroeder briefed the Task Force on the Technical Committee's recommendation to include in the Standard Operating Procedures Manual (in Section 5.f.(4), last sentence): "Once a lead agency has received approval for a cost increase over the original 125% limit, they must request Task Force approval for any additional funds above the revised estimate."

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the revision to the Standard Operating Procedures Manual, as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: Mr. Thomas.
Passed unanimously.

I. Funding of the Mississippi River Diversion Workshop.

Mr. Podany presented a request for the Task Force to formally approve \$15,000 in funds for the Mississippi River Diversion Workshop held on March 13, 1997. (The Task Force had informally approved the funds in a February telephone poll).

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force formally approve the funding for the workshop.

Second: Mr. Gohmert.
Passed unanimously.

J. Report on the Development of a Strategic Plan.

Mr. Schroeder reported to the Task Force on a proposal of the Technical Committee to develop a strategic plan for coastal wetlands restoration (see enclosure 7, the original strategic plan draft dated April 18, 1997). Mr. Schroeder stated that there have been proposals from Dr. Lee Wilson and others on how to do the strategy as well as a proposal on who should do it; these proposal now need to be blended into one plan. Mr. Norm Thomas recommended that a budget and timeline be prepared for the effort. Ms. Katherine Vaughan noted that the proposal needs to be subject to State Wetlands Authority approval. Ms. Vaughan suggested that there be joint meetings between the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the State Wetlands Authority to resolve any issues which may arise. Secretary Caldwell suggested that the Task Force take action at this meeting to prevent delays that might arise in alternately seeking Task Force and State Wetlands Authority approval. Dr. Denise Reed stated that the Technical Committee proposal reflected more a chain of command for accomplishing the strategy; she suggested that functions be added to the blocks in the proposal. The Task Force then discussed in general the need to replace specific names identified in the blocks with titles. The May 19, 1997 Technical Committee revision to the strategic plan draft is also included in enclosure 8.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve moving forward with the strategy, generally as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: none.
Motion withdrawn.

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That the Task Force adopt the Technical Committee's plan for the coastwide strategy, contingent upon State Wetlands Authority approval, and replace names in the block diagrams with titles only.

Second: Mr. Frugé.
Passed unanimously.

K. Approval of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan Evaluation Draft Report.

Mr. Steve Underwood of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources presented status of the evaluation report called for in Section 303(b)(7) of the CWPPRA. The draft report has been reviewed by the Technical Committee, a special ad hoc committee established by the Technical Committee, and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Mr. Underwood requested that the Task Force consider allowing a special pre-printing for use by the congressional delegation during the summer session; there was general consensus this should be done and that overall final printing of 1000 copies of the plan would be appropriate. Colonel Conner stated that Task Force members should receive a copy of the report to vote on formally at the next meeting; this would constitute the approval by the Task Force of the final report.

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve draft report.

Second: Mr. Gohmert.
Passed unanimously.

V. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Report on Outreach Committee.

Mr. Jim Addison, chairman of the Outreach Committee, provided the Task Force a report on outreach activities. A summary of his remarks is included in enclosure 8. He stated that the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee had voted to recommend reducing a portion of the Outreach Committee's budget, but these increases had been covered by using EPA's salary rates to compute the Outreach Coordinator's FY 97 budget requirement. Dr. Bahr emphasized that the Governor's May 1st press conference will be an event that everyone will want to attend. Secretary Caldwell stated that the State's outreach effort (funded with State funds only) will be national in scope and complement the CWPPRA outreach effort very well. Mr. Frugé stated that over the

July 4th Congressional recess, he attempted to schedule a project dedication for the Cameron Creole Refuge project and other recently completed projects.

B. Status of Development of the State Conservation Plan.

Ms. Beverly Ethridge of the EPA briefed the Task Force on the status of the Conservation Plan authorized by section 304 of the Breaux Act. She reported that plan development is near completion (draft plan was provided by the state). Ms. Ethridge concluded by stating that a final formal proposal will be submitted to the Federal agencies for approval in May 1997.

C. Status of Feasibility Studies.

Mr. Podany gave a brief report on the status of the feasibility studies. For the Barrier Shoreline Study, he reported that the agencies are currently reviewing Step I, Formulation of Strategic Options and that a complete draft of Step H, Forecast Trends in Environmental Resource Conditions with No Action, was scheduled to be completed in May. Enclosure 9 is a fact sheet on the study.

Mr. Podany reported that the Mississippi River Diversion study is on schedule; he said that data and design information on the 11 intermediate concept plans are underway. Task involving the development of future without action conditions are being initiated through a MOA with LUMCON. Dr. Bahr suggested that monitoring efforts conducted in conjunction with the operation of the Bonnet Carré spillway operation be coordinated with the study. Enclosure 10 is a fact sheet on the study.

D. Status of Construction Program.

Mr. Scott Clark of the New Orleans District reported on the status of Breaux Act construction projects. He presented statistics on project completion, reasons for delays, and recommendations to improve performance (see enclosure 11). Mr. Clark concluded that the analysis did not reveal a pattern that would indicate a clear direction for improving performance. Mr. Mark Davis requested that this information be used in project selection decisions and in strategy development. Colonel Conner stated that the Task Force agencies have been only able to complete construction on one priority list project, out of approximately 17 that were scheduled for completion this fiscal year. This level of performance, he said, must be improved if the Louisiana congressional delegation is to be successful in securing reauthorization. Colonel Conner announced that he would be conferring with each agency to understand project implementation issues from the lead agency's perspective with a view toward improving overall program performance.

E. Report on the River Diversion Workshop.

Dr. Denise Reed presented a summary of the workshop (see enclosure 12). Among the topics discussed there were whether no net loss of wetlands is really the goal of coastal restoration efforts and whether such a goal is achievable.

Dr. Reed stated that there was general agreement among workshop attendees that diversions were part of the solution to land loss problems, but that their influence may be more limited and more complicated than what was originally thought. Dr. Bahr mentioned that a written statement that river diversions were an important tool for the restoration of coastal wetlands had been circulated to attendees of the workshop; others who had not attended but agreed with the statement were also encouraged to sign. Dr. Bill Good reported that there was some information on the effect of the Caernarvon Diversion project. Among other things, the results show that the diversion may have resulted in an increase of 4% per year of wetlands within the diversion outfall area. Prior to the diversion's operation there was a loss of 4% per year.

F. Report on the Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation Study and on the activities of the Atchafalaya Liaison Group.

Mr. Troy Constance, New Orleans District, presented an overview of the Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation Study and the relationship between it and other CWPPRA efforts. He mentioned that the Atchafalaya Liaison Group is exchanging information and pooling resources to conduct stream gaging on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and its tributaries.

G. Mr. Tim Osborn presented a video of actual construction for the Point au Fer Project. Mr. Osborn indicated that the video would be a useful tool in CWPPRA Outreach efforts.

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Tim Osborn announced that the process of deauthorizing the Eden Isles project has begun in accordance with Task Force procedures.

Mr. Gohmert announced dedication and groundbreakings for the Racoon Island, Timbalier Vegetative Plantings, and the GIWW to Clovelly Hydrologic Restoration Project on May 13 and 14, 1997. He introduced Mr. Bruce Lehto as the Natural Resources Conservation Service's new Technical Committee representative.

VII. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next Task Force meeting was tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on July 23, 1997, at the Corps headquarters building in

New Orleans. Task Force members will be contacted to confirm the date and location.

VIII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No written questions or comments were received from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Bahr, which was seconded by Mr. Frugé and approved unanimously.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

APRIL 24, 1997

Meeting Agenda

Enclosure 1

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

Baton Rouge

24 April 1997

9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Tab

- I. **Introductions**
 - A. Task Force Members or Alternates
 - B. Opening Remarks by Task Force Members
- II. **Adoption of Minutes from the 18 December 1996 Task Force Meeting**.....D
- III. **Selection of the 6th Priority Project List--Mr. Schroeder**.....E
- IV. **Approval of the 7th Priority Project List Selection Process--Mr. Schroeder**..... F
- V. **Status of Development of the State Conservation Plan--Mr. Thomas**.....G
- VI. **Status of Feasibility Studies--Mr. Podany**..... H
- VII. **Outreach Committee Report--Mr. Addison**..... I
- VIII. **Status of the Construction Program--Mr. Clark**..... J
- IX. **Approval for the Construction of the Point au Fer (Phase 2), the Lake Salvador Shoreline Demonstration (Phase 1), the Channel Armor Gap, the Jonathan Davis Hydrologic Restoration (PBA-35), the Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-4a), and the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization, Phase 2 (XME-29) Projects**
Approval for Construction with Cost Increase of the Big Island Mining (XAT-7) Project and the Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery (PAT-2) Project
Approval of Cost Increases for the Raccoon Island Project and the Red Mud Demonstration (XTE-43) Project--Mr. Schroeder.....K
- X. **Approval of the Monitoring Plans for the Channel Armor Gap (MR-6), Pass a Loutre Crevasse (MR-7), Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (C/S-21), Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization (ME-13), Brown Lake (C/S-09), GIWW to Clovelly (BA-02), and Raccoon Island Breakwater Projects--Mr. Schroeder**..... L
- XI. **Approval of Budget Increase for Oyster Lease GIS--Mr. Schroeder**.....M
- XII. **Approval of Revision to the Standard Operating Procedures for Project Cost Increases of 125% or More Above Base Costs--Mr. Schroeder**.....N

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

Baton Rouge

24 April 1997

9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

(continued)

- XIII. Funding of Mississippi River Diversion Workshop--Mr. Podany.....O
- XIV. Report on the River Diversion Workshop--Ms. Reed..... P
- XV. Report on the Atchafalaya Liaison Group and the Corps' Lower
Atchafalaya Study--Mr. Constance.....Q
- XVI. Report on the Development of Strategic Plan--Mr. Schroeder/GoodR
- XVII. Report on the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan
Evaluation Report--Mr. Schroeder/Mr. Underwood..... S
- XVIII. Extension of LUMCON Contract--Ms. Hawes T
- XIX. Video Presentation of Lake Chapeau, Big Island Mining, Atchafalaya Sediment
Delivery, and Lake Salvadore Shoreline Demonstration Projects--Mr. Osborn U
- XX. Additional Agenda Items V
- XXI. Request for Public Comments W
- XXII. Date and Location of the Next Task Force MeetingX

AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR 6TH PPL

The FY 1997 Coastal Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund allocation was \$44,134,000. A sum of \$5,000,000 was reserved for planning activities. The amount of FY 1997 Federal funds available for the 6th PPL is \$39,134,000.

Approval of the State Conservation Plan is anticipated in August 97. This will change the percentage of the State's required matching funds to 10 percent for PPL5 and PPL6 and 15 percent for all other PPL projects. Several alternatives have been considered for applying the revised cost share formulas to previously approved PPL's. One likely alternative is for the revised cost share formulas to be applied to all unexpended funds.

The Technical Committee made the assumption that the revised cost share formulas will be applied to all unexpended funds to determine the total amount of funds available for the 6th Priority Project List. The amount of Federal funds available then becomes \$54,336,000. With a 10 percent State match the total amount of funds available for the 6th Priority Project List is \$60,373,000.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
FY97 Budget Summary

18 Feb 97

| Budget Approved 30 Sep 96 | Amount (\$) | Amended Budget | Amount (\$) |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| State of Louisiana | | | |
| DNR | 371,100 | Previous Total | 4,858,900 |
| Gov's Ofc | 95,300 | GIWW Data Collection | 68,000 ¹ |
| LDWF | 15,800 | Riv Dvrnsn Wrkshp | 15,000 ² |
| Total State | 482,200 | | 4,941,900 |
| EPA | 354,700 | Unallocated Balance | 58,100 ³ |
| Dept of the Interior | | | |
| USFWS | 235,800 | | |
| NBS | 73,200 | | |
| USGS Reston | 8,800 | | |
| USGS Baton Rouge | 12,000 | | |
| Total Interior | 329,800 | | |
| Dept of Agriculture | 434,900 | | |
| Dept of Commerce | 317,300 | | |
| Dept of the Army | 832,000 | | |
| Agency Total | 2,750,900 | | |
| <u>Feasibility Studies</u> | | | |
| Barrier Shoreline Study | 418,000 | | |
| Miss R Diversion Study | 1,395,000 | | |
| Total Feasibility Studies | 1,813,000 | | |
| <u>Miscellaneous Budgets</u> | | | |
| Academic Advisory Group | 75,000 | | |
| Oyster Lease GIS (DNR) | 90,000 | | |
| Public Outreach | 130,000 | | |
| Total Projected | 295,000 | | |
| Total Allocated | 4,858,900 | | |
| Unallocated Balance | 141,100 | | |
| <u>Deleted from Planning Program</u> | | | |
| NEPA Compliance | 658,400 | | |
| Monitoring Plan Development | 140,200 | | |

- 1 Recommended by Tech Com, 11 Dec 96
- 2 Approved by Task Force via phone poll, 18 Feb 97
- 3 The Task Force agreed on 30 Sep 96 to reserve \$50k for future outreach activities.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING
24 April 1997

APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASE FOR OYSTER LEASE GIS

For Task Force decision.

The Task Force will vote on approval of a Technical Committee recommendation of an increase of \$15,100 to the oyster lease GIS budget for this fiscal year.

State of Louisiana



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

JACK C. CALDWELL
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 12, 1997

Mr. Robert Schroeder
Planning Division
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

re: Breaux Act Oyster Lease GIS Budget

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

The Breaux Act Task Force approved the establishment of a "Breaux Act Oyster Lease GIS Budget." The first year of this budget was approved for \$90,000. The overall proposed budget totaled \$218,00 over a three-year period (see attached budget). The purpose of this budget is to enable better coordination of Breaux Act restoration projects with the La. Dept. Of Wildlife and Fisheries' oyster leasing program

In our original request for funding from the Task Force, we did not propose sufficient funding to cover the 24% overhead for the National Biological Survey nor to fund the staff position for the full three years (FY's 97-99). We inadvertently proposed funding for 26 months (2 years and 2 months) instead of the full three years needed. Additionally, of the \$90,800 actually requested for the FY 1997 budget, only \$90,000 was approved. The GIS budget shortfall thus becomes \$15,100 (\$14,300 staff and \$800 for equipment) for FY 1997 and a total of \$52,450 for the total three year period (FY 1997-1999). We would like to request an additional \$15,100 for this fiscal year, and to propose additional funding to make up the projected deficits for FY 98 and 99 at the next Task Force meeting.

In order for the funding for staff time to be handled in a more efficient manner, the DNR Coastal Restoration Division requests that the National Biological Survey's National Wetland Research Center bill the COE directly (or that the COE MIPR the NWRC) for staffing costs (\$41,500 for FY 1997) for the Breaux Act Oyster Lease GIS support. This arrangement is acceptable to the NBS and DNR. This would be more efficient than amending our existing cooperative agreement with the NBS to incorporate the additional staffing funding and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Good".

Bill Good, Ph. D.
Administrator

| Current CWP/PRA Planning GIS Budget to Create LDWF Oyster Lease Database FY 97 Portion Approved by the CWP/PRA Task Force in 1996 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Items | FY 97 | FY 98 | FY 99 | Total | | |
| Equipment, Communications, & Software | \$48,800 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$88,800 | | |
| Staffing | \$41,800 | \$43,000 | \$45,000 | \$129,800 | | |
| TOTAL | \$90,600 | \$63,000 | \$65,000 | \$218,600 | | |
| <p>Note: Staffing costs were not calculated based on current position level assigned to the project and did not incorporate the 24% AMFC overhead nor a 3 year budget. Acquired staffing funding is enough to fund a position for 28 months (2 years & 2 months) rather than 3 years. Note that there was an additional \$600.00 shortfall for FY 1997 request.</p> | | | | | | |
| Detailed Personnel- Equipment Cost Shortfall | | | | | | |
| | Time (Months) | Cost (Monthly) | FY97 | FY98 | FY99 | \$ Cost |
| Personnel | | | | | | |
| GIS Analyst - GSR | 36 | \$4,058.00 | \$45,000 | \$48,000 | \$52,488 | \$146,088 |
| 24% overhead | 36 | \$973.92 | \$10,800 | \$11,084 | \$12,508 | \$35,092 |
| Total Cost for GS/O | 36 | \$5,031.92 | \$55,800 | \$60,284 | \$65,006 | \$181,150 |
| Current Personnel Budget | 36 | \$3,587.22 | \$41,500 | \$43,000 | \$45,000 | \$129,500 |
| Personnel Shortfall | | | \$14,300 | \$17,284 | \$20,006 | \$51,650 |
| Equipment budget shortfall | | | \$600 | | | \$600 |
| Difference between original and revised | | | \$15,100 | \$17,284 | \$20,006 | \$52,450 |
| <p>Shortfall for 3 year budget = \$51,650 for staff and \$600 for equipment. Total shortfall equals \$52,450. Acquired funding is enough to fund a position for only 28 months (2 years & 2 months) and not the 3 years needed.</p> | | | | | | |
| Proposed Revised CWP/PRA Planning GIS Budget to Create LDWF Oyster Lease Database to be Approved by the CWP/PRA Task Force in 1997 | | | | | | |
| Items | FY 97 | FY 98 | FY 99 | Total | | |
| Equipment, Communications, & Software | \$49,300 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$89,300 | | |
| Staffing | \$55,800 | \$60,284 | \$65,086 | \$181,150 | | |
| TOTAL | \$105,100 | \$80,284 | \$85,086 | \$270,450 | | |
| <p>Note the Revised GIS Budget reflects the personnel and equipment shortfalls described above in the Shortfall Table.</p> | | | | | | |

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

April 24, 1997

1. Action Item Summary
2. Budget
3. Governor's May 1 Event
4. Public Meeting Participation
5. CWPPRA Display-Conventions & Symposiums
6. CD-ROM
7. Watermarks

1. Action Item Summary:

a. The full-time CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator position has been filled with a detailee from EPA (Jay Gamble) until September of 1998. In the interim, the Army Corps personnel office is classifying the position so that it can be advertised at the end of the detail period.

b. Key messages have been developed to become the underlying theme of all outreach endeavors. They are:

Sense of Urgency

Sense of Value

Sense of Place

Sense of Commitment

c. Dr. Paul Coreil of Louisiana State University-Cooperative Extension Service has delivered the CWPPRA brochure for use by the program. It will add benefit to our outreach efforts. Additionally, Dr. Coreil has almost completed a slide program that closely parallels the material presented in the brochure. It should be available before the next Task Force meeting.

d. Phyllis Darensbourg (La-DNR) of the outreach committee has developed a media folder that we will use for media packets at events. It contains pertinent CWPPRA information including the Homepage address.

e. Numerous press releases have been distributed to the media on a variety of topics, including a summary of FY'96 and a projection for FY'97 projects. Requests have gone out to the various CWPPRA project managers to update project data so that project information can be available on the Homepage as well as the most current data available when writing news releases.

f. A regional calender of events is in the development stage and should be completed by the next Task Force meeting. It is a living document that will be continually updated as necessary.

g. The Homepage continues to be a source of information to the general public. As information on the Homepage increases, it may be necessary to develop protocols on what types of information should be placed on it and its format

2. Budget

The Outreach Committee placed before the P&E subcommittee a budget that reflected

outreach proposals for \$50,000 more than the basic FY'97 approved budget. Due to money constraints, the P&E subcommittee approved \$35,000 of the requested amount to supplement the present outreach efforts and will recommend that amount to the Task Force for approval. Attachment 1 to this report reflects the current outreach budget and the appropriated amounts. There was some carryover money from previous years that was incorporated into this budget that will not be available after this year.

3. Governor's May 1 Event

A core group of people from the Governor's Office and the CWPPRA outreach committee has planned an event at the Old State Capitol for May 1, 1997. The intention is to focus on Louisiana's wetlands, especially the coastal wetland crisis. The Governor's Office is mailing out 200-300 invitations to the public and media. The Task Force is asked to support this event to show the solidarity and the cooperation that has allowed CWPPRA to achieve the success it has to date.

4. Public Meeting Participation

The Outreach Coordinator participated in the public meetings held in Morgan City, Cameron, and New Orleans to provide information to the public regarding the sixth project priority list. It is anticipated that the coordinator will play a significant role in the planning and implementation of public involvement as CWPPRA progresses to priority list 7 and beyond. In the coming months, the outreach coordinator will assume a more active role throughout the coastal zone in providing presentations to local political, civic, and school groups.

5. CWPPRA Display-Conventions and Symposiums

Attachment 2 to this report shows the schedule of the CWPPRA display. During the past four months, the display has been shown at five key events involving over 16,000 local, regional, and national audiences. Response has been very good. At these events, materials (brochures, videos, maps, Homepage, interactive ROM, etc.) from CWPPRA, Gulf of Mexico Program, and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program are available to the public. The CWPPRA mailing list has been greatly expanded due to these contacts.

6. CD-ROM

CWPPRA outreach has partnered with Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Audubon's Aquarium of the Americas to develop an interactive CD-ROM that will be placed in the Aquarium (1.1 million visitors annually) and in a mobile kiosk. The Aquarium offered approximately \$40,000 of in-kind contributions (animation, peer review, and hardware) to bring the total invested in the development of the product to approximately \$90,000. The Aquarium advised us that they budget \$100,000 for development of their CD-ROMs. They agreed to provide the hardware and feature the Coastal Louisiana Wetland CD-ROM in their new wetland display. Additionally, the outreach committee will provide a mobile kiosk featuring the CD-ROM that will be moved throughout the coastal zone during the year. Portions of the

CD-ROM program were featured at the National Science Teachers Association Convention held in New Orleans. It was a tremendous success.

7. Watermarks

During the editorial conference held with Koupal Communications in early March, three conclusions were reached. They are:

- a. The biannual publication schedule for Watermarks will not be adequate to meet the demands that will be made on the publication in the future;
- b. A single publication can not meet all the communications needs of CWPPRA;
- c. Watermarks should be modified to include a stronger local orientation.

Therefore, the CWPPRA outreach committee will meet to discuss these conclusions and offer recommendations to the Task Force that will enable the publication to be even more effective.

ATTACHMENT 1

FY'97 CWPPRA OUTREACH BUDGET

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Full-time Outreach Coordinator (Remainder of FY'97) | \$33,000. | |
| 2. 150 days of Temporary Duty (Oct-Nov, '96 & Jan-Mar, '97) | \$37,000. | |
| | Salary Subtotal | \$70,000. |
| 3. <u>Watermarks</u> : Publishing and Printing | \$31,057. | |
| 4. Internet Homepage Maintenance | \$37,000. | |
| 5. In-House Contractor Support Services | \$30,000. | |
| 6. Travel | \$20,000. | |
| | Operations Subtotal | \$118,057. |
| 7. CD-ROM Support (Editor/Proofer) | \$10,000. | |
| 8. Coastal Wetland Posters | \$10,000. | |
| 9. Hardware for CWPPRA CD-ROM (Display for schools/conferences) | \$6,000. | |
| 10. Mobile Kiosk (CD-ROM) in Coastal Zone | \$10,000. | |
| 11. Production/Distribution for CD-ROM | \$16,000. | |
| 12. Public Meetings in Coastal Zone/Education | \$15,783. | |
| | New Initiatives Subtotal | \$67,753. |
| | Grand Total | \$255,810. |

ATTACHMENT 2

CWPPRA DISPLAY SCHEDULE FY'97

| | |
|--|--|
| January 30-February 1, 1997: Baton Rouge, La. | Environmental Education Symposium 400 Attendees-State |
| February 12-15, 1997: Baton Rouge, La. | 1st Annual Duck Symposium & Workshop 750 Attendees-National |
| February 3-6, 1997: New Orleans, La. | Tulane Law University-Environment '97 400 Attendees-Regional |
| April 3-6, 1997: New Orleans, La. | National Science Teachers Association National Convention 15,000 Attendees-National/International |
| April 11-12, 1997: Thibodaux, La. | Barataria-Terrebonne Environmental Technology & Business Exposition 200 Attendees-Regional |
| April 27-May 1, 1997: Little Rock, Ar. | Association of Floodplain Managers National Convention 5,000 Expected-National |
| May 1-30, 1997: Baton Rouge, La. | Governor's Wetland Month Event/Capitol Display 10,000 Expected-State/Regional |
| May 7-9, 1997: Alexandria, Va. | Celebrating Wetland Communities-Terrene Institute 2,000 Expected-National/International |
| July 20-26, 1997: Boston, Ma | Coastal Zone 2,000 Expected-National/International |
| October 18-22, 1997: Chicago, Il | Water Environment Federation National Convention 25,000 Expected-National/International |
| November 12-14, 1997 Kansas City, Mo | National FFA Convention 40,000 Expected |

**Joint Meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee and the
Technical Committee**

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building
Louisiana Room
Baton Rouge
14 and 15 April 1997
9:30 a.m.**

Agenda

1. Designation of Project Category
The committee will review a proposal of the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee to designate PPL6 candidate projects in the large-scale (systemic) and small-scale categories but to forego the use of this information in allocating funds for the 6th Priority Project List.
2. Review of the Total Estimated Funding Allocation Available for the 5th, 6th and 7th Priority Project Lists
The committee will consider the impact of conservation plan approval and of programming for 5th PPL multi-year projects on the 6th and 7th Priority Project Lists.
3. Recommendation to Task Force of a 6th Priority Project List.
The committee will review the rankings for the projects and develop a recommendation.
4. Review of a Proposal on Conducting the 7th Priority Project List
The committee will review a proposal by Messrs. Mark Davis and Dave Fruge', Ms. Cathy Mitias, and Mrs. Sue Hawes on how the current priority project list process could be modified and make a recommendation to the Task Force.
5. Review of an EPA Strawman Proposal for Developing a Coastwide Strategy
The committee will review a strawman proposal developed by Lee Wilson and Associates and Dr. Woody Gagliano and develop a recommendation to the Task Force
6. Approval of Monitoring Plans.
The committee will consider whether to recommend Task Force approval of monitoring plans for the Channel Armor Gap (MR-6), Pass a Loutre Crevasse (MR-7), Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (C/S-21), Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization (ME-13), Brown Lake (C/S-09), GIWW to Clovelly (BA-02), and Raccoon Island Breakwaters (TE-29) projects.

**Joint Meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee and the Technical
Committee**

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building
Louisiana Room
Baton Rouge
14 and 15 April 1997
9:30 a.m.**

Agenda (Continued)

7. Proposed Budget Amendment for the Oyster Map GIS effort.
The committee will consider a proposal from the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee to recommend an increase of \$15,100 for this FY 97 activity.
8. Review of Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan Evaluation Report.
The committee will discuss the draft report, which is scheduled to be distributed to the CPG, the P&E Subcommittee and Technical Committee in March 97.
9. Other Business.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

Baton Rouge
24 April 1997
9:30 a.m.

DRAFT AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Adoption of Minutes from the 18 December 1996 Meeting
- III. Status of Tasks from the 18 December 1996 Meeting Requiring Further Action:
Report on Delays in Breaux Act Projects Due to Permitting Problems
- IV. Status of Development of the State Conservation Plan
(status of agency review, cost-sharing implications)
- V. Status of Feasibility Studies
- VI. Outreach Committee Report
- VII. Status of the Construction Program
- VIII. Selection of the 6th Priority Project List
- IX. Approval of the Point au Fer Project (Phase 2) (formal)
- X. Approval of the Lake Salvador Shoreline Demonstration Project (Phase 1) (formal)
- XI. Approval of a Cost Increase for the Raccoon Island Project (TE-29) (formal)
- XII. Approval of the Monitoring Plan for the Channel Armor Gap (MR-6) Project
- XIII. Approval of the Monitoring Plan for the Pass a Loutre (MR-7) Project
- XIV. Funding of Mississippi River Diversion Workshop (budget amendment; formal)
- XV. Report on the River Diversion Workshop
- XVI. Report on the Atchafalaya Liaison Group and the Corps'
Lower Atchafalaya Study (Mr. Constance)
- XVII. Report on the Strategic Planning Meeting
- XVIII. Report on Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan
Evaluation Report (Mr. Meffert)
- XIX. Additional Agenda Items
- XX. Request for Public Comments
- XXI. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting

26 Feb 97
3:00 p.m.

Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee

New Orleans District

March 20, 1997

1:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Outreach Coordinator Position.

The subcommittee will consider the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to fund a full-time temporary outreach position under the Breaux Act. *\$50,000 set aside*

2. Designation of Project Category.

The subcommittee will assign PPL6 candidate projects to either the large-scale (systemic) or small-scale category in conformance with the Project Funding Allocation document developed by the Technical Committee.

3. Approval of Monitoring Plans.

The subcommittee will consider whether to recommend Technical Committee approval of monitoring plans for the Channel Armor Gap (MR-6) and Pass a Loutre Crevasse (MR-7) projects. *BA-2, Hwy 384, Freshwater Bayou*

4. Review of Approved Projects.

In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures, the P&E Subcommittee will review the status of ongoing projects and determine whether any projects require action due to changes in scope, cost, or implementability.

5. Other Business.

Baton Rouge

14 Apr 97

9:30

*{ P & E &
Tech Committee*

15 Apr 97

1:00

*{ Continuation if
necessary*

April 18, 1997

PROJECT FACT SHEET

PROJECT: Louisiana Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study

1. PURPOSE: To assess and quantify wetland loss problems linked to protection provided by barrier formations along the Louisiana coast. The study will identify solutions to these problems, attach an estimated cost to these solutions, and determine the barrier configuration which will best protect Louisiana's significant coastal resources from saltwater intrusion, storm surges, wind/wave activity and oil spills. These resources include, but are not limited to, oil and gas production and exploration facilities, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, pipelines, navigable waterways, and fragile estuarine and island habitats.

2. FACTS:

a. Study Authority. This study is authorized pursuant to the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The study is funded by 100 percent federal funds from the CWPPRA planning budget. The CWPPRA Task Force, which implements the Act, directed the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to be the lead agency for the barrier shoreline feasibility study. The Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities also assists in the implementation of the study. A steering committee composed of federal agency representatives provides input and oversight to the study.

b. Location. The study area encompasses the barrier shoreline formations between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, the chenier plain barrier formations in Vermilion and Cameron Parishes, and the Chandeleur Islands.

c. Problems and Solutions Being Investigated. The study will investigate coastal wetland loss linked to barrier shoreline deterioration.

d. Status. A contract for the feasibility study was let to T. Baker Smith and Sons of Houma, Louisiana. Funds for year one (\$1,007,000) were approved by the Task Force at the June 1995 meeting.

The three year study is broken into three geographic phases. Phase 1 (year 1) focuses on the region between Raccoon Point and the Mississippi River. Phase 2 (year 2) focuses on the chenier plain. Phase 3 (year 3) focuses on the Chandeleur Islands, the Lake Pontchartrain/Lake Borgne land bridge, and the coastal wetlands east of the Mississippi River.

The feasibility study will generate the following information for each phase: A. Review of prior studies, reports, and existing projects; B. Conceptual and quantitative system framework; C. Assessment of resource status and trends; D. Inventory and assessment of physical conditions and parameters; E. Inventory and assessment of existing environmental resource conditions; F. Inventory and assessment of existing economic resource conditions; G. Forecast trends in physical and hydrological conditions with no action; H. Forecast trends in environmental resource conditions with no action; I. Formulation of strategic options; J.

Assessment of strategic options; K. Identification and assessment of management and engineering alternatives; L. Description and rationale for the selected plans; M. Project implementation plans and; N. Final report and EIS collaboration.

All deliverables up to and including Step G and Step I have been completed and submitted for Steering Team review. Hydrologic modeling efforts are ongoing. The No-Action Scenario is near completion and preliminary incomplete drafts of the Step H report have been circulated for agency comment. A complete draft of Step H is expected by early May. The contractor is currently preparing the Steps H report.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total estimated cost (100% federal) | \$3,775,000 |
| Allocated for FY 95 | \$1,007,000 |
| Allocated for FY 96 | \$704,000 |
| Allocated for FY 97 | \$418,000 |
| Request for FY 98 | \$1,646,000 |

e. Issues. The potential use of Ship Shoal sand in rebuilding the barrier islands has meant that Minerals Management Service (MMS), the agency which manages minerals on federal property, must be consulted for EIS work. A contract for an EIS has been let and managed by the MMS with the input of the other CWPPRA agencies. The Department of Natural Resources, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the MMS have signed a Memorandum of Agreement which assigns responsibility to the agencies in completing the EIS. The EIS effort is currently on hold pending the outcome of the Phase 1 and a determination of the economic effectiveness of using Ship Shoal as a sediment source for island restoration.

This study is funded as part of the CWPPRA planning budget. Shortfalls in the FY97 planning budget have resulted in decreased funding levels for the study in FY97 that will result in delaying the initiation of the Phase 2 (Chenier Plain) study until Phase 1 is completed.

STUDY MANAGER: Steven Gammill, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, (504) 342-0981