

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
July 23, 1997

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel William Conner, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the 27th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 10:15 a.m. on July 23, 1997, at the DoubleTree Hotel, New Orleans Lakeside. 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 Record for the Task Force meeting is attached as enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members. All members were in attendance, with the exception of Mr. Bigford, who was represented by Mr. Tim Osborn.

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 April 24, 1997 (enclosure 3), were approved unanimously with no discussion. Mr. Osborn made the motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Bahr seconded it. [1/116]¹

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Approval for Construction of the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-09), Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04), Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21), and Perry Ridge Shoreline Protection (PCS-26) Projects

Mr. Schroeder presented the four projects to the Task Force with the Technical Committee's recommendation for approval for construction. Two of the projects, Brown Lake Hydrologic

¹ The Task Force meeting was recorded on audio tape. The bracketed figures represent the tape no./counter no. for the discussion of this item. Multiple tape/counter numbers are used when an item is discussed more than once during the meeting.

Restoration and Perry Ridge Shoreline Protection, have not received permits or Section 303(e) clearance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nor water quality certification from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve construction for the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-09) project at a fully funded cost of \$3,200,800, the Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04) project at a fully funded cost of \$5,947,900, the Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21) project at a fully funded cost of \$740,000, and the Perry Ridge Shoreline Protection (PCS-26) project at a fully funded cost of \$2,223,500. The Technical Committee's recommendation for approval for construction of the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration and Perry Ridge Shoreline Protection projects was contingent on receiving all required permits, clearances, and certifications for both of the projects. [2/391-401]

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve construction of the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-09), Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04), Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21), and Perry Ridge Shoreline Protection (PCS-26) Projects.

Second: Dr. Bahr.
Passed unanimously. [2/403]

B. Approval of Monitoring Plans for the Perry Ridge (CS-24) and the Beneficial Use of Hopper Dredge Material

Mr. Schroeder presented monitoring plans for the two projects to the Task Force with the Technical Committee's recommendation for approval.

The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve monitoring plans for the Perry Ridge (CS-24) and the Beneficial Use of Hopper Dredge Material. [2/410-413]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve monitoring plans for the Perry Ridge (CS-24) and the Beneficial Use of Hopper Dredge Material

Second: Mr. Gohmert
Passed unanimously. [2/415]

C. Revised Standard Operating Procedure for Demonstration Projects

Mr. Podany briefly reviewed the revised standard operating procedure for demonstration projects to the Task Force with the Technical Committee's recommendation for approval.

The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration

Act Revised Standard Operating Procedure for Demonstration Projects (enclosure 4).[2/420-492]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Revised Standard Operating Procedure for Demonstration Projects.

Second: Mr. Osborn
Passed unanimously. [2/493]

D. Approval of Academic Advisory Group Budget for Priority Project List 7

The Task Force formalized the decision made by facsimile vote on June 23, 1997, in accordance with the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the Academic Advisory Group budget for the 7th Priority Project List. Funds for the Academic Advisory Group are available from the Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 1997 planning allocation due to the abbreviated 7th Priority Project List selection process.

The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$40,000 from the Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 1997 planning allocation to the Academic Advisory Group. [3/8-24]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$40,000 from the Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 1997 planning allocation to the Academic Advisory Group.

Second: Mr. Frugé
Passed unanimously. [3/31]

Ms. Hawes asked that \$103,000 be added to LUMCON's budget for Dr. Suhada's hydrologic modeling.[3/33-94]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve \$103,000 for LUMCON's budget.

Second: Mr. Frugé
Passed unanimously. [3/96]

V. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Report on the Atchafalaya Liaison Group and the Corps' Lower Atchafalaya Study

Mr. Constance briefed the Task Force on the activities of the Atchafalaya Liaison Group and the Corps' Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation study.

The Atchafalaya Liaison Group reviewed alternatives and explored outlet options to recover the 1986 flow line within one foot. Mr. Oneil Malbrough, Jr. stated his desire to invite

representatives of the DOTD and the South Terrebonne Levee District to the next group meeting. Mr. Constance agreed. [1/120-357]

B. Status of Coastwide Strategy (Coast 2050)

Dr. Good briefed the Task Force on the status of the effort to develop a coastwide strategy for addressing the problem of wetland loss. Dr. Good informed the Task Force that at the regional meetings, the attending parish participants would be asked what they want their respective parishes to look like in the year 2050 and encouraged to help develop a strategy to accomplish their desires. Four regional meetings are scheduled.

Mr. Jimmy Johnson was recognized for his work on the CWPPRA website by Mr. Osborn. [1/360-487]

C. Report of Program Performance and Project Implementation

Mr. Scott Clark of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported that 17 projects have been completed to date. There is \$47,000,000, with a possible additional \$9,000,000, to be used to complete projects until December 1997. Another 29 projects are scheduled for FY98 with a budget of \$111,000,000.

Ms. Vauhgan of the Department of Natural Resources presented a "wish list" of projects to be completed.

Mr. Frugé invited the Task Force to the August 12, 1997, groundbreaking ceremony at Cameron-Creole. [1/490-2/265]

D. Report on Estimated Construction Funds Available for the 7th Priority Project List

Mr. Podany reported to the Task Force on the estimated amount of funds available for the 7th Priority Project List. He referred to two tables (enclosure 5). The first table forecasted funding available for 7th Project Priority List and the second summarized all money received for construction of the first six Priority Project Lists. Mr. Podany recommended to the Task Force that any project deauthorizations which are currently contemplated should be finalized by November 20, 1997, to allow the funds to be used for the 7th Priority Project List. Colonel Conner supported this position. [2/268-389]

E. Report on Technical Committee Guidance to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee on Preparation of the Fiscal Year 1998 Planning Budget

Mr. Schroeder reported on the Technical Committee's guidance concerning the preparation of the Fiscal Year 1998 planning budget. He reported that there is more demand than supply. The Technical Committee recommended that it was important to fit within the \$5,000,000 budget limit. The committee also

recommended that the Coast 2050 effort receive sufficient funding to accomplish the tasks determined to be necessary by the Project Management Team. A discussion followed.

Mr. Steve Smith informed the Task Force that DNR had already contracted with his firm for work on Phases 2 and 3 of the Louisiana Barrier Shoreline study. [2/496-3/6]

F. Report on Status of the 7th Priority Project List

Mr. Podany briefed the Task Force on the status of the development of the 7th Priority Project List. He reported that there are currently ten projects on the list (enclosure 6), seven of which are from the public. Colonel Conner advised the Technical Committee not to be constrained by the \$9,000,000 budget. [3/107-200]

G. Report on Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan Evaluation Report

Mr. Underwood of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources reported on the status of the evaluation report called for in section 303(b)(7) of CWPPRA. He stated that an advanced copy of the report was sent to Washington. The Task Force signed the signature page of the report. [3/205-525]

H. Status of Development of the State Conservation Plan

Mr. Thomas briefed the Task Force on the status of the Conservation Plan authorized by section 304 of the CWPPRA. He reported that the plan was submitted in May 97. He assured the Task Force of expedient review and return to the State. He projected completion in September 1997. [3/328-585]

I. Outreach Committee Report

Mr. Addison reported on the committee's national outreach program. He informed the Task Force that the State of Louisiana had recently awarded a contract for public outreach services from its own funds. He advised the assembly that anyone can place items on the CWPPRA home page. Mr. Jay Gamble reported on his public outreach efforts and the availability of a CWPPRA CD-ROM. He initiated a discussion about the public relations value of posters. Mr. Jim Johnson's work on data bases, CD-ROMS, and the internet were also discussed in the context of furthering CWPPRA outreach efforts.

Mr. Norm Thomas informed the Task Force of an EPA initiative to have Dr. Denise Reed and/or Mr. Woody Gagliano deliver CWPPRA presentations to the White House Wetlands Task Force. Mr. Bob Whalen would arrange for the presentations. A lengthy discussion ensued as to who should be invited and who should be informed. Mr. Thomas will pursue the issue with Mr. Whalen. Dr. Bill Good

asked the Task Force to consider supporting the concept of a CWPRA time capsule. [3/588-5/53]

J. Status of Feasibility Studies

Mr. Podany reported to the Task Force on the status of the Louisiana Barrier Shoreline study and the Mississippi River Diversion study. A lengthy discussion developed concerning Phases 2 and 3 of the Louisiana Barrier Shoreline study and the need to complete the EIS for Phase 1 of the study. The Task Force directed the Feasibility Studies Steering Committee to develop a recommendation on Phase 2 and Phase 3 by the next Task Force meeting. [5/56-553]

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Monitoring Results

Dr. Len Bahr led a discussion on what to do with the monitoring results. Dr. Bill Good informed the Task Force that DNR was establishing an ecosystem section which could utilize the monitoring results. The general consensus was that project performance and analyses of feature effectiveness could be performed after sufficient information is collected. [5/556-6/63]

VII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No written questions or comments were received from the public.

VIII. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on September 17, 1997, in the Louisiana Room at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building. Task Force members will be contacted to confirm the date.

Colonel Conner directed that a site evaluation for the next four Task Force meetings be presented on September 17, 1997.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Colonel Conner declared the meeting adjourned. [6/194]

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

New Orleans, Louisiana

23 July 1997

10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

	<u>Tab</u>
I. Meeting Initiation	
A. Introduction of Task Force Members or Alternates	
B. Opening Remarks by Task Force Members	
II. Adoption of Minutes from the 24 April 1997 Meeting	D
III. Report on the Atchafalaya Liaison Group and the Corps' Lower Atchafalaya Study -- Mr. Constance	E
IV. Status of the Coastwide Strategy (Coast 2050) - Messrs. Schroeder and Good	F
V. Report of Program Performance and Project Implementation - Mr. Clark	G
VI. Report on Estimated Construction Funds Available for the 7th Priority Project List -- Mr. Podany	H
VII. Construction Approvals -- Mr. Schroeder	I
VIII. Approval of Monitoring Plans for Perry Ridge (CS-24) and the Beneficial Use of Hopper Dredge Material (MR-08) - Mr. Schroeder	J
IX. Revised Standard Operating Procedure for Demonstration Projects -- Mr. Schroeder	K
X. Report on Technical Committee Guidance to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee on Preparation of the Fiscal Year 1998 Planning Budget -- Mr. Schroeder	L
XI. Approval of Academic Advisory Group Budget for Priority Project List 7 -- Mr. Schroeder	M
XII. Report on Status of the 7th Priority Project List - Podany	N

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

New Orleans, Louisiana

23 July 1997

10:00 a.m.

DRAFT AGENDA

(continued)

- XIII. **Status of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan
Evaluation Report -- Mr. Underwood O**
- XIV. **Status of Development of the State Conservation Plan -- Mr. Thomas P**
- XV. **Outreach Committee Report -- Mr. Addison Q**
- XVI. **Status of Feasibility Studies -- Mr. PodanyR**
- XVII. **Additional Agenda Items**
- XVIII. **Request for Public Comments**
- XIX. **Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting**

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Estimated Demands on FY 98 Planning Program Budget (based on prior years)

21 Jul 97

	FY95 Amount (\$)	FY96 Amount (\$)	FY97 Amount (\$)	Estimated FY98 Amount (\$)	
State of Louisiana					
DNR	416,700	495,500	371,100	371,100	
Gov's Ofc	94,200	84,900	95,300	95,300	
LDWF	20,000	20,000	20,000	15,800	
Total State	530,900	600,400	486,400	482,200	
EPA	252,300	310,700	354,700	354,700	
Dept of the Interior					
USFWS	152,400	183,600	235,800	235,800	
NBS	87,500	67,800	73,200	73,200	
NBS Mntrng		62,000 ¹	0	0	
USGS Reston		8,800	8,800	8,800	
USGS Baton Rouge	7,800	10,600	12,000	12,000	
Total Interior	247,700	332,800	329,800	329,800	
Dept of Agriculture	509,500	595,900	434,900	434,900	
Dept of Commerce	331,900	304,800	317,300	317,300	
Dept of the Army	759,200	862,100 ²	792,000	792,000	
Agency Total	2,631,500	3,006,700	2,715,100	2,710,900	
Feasibility Studies					Total
Barrier Shoreline Study	1,007,000	766,600	355,400	1,646,000	3,775,000
Miss R Diversion Study	919,900	993,000 ⁴	1,457,600 ³	712,900	4,083,400
Total Feasibility Studies	1,926,900	1,759,600	1,813,000	2,358,900	
Miscellaneous					
Academic Advisory Group	117,000	75,000	115,000 ⁷	75,000	
Public Outreach	56,050	129,000	165,000 ⁶	129,000	
DNR Video Repro	1,000				
GIS/Oyster Lease Maps	40,000		105,100 ⁵	80,264	
Gov's Office Workshop			15,000		
GIWW Data collection			68,000		
COAST 2050				900,000	
Total Miscellaneous	214,050	204,000	468,100	1,184,264	
Total Allocated	4,772,450	4,970,300	4,996,200	6,254,064	
Unallocated Balance	227,550	29,700	3,800	-1,254,064	
Total Unallocated	227,550	257,250	261,050	-993,014	

1 amended 28 Feb 96

2 \$700 added for printing, 15 Mar 96 (TC)

3 transfer \$600k from '97 to '98

4 transfer \$204k from MRSNFR TO Barrier Shoreline Study

5 increase of \$15.1k approved on 24 Apr 97

6 increase of \$35k approved on 24 Apr 97

7 increase of \$40k approved on 26 Jul 97 from Corps Planning Funds

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING
23 July 1997

**APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC ADVISORY GROUP BUDGET
FOR PRIORITY PROJECT LIST 7**

For Task Force Decision.

The Task Force will formalize the decision made by facsimile vote on 23 June 1997 in accordance with the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the Academic Advisory Group budget for the 7th Priority Project List. This budget item had been inadvertently omitted from the Fiscal Year 1997 CWPPRA planning budget. Funds for the Academic Advisory Group are available from the Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 1997 planning allocation due to the abbreviated 7th Priority Project List selection process.

Recommendation of the Technical Committee:

That the Task Force approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$40,000 from the Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 1997 planning allocation to the Academic Advisory Group.

FACT SHEET
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

CELMN-PD-FE

SUBJECT: Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution Study

1. PURPOSE: To determine means to quantify and optimize the available resources of the Mississippi River to create, protect and enhance coastal wetlands and dependent fish and wildlife populations in coastal Louisiana. To plan, design, evaluate and recommend for construction projects utilizing the natural resources of the Mississippi River in order to abate continuing measured loss of this habitat and restore a component of wetland growth.

2. FACTS:

a. Status.

i. Tasks Completed: Initial analyses completed include land use, habitat type and land loss, endangered and threatened species documentation, and existing water supply demand. Spatial distribution of these parameters has also been developed for the study area. The development of concept plan receiving area footprints are being completed. Basic structure sizings, channel and levee requirements are being developed for each plan as the hydraulics is completed. Hydraulic modeling of riverine impacts for multi-diversion combinations is complete. A quality assurance review of the model was completed and H&H Branch review of the output is underway. A workshop to address issues stemming from project scope, sponsorship, implementation and operational complexity was held in mid Mar 97. Attendees reach consensus on a number of points although there was serious discussion over several technical issues. The principal points to emerge from this workshop were that: 1. Diversions are necessary to achieve any measure of large scale land rebuilding, 2. While a condition of no net loss may be attainable it will be within the context of a much smaller ecosystem than we recognize today, and 3. Execution of whatever the ultimate plan for coastal restoration might be will require the modification of some socio-economic activities.

ii. Tasks Underway: Data and design information development for the intermediate concept plans are underway. Tasks involving the development of future without action conditions are being initiated through the MOA with LUMCON. Real Estate cost estimates for the individual alternatives are being developed.

iii. Budget: The current total time and cost estimate calls for a study duration of 41 months and a cost of \$4.1 million, including 25 percent contingencies. The Task Force also established a steering committee to oversee and coordinate all CWPPRA funded studies and approve the study scopes and estimates. The breakdown of the study indicates critical funding needs for FY-97.

Total Estimated Cost (100% Fed)	\$4,082,500
Allocated through FY 1995	\$919,000
Allocated for FY 1996	\$993,400
Allocated for FY 1997	\$1,395,000
Balance to Complete After FY 1997	\$775,100

b. Issues.

i. A high level of participation by diverse interests has been identified throughout the CWPPRA effort as a critical need for the success of the planning process. This expanded involvement is necessary in order to achieve collectively acceptable solutions throughout the study process.

ii. Coordination of existing water resources uses is, and will continue to be, a major issue in project development. While specific measures may not effect all uses uniformly, or on a consistent annual or seasonal basis, it should be anticipated that some use will be impacted for virtually every action.

iii. Legal issues involving outputs that would be commonly measured as benefits will also require attention. There are numerous liability issues stemming from proprietary interests, assumed or real, in surface conditions as related to specific user interests.

iv. The composite of these issues has a direct effect on the local sponsors ability and willingness to participate in these projects. The resultant project and legal costs and operational conflicts can potentially be a deterrent to local sponsorship.

c. Study Authority. This study was authorized by the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force established under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) and is funded with CWPPRA planning funds. The Corps of Engineers was directed by the Task Force to be the lead agency in the execution of this study.

d. Location. The study area is comprised of the entire Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, from the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee eastward to the Louisiana-Mississippi state border. The area is bounded to the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The area encompasses approximately 6.4 million acres or 10,000 square miles.

e. Problems and Solutions Being Investigated. The study will investigate existing modifications to natural deltaic processes and resultant loss of coastal wetlands and assess potential uses of the sediment, nutrient and freshwater resources found in the Mississippi River to modify or reverse these trends. Hydraulic modeling will be used to establish the availability of the riverine resources which are to be applied and the effect of reallocation of these resources. After an intermediate screening, lump sum component costs, unit habitat outputs, and the value of resultant attendant resource outputs will be developed. Habitat output will be developed by means of a Wetland Value Assessment model. Alternative analysis will be accomplished primarily with existing information. Economic evaluation of the intermediate alternatives will consider positive and negative National Economic Development type impacts as credits and debits toward the cost of each alternative. The final recommendations will be based on the evaluation of environmental outputs versus costs of an alternative as described in Draft EC 1105-2-206.

STUDY MANAGER:

TIM AXTMAN, (504) 862-1921

July 21, 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 was expected by early May but has not been delivered to date. The contractor is currently preparing the Step H report.

The following is an estimated schedule for delivery of draft reports on the remaining step deliverables.

Step H - early August, 1997

Step K - mid-August, 1997

Step J - early September, 1997

Step L - late September, 1997

Step M - October, 1997

Step N - November, 1997

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