

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING

January 16, 1998

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel William L. Conner, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the 29th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:35 a.m., on January 16, 1998, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. 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

The attendance record for the Task Force meeting is enclosed as Enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members. All members were in attendance, except for Dr. Bahr, who was represented by Mr. Cullen Curole.

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 L. Conner, U.S. Department of the Army,
Chairman

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Task Force meeting held on September 17, 1997 (Enclosure 3), were approved unanimously. Mr. Frugé made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Gohmert seconded it.

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

a. Approval of Project Deauthorizations.

Mr. Schroeder presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the deauthorization of 3 projects: Eden Isles East Marsh Restoration Project (PPO-4); Bayou Perot/Bayou Rigolettes Restoration Project (BA-21, XBA-65a); and White's Ditch Outfall Management (BS-4a). The standard operating procedures in effect for deauthorization were followed; there was no opposition expressed, either formally or informally, to these deauthorizations.

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That the Task Force approve the deauthorization of Eden Isles East Marsh Restoration project, Bayou Perot/Rigolettes Restoration project, and the White's Ditch Outfall Management project.

Second to Motion: Mr. Bigford
Passed unanimously.

b. Selection of the 7th Priority Project List.

Mr. Schroeder presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee to choose the following projects for the 7th Priority Project List: Vegetative plantings of dredge material disposal site on Grand Terre Island (\$928,000); Pecan Island Terracing (\$2,185,900); Cut Off Bayou Marsh Restoration (\$6,510,200); Effects of Sediment and Nutrients on Thin-Mat Flotant Marsh (\$460,222); Selected Shoreline Stabilization along Bayous Perot and Rigolettes, Barataria Basin Land Bridge, Phase 1 (\$10,342,700). Mr. Frugé questioned whether the Cut Off Bayou Marsh Restoration project could be pursued under one of the Corps' ecosystem restoration authorities. Ms. Hawes replied that she believed that the Corps' Section 204 authority could be utilized to construct a similar dedicated dredging project, and that the Section 206 authority could be used to construct canal plugs along the MR-GO and GIWW navigation channels. Mr. Hathaway questioned whether the list represented a "ranking according to importance to the ecosystem." Messrs. Podany and Schroeder replied that this was attempted, but that there was no consensus over the meaning of the Task Force directions. Mr. Schroeder stated that the list of projects provided by the Technical Committee represents the committee's views concerning importance to ecosystem (defined to be marsh), cost effectiveness, and projects of merit. Mr. Hartman pointed out that a project like the Barataria Land Bridge project had systemic benefits and addressed ecosystem needs for the basin. Mr. Frugé stated that he envisioned a two-part list, one made up of funded projects and the other made up of some of the remaining candidates which would be unfunded. Mr. Caldwell related that the state's position was that a two-part list, made up of projects ranked contingent upon funding, was not advisable. After much discussion, Colonel Conner suggested that the Task Force pick a single large list from the list of ranked candidates provided by the Technical Committee, and then designate which projects on the list would be funded.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force adopt a 7th Priority List that would include the projects shown on Enclosure 4. Recognizing its commitment to fiscal responsibility, the Task Force identifies only enough money to fund the following projects: Vegetative plantings of dredge material disposal Site on Grand Terre Island (\$928,000); Pecan Island Terracing (\$2,185,900); Effects of Sediment and Nutrients on Thin-Mat Flotant Marsh (\$460,222); and, Selected Shoreline Stabilization

along Bayous Perot and Rigolettes, Baratavia Basin Land Bridge, Phase 1 (\$10,342,700).

Second: Mr. Osborn.
Passed unanimously.

Mr. Cullen asked for clarification of Mr. Frugés' motion, specifically in regard to the status of the unfunded projects on the 7th Priority Project List. The consensus of the Task Force was that there is no stipulation that these projects be funded as funds become available. In addition, the Task Force would need to take special action before these projects could be placed in a funded category. Dr. Denise Reed stated that the public's perception over the amount of planning funds used to select the 7th Priority Project List versus the size of the list should be addressed.

c. Funding Deferrals in Multi-Year Projects.

Mr. Schroeder presented the Technical Committee's recommendation that calls for deferring FY 98 funding of certain multi-year projects until FY 99. After discussion about how this fit in with the selection of a 7th Priority Project List, the Task Force voted.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force agree to defer FY 98 funding of the following projects to FY 99, in the amounts shown: Bayou Lafourche Siphon (\$7,500,000); Delta-Wide Crevasses (\$2,736,950); Penchant Basin Plan (\$7,051,550); Lake Boudreaux Basin Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management, Alternative B (\$4,915,650); Myrtle Grove Siphon (\$5,000,000), and; Nutria Harvest for Coastwide Restoration (\$1,100,000).

Second: Mr. Gohmert.
Passed unanimously.

d. Development of a "Needs" List.

Colonel Conner discussed the Task Force's development of a legacy or "needs" list by July 15, 1998. This list would be a large list made up of previously considered candidate projects that were not selected because of funding constraints, as well as new projects recommended through the Coast 2050 process. The purpose of compiling the list would be to identify the many projects that could be funded should the Breaux Act be reauthorized or that could be funded through other authorities. Mr. Gohmert suggested that a "needs" list did not depart substantially from previous efforts and was consistent with the selection of a 7th Priority Project List made up of funded and unfunded projects.

Mr. Curole and Mr. Hathaway requested that the Task Force provide some direction on the development of the "needs" list. Mr. Hathaway suggested that interim guidance or a strawman proposal be developed. He cited a recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendation that includes revisiting the way projects are selected.

Ms. Vaughan questioned the July 15, 1998, deadline. Colonel Conner replied that it was done in order to leverage reauthorization.

Dr. Good suggested that the program managers for Coast 2050 could provide a list of projects for consideration under this list by April 1998. Mr. Hartman suggested that the 8th Priority Project List public meetings could be used to solicit 8th Priority Project List nominations and comments on the previously evaluated candidate projects. Ms. Ethridge recommended that the process include academia, in that they could help in the identification of ecosystem benefits.

Mr. Schroeder stated that the Technical Committee would take the lead in developing the guidelines for preparation of the needs list by mid February (week of February 16th) and would consult with the Coast 2050 planning team, academia, and feasibility study teams in its preparation.

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 approvals:

(1) construction of Sweet Lake-Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration (\$4,762,700);

(2) construction cost increase for the West Point-a-la-Hache Outfall Management Project (from \$881,00 to \$4,081,000); and,

(3) construction cost increase for West Belle Pass (from \$6,067,625 to \$6,367,625). Mr. Frugé asked about whether the Technical Committee had finalized its approval of the scope increase for the Grand Bayou project. Mr. Schroeder replied that it had not, but that there was no problem with the lead agency (USFWS) proceeding with engineering to explore the possible project expansion.

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

Second: Mr. Gohmert.
Passed unanimously.

f. Standard Operating Procedure for Handling Changes in Cost Sharing Under the Conservation Plan.

Mr. Schroeder presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee for a standard operating procedure for handling changes in cost sharing under the State Conservation Plan.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the Standard Operating Procedure as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: Mr. Gohmert.
Passed unanimously.

After the vote, Mr. Jack Caldwell requested that the Task Force reconsider the Technical Committee recommendation. He stated that the intent of the Section 532 of WRDA 1996, was to provide reduced non-Federal cost sharing of 10 percent for all projects on the 5th and 6th Priority Project Lists, regardless of when the funds were expended. He recommended that the paragraph 7a. be modified to read: "For Priority Lists 5 and 6 projects, cost sharing is reduced (regardless of when expended) from 75 percent Federal and 25 percent non-Federal to 90 percent Federal and 10 percent non-Federal." This change would result in an additional estimated \$200-300k increase in the Federal share for projects initiated on the 5th and 6th List as of December 1, 1998.

Motion by Mr. Bigford: That the Task Force approve the change to the Standard Operating Procedure, as stated (see Enclosure 5).

Second: Mr. Frugé.
Passed unanimously.

g. Report and Confirmation of Project Approvals.

Mr. Schroeder presented a list of projects for confirmation of Task Force approvals:

(1) construction cost increase for Big Island Mining and Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery (The projects have been bid under one solicitation. Together, the cost of the projects has gone from \$5.9 million to \$7.5 million.);

(2) construction approval with construction cost increase for Isle Dernieres Barrier Island Restoration Projects, East and Trinity Islands (The projects have been bid under one solicitation. Together, the cost of the projects has gone from \$12.6 million to \$16.7 million); and

(3) construction approval with construction cost increase for Whiskey Island (The cost of the project has gone from \$4.4 million to \$6.4 million.) Task Force voting approval of the projects was completed on November 3, 1997, via telephone poll. Motion by Mr. Hathaway: That the Task Force confirm approval of these projects, as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Second: Mr. Bigford.
Passed unanimously.

h. Report on Outreach Committee and Recommendations for Changes in Committee Operations and Structure.

Mr. Jay Gamble presented a report on the activities of the public outreach committee (Enclosure 6). The Task Force discussed Recommendation "A" in the Enclosure, which requested that the Task Force or Technical Committee not make final changes to the Outreach Committee's budget prior to review by the Outreach Committee.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force reject recommendation "A".

Second: Mr. Hathaway.
Passed unanimously.

On Recommendation "B", Colonel Conner said that extending membership on the committee to other efforts was within the purview of the committee itself, as long as laws concerning the voting on the use of Federal funds were obeyed. On the matter of a full-time CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator, Recommendation "C", Mr. Hathaway stated that the EPA will not be able to extend the temporary position currently held by Mr. Gamble beyond the current term. The Task Force informally discussed the possibility of other agencies stepping forward to provide a permanent, full-time position that could be used for CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator. Colonel Conner directed that this be brought up for debate over the remaining 9 months of the current term. The Task Force requested more time to review Recommendation "D", a proposal to rotate the chair of the committee among the agencies. The preliminary consensus was that the chair of the committee might rest with the agency that provides a permanent, full-time employee.

V. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

a. Letter from Mr. Norm Thomas.

Mr. Hathaway announced Mr. Thomas' retirement from EPA and read a letter in which Mr. Thomas thanked all participants in CWPPRA for providing him the opportunity to participate in the program.

b. Report on the Status of Coast 2050.

Dr. Bill Good provided a report on the status of Coast 2050. Dr. Good explained that members of the public had requested a letter from the Governor and Task Force to reaffirm commitment to the process. Dr. Good explained that by the end of May, Coast 2050 participants expected to have the first iteration of unifying coastal restoration needs and strategies with public acceptability.

c. Identifications of Known Cost Increases in the Program.

Mr. Podany provided information on an analysis of program cost increases (Enclosure 7). This information was used to form a "snapshot" of the program's fiscal status to assist in sizing the funded portions of the 7th and 8th Priority Project Lists. The information shows that approximately \$23.1 million is available for new projects on the 7th and 8th Priority Project Lists. Colonel Conner directed that Federal agencies take the lead in identifying cost changes and not rely solely on the state to request them.

d. Status of Feasibility Studies.

Mr. Tim Axtman and Mr. Steve Gammill provided full presentations on the status of the Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution study and the Barrier Shoreline feasibility study, respectively. Mr. Gammill stated that at the next Task Force meeting, DNR will request approval of the scope for Phase 2 of the Barrier Shoreline Study, which covers the Chenier Plain (Calcasieu, Sabine, and Mermentau Basins). The first step of Phase 2 would involve hydrologic investigations. Messrs. John Benoit and Floyd Vincent of the Concerned Citizens of the Mermentau Basin, expressed support for DNR's Phase 2 proposal. Enclosures 8 and 9 are fact sheets on the studies.

e. Status of Construction Program.

Mr. Steve Mathies of the New Orleans District, reported on the status of the Breaux Act construction projects. He noted that last year, 6 new projects were initiated and that 30 new project starts were scheduled this calendar year, 10 within the next quarter. He presented a new short format for describing project status (Enclosure 10). He stated that he would be working on 2 or 3 items for each Task Force meeting. For the next meeting, he will:

(1) report on the status of lead agencies review of monitoring, O&M, and oyster lease impact cost increases;

(2) work with lead agencies to rectify project cost information on a monthly basis; and

(3) work with lead agencies and the State to clarify the status of West Bay Sediment Diversion, Red Mud, Brady Canal, and Caernarvon Outfall Management projects.

f. Status of the Conservation Plan.

Ms. Katherine Vaughan and Ms. Beverly Ethridge reported that the State Conservation Plan was approved in November and is now in effect. Ms. Vaughan thanked the participating agencies for their cooperation, with special thanks to Dr. Paul Coreil, LSU Cooperative Extension.

g. Report on the Lower Atchafalaya Basin re-evaluation study (LABRS), and on the activities of the Atchafalaya Liaison Group.

Mr. Podany reported that model studies for the LABRS are continuing. Results from the TABS II model for no action are expected to be complete in March. Coordination efforts with other agencies are continuing and habitat modeling for Vermilion Bay is underway. Preliminary designs will be completed by the end of FY 98, so that the LABRS team should have the capability to assist in the many project efforts of CWPPRA during this same period.

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Greg Steyer reported on a national ecosystem restoration conference he attended in South Carolina. He stated that CWPPRA efforts compare favorably with other national programs in the area of adaptive management. Colonel Conner observed that the Breaux Act is in competition for funds with other ecosystem rehabilitation and management programs, such as the multi-million dollar salmon restoration projects in the northwest and the harbor cleanups in Boston and Los Angeles. In comparison to these programs, he said, CWPPRA is relatively poorly funded. Mr. Mark Davis remarked that the Habitat Restoration Partnership Act would be additive dollars that do not compete with CWPPRA.

Ms. Katherine Vaughan and Mr. Cullen Curole, presented a resolution from the State Wetlands Authority in support of the Holly Beach Breakwater Project (Enclosure 11). Mr. Curole suggested that this project could be considered for funding on the 8th or subsequent lists. Colonel Conner directed that this project be discussed at the next meeting, particularly in regard to the proposed multiple sources of funding.

Mr. Bob Jones thanked everyone, especially EPA and Ms. Jeanene Peckham, for the work on the CWPPRA Barrier Island projects under construction in Terrebonne Parish. Ms. Vaughan announced that groundbreaking for these projects will be held in early April.

Mr. Gohmert suggested that the Technical Committee be directed to provide recommendations on procedures to handle bid overruns by the next meeting. The Technical Committee should address the needs of both the State and Federal partners in their review. Mr. Gohmert also requested that monitoring plans and costs be reviewed by the next Task Force meeting.

Task Force members directed that briefing books and final agendas be prepared 2 weeks in advance of the Task Force meetings.

Mr. Podany stated that the Technical Committee had received requests from the respective lead agencies to begin the formal deauthorization process on 4 projects. These projects are Pass-a-Loutre Crevasse, Grand Bay Crevasse, Avoca Island, and Bayou Boeuf Pumping Station.

Motion by Mr. Bigford: That the Task Force begin the formal deauthorization process on these 4 projects.

Second: Mr. Frugé.
Passed unanimously.

VII. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next Task Force meeting was tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 8, 1998 (later changed to April 14th). Task Force members will be contacted to confirm the date and location.

VIII. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No written questions or comments were received from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

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- a. Construction Cost Increase for Big Island Mining, AT-3/XAT-7;
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- c. Construction with Construction Cost Increase for Isles Dernieres Barrier Island
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ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) January 16, 1998 9:30 a.m.	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT	LOCATION District Assembly Room New Orleans District Corps of Engineers Building 7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, Louisiana
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PURPOSE
 MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION TASK FORCE

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION (Include mailing address if new or changed)	TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS
David Richard	Check for public meeting notice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-433-1055 (H) 439-2170 (F)
Edmond Russo	COE Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	862-1496 (H) 2572 (F)
Randolph Joseph, Jr	NRCS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(318) 896-2382 896-1371 (F)
Larry Trehan	NRCS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318 896-2382 (H) 896-1371 (F)
Paul Garrett	LSU Ag. Center LCES Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504 388-2266 (H) 504 388-2478 (F)
John Deneil	Concerned Citizens of the Mer. Riv. Basin Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(318) 536-9602 (H) (F)
J.M. Vincent	Concerned Citizens of the Mer. Riv. Basin Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-774-2949 (H) (F)
TIM LANDERS	EPA - Dallas Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(214) 665-7533 (H) (214) 665-6689 (F)
JEANNE PECKHAM	EPA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-389-0736 (H) 504-389-0709 (F)
Beverly Ellridge	EPA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-389-0735 (H) 389-0704 (F)

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* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record, please indicate so next to your name.

PARTICIPANT REGISTER (CONTINUED)

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION (Include mailing address if new or changed)	TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS
Steve Mathias	CUTTER-COE Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	862-2848 (t) 862-1785 (f)
Rick Hartman	Nat. Marine Survey Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	389-0508 (t) (f)
DOUG SVENDSON	GICA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	586-1473 (t) (f)
Pete Jones	PLAQUE MINES PARISH Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504 682-0051 (t) X-2550 (f)
Bill Godd	Check for public meeting notice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-342-7308 (t) (f)
Dana Humphries	Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-342-4077 (t) 504-342-6104 (f)
Phil Putman	LDNR / COASTAL RESTORATION Check for public meeting notice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-342-9489 (t) (f)
Noel Kinler	LDWF / Fur & Refuge Div Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(318) 373-0032 (t) 318) 373-0181 (f)
Britt Pool	USDA - NRCS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-473-7816 (t) 318-473-7747 (f)
Quin Kinler	USDA - NRCS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-382-2047 (t) 2042 (f)
JOHN HALL	CORPS OF ENGRS, N.O. (P.A.) Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-862-2201 (t) " " - 1724 (f)
Barton Kemp	CEI - BGL Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	828) 467-0209 (t) (f)
Gregory Miller	NOAA - NMFS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504-389-0508 (t) 389-0506 (f)



ATTENDANCE RECORD



<p>DATE(S) January 16, 1998 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT</p>	<p>LOCATION District Assembly Room New Orleans District Corps of Engineers Building 7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, Louisiana</p>
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PURPOSE

MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION TASK FORCE

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION (Include mailing address if new or changed)	TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS
BRUCE LEHTO	NRCS - Asst State Conservationist Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-473-7756 (1) (f)
Faye Talbot	NRCS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-896-9503 (1) (f)
Bonny Parille	USFWS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-262-6662 (1) ext 234 (f)
Dan Gahm	NRCS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(1) (f)
Bob Jones	TPCB Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504 873-6720 (1) (f)
Gerry Bodin	U.S. FWS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318-262 6667 ext 244 (1) 6663 (f)
ONEIL MANDRUM	Jefferson Parish / CEGC Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(KOD) 397-2100 (1) (f)
Becky Weber	EPA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	214 665 6656 (1) (f)
Jay Hamble	CWPPRA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(1) (f)
MARK DAVIS	CRCC Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504 314 655 (1) (f)

* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record, please indicate so next to your name.

PARTICIPANT REGISTER (CONTINUED)

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION (Include mailing address if new or changed)	TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS
Dewise Reed	LUMCON Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(t) (f)
Tom Bigford	NOAA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(t) (f)
Stephen Smith	T Baker / Smith / Son Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	868-1030 (t) (f)
Gary Rouben	COE Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	862-2543 (t) 2572 (f)
David Fruge	USFWS - DOI Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	318/262-6639 (t) (f)
S.M. GAGLIANO	CEI/EPA Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504/383-7451 (t) (f)
RN Ruebsam	NMFS Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504 5890508 (t) 050670 (f)
Ray Brownrig	COE Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(t) (f)
Bill Hicke	COE Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(t) (f)
Ann Burruss	CRCL Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	(t) (f)
Bob Rosenberg	Gulf of Mexico Program Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	601-688-1185 (t) (f)
Gene Turner	USU - Delta Farms Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	504 388 6454 (t) (f)
MIKE SPIESS	COE Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force	X1830 (t) (f)



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) January 16, 1998 9:30 a.m.	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT	LOCATION District Assembly Room New Orleans District Corps of Engineers Building 7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, Louisiana
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PURPOSE

MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION TASK FORCE

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION (Include mailing address if new or changed)	TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS
DAVID MUTH	NPS <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	585-3872 (1) x 129 (f)
D SANDOE DWIGMAN	NPS <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	x 119 (1) (f)
Charlotte Parker	USFWS <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504 646 7555 (1) 646-7585 (f)
Don Jolissaint	COE <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504 862- (1) 2649 (f)
Bill Berry	BR <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504-566-6425 (1) (f)
Ron Ventola	 <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504-862-2255 (1) (f)
Marnie Winter	Director, Jefferson Parish Environmental 1221 Elmwood PK. Bldg., Rm. 703 Harahan, LA 70123 <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504-736-6440 (1) 504-736-6445 (f)
MARTIN CANLIENNE	CONG BILLY TAUZIN <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504 621 5749 (1) (f)
Greg Steyer	DNR / CAD <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	507 342 9435 (1) - 6801 (f)
Darryl Clark	DNR / CAD <small>Check for public meeting notice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P&E Subc. <input type="checkbox"/> Tech. Com. <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force</small>	504-342-5159 (1) FAX 6801 (f)

* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record, please indicate so next to your name.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

**TASK FORCE MEETING
September 17, 1997**

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel William Conner, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the 28th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:35 a.m. on September 17, 1997, at the Louisiana Room in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. 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.

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 July 23, 1997 (enclosure 3), were approved unanimously with no discussion. Mr. Frugé made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Hathaway seconded it. [1/72]¹

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Consideration for Approval of Coast 2050 Funding for Remainder of FY 1997

Mr. Schroeder presented the Technical Committee's recommendation concerning funding of Coast 2050 contracts for the remainder of FY 1997. To cover these expected contract costs,

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.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the suggested change in scope for Bayou Chevee (XPO-69).

Second: Mr. Hathaway

Passed unanimously. [1/452]

D. Consideration for Approval of Future Priority Project List Guidance

Mr. Schroeder presented the Technical Committee's recommendation of new guidance for future priority project lists. The overlap of regions with Coast 2050 was discussed. The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve a new procedure (Enclosure 4) as general guidance for the 8th Priority Project List. [1/489-2/132]

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the revised Priority Project List procedure as general guidance for the 8th Priority Project List only and possibly for future lists with the following changes: the "Note to Technical Comm." in the Team Membership paragraph shall be struck from the document, there will be four regional teams similar to the Coast 2050 teams, and the words ad hoc shall be deleted from the phrase "one ad hoc representative appointed by the Governor."

Second: Mr. Gohmert

Passed unanimously. [2/130]

E. Consideration for Approval of Feasibility Steering Committee Recommendations

Mr. Podany presented the Feasibility Steering Committee's recommendations concerning the circumstances of the Barrier Shoreline Study Phases 2 and 3 and the Phase 1 EIS. The recommendations were as follows:

1. that Phase 2 of the Barrier Shoreline, as presently approved, be deauthorized, and that DNR be directed to develop a new proposal for a feasibility study of wetland loss problems relating to the shoreline and interior marshes of the Chenier Plain;

2. that Phase 3 of the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study, as currently approved, be deauthorized; and

3. that the Phase 1 EIS be terminated at this time, and the unexpended funds (currently estimated to be \$420,000) be transferred this fiscal year to Coast 2050 efforts and carried over for FY 98 Coast 2050 activities.

A lengthy discussion followed with many members of the public as well as state and Federal agency representatives offering comments. Several aspects of the study were called into question. There was concern about shifting money out of the Phase 1 EIS, delaying the Phase 1 EIS, the completion date of Phase 1, the alternatives considered in Phase 1, the amount of

the Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force use all the remaining unobligated funds for FY97, along with available agency contributions from previously budgeted activities as follows: \$20,000 USACE, \$5,000 NRCS, \$5,000 LADNR, and \$2,000 USFWS. The Technical Committee also recommended the use of \$16,000 in deobligated FY 95 funds budgeted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for use on the Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution Study. [1/390-404]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve the use of the remaining unobligated funds for FY 97, reallocated FY97 funds, and deobligated FY 95 funds, for a total of \$48,000, to meet Coast 2050 contract requirements for FY97.

Second: Mr. Gohmert.
Passed unanimously. [1/403]

B. Consideration for Construction Approvals

Mr. Schroeder presented the Technical Committee's recommendation concerning construction approvals. The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve for construction the following projects:

1. West Belle Pass Headland Restoration Project (PTE-27) from the 2nd Priority Project List. The estimated total cost of this project is \$5,750,985 (previously approved by fax vote);
2. Isles Dernieres Barrier Island Restoration Project, Phase 0 and Phase 1 on East Trinity Islands (TE-20 and XTE-41) from the 1st and 2nd Priority Project Lists. The estimated total cost of the projects is \$16,566,706; and
3. Beneficial Use of Hopper Dredge Material Demonstration Project from the 2nd Priority Project List. The estimated total cost of this project is \$375,000. [1/409-418]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That the Task Force approve construction of West Belle Pass Headland Restoration Plan (PTE-27), Isles Dernieres Barrier Island Restoration Project, Phase 0 and Phase 1 on East Trinity Islands (TE-20 and XTE-41), and the Beneficial Use of Hopper Dredge Material Demonstration Project.

Second: Mr. Hathaway
Passed unanimously. [1/417]

C. Request for Change in Project Scope for Bayou Chevee

Mr. Hicks and Mr. Podany discussed the project and requested a change in scope for Bayou Chevee (XPO-69) from that approved on the 5th Priority Project List. The reformulated project provides for shoreline protection through the construction of a rock dike and no longer includes a marsh creation component. Dr. Bahr suggested a title change to reflect the change in scope. [1/420-453]

money budgeted to develop the scope of Phase 2, and the public perception of shifting resources.

Motion by Mr. Hathaway: To table decision until review of the next agenda item, which is, Consideration for Approval of FY 1998 Planning Program Budget

Second: Mr. Frugé

Passed unanimously. [2/135-3/243]

F. Consideration for Approval of FY 1998 Planning Program Budget

Mr. Schroeder presented the Technical Committee's recommendation for the FY 1998 Planning Program Budget (Enclosure 5). The proposal included:

1. \$2,561,612 in funds for agency participation in the program, completion of Priority Project List 7, and initiation of Priority Project List 8;

2. a total of \$550,000 for the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study (\$200,000 to complete Phase 1 work, \$150,000 to develop a Phase 2 feasibility scope that will consider restoration of both the shoreline and interior marshes of the Chenier Plain, and \$200,000 to initiate Phase 2);

3. a total of \$562,900 in FY 98 for the Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution Study (Funds in the amount of \$150,000 would be budgeted for FY 99 to complete the study in December 1998 in accordance with the current schedule; no slippage in the schedule would result);

4. a FY 98 total of \$1,066,800 to be budgeted over two years for Coast 2050 (FY 97 and FY 98); and

5. a total of \$43,424 in unallocated funds.

The Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study budget was changed to \$50,000 to develop a Phase 2 feasibility scope that will consider restoration of both the shoreline and interior marshes of the Chenier Plain, and \$300,000 to initiate Phase 2.

The outreach component of the budget was changed to \$275,000 from \$279,000 (adding \$30,000 for a website upgrade and deferring \$34,000 for the coastal youth reader issue). This changed the total program unallocated balance to \$47,424 and the total unallocated amount to \$93,674. [3/245-4/178]

Motion by Mr. Bigford: To approve the Technical Committee's recommendation for the FY 1998 Planning Program Budget with the changes made during the discussion. (See above.)

Second: Mr. Frugé

Passed unanimously. [4/176]

G. Status of Project Deauthorizations

Mr. Ruebsamen of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) briefed the Task Force on the status of deauthorization for Eden Isles East Marsh Creation (PPO-4) from the 3rd Priority Project

List. He also informed the Task Force that the NMFS was ready to begin the deauthorization procedure for the Restoration of Bayou Perot / Bayou Rigolettes Marsh(XBA-65a) from the 3rd Priority Project List.

Motion by Mr. Bigford: To begin the deauthorization procedures for the Restoration of Bayou Perot / Bayou Rigolettes Marsh and Eden Isles East Marsh Creation projects.

Second: Mr. Frugé
Passed unanimously. [4/424]

Mr. Gohmert briefed the Task Force on the status of deauthorization for White's Ditch Outfall Management(BS-4a) from the 3rd Priority Project List. [4/313-425]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: To begin the deauthorization procedure for the White's Ditch Outfall Management project.

Second: Mr. Hathaway
Passed unanimously. [4/429]

H. Consideration for Task Force Approval of Memoranda Of Agreement(MOAs) with the Academic Community for 8th Priority Project List Work and Coast 2050 work.

Ms. Hawes described the agreements (Enclosure 6) and requested that the Task Force approve them.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: To approve the MOA with the academic community for 8th Priority Project List work in the amount of \$65,000.

Second: Dr. Bahr
Passed unanimously. [5/587]

Motion by Dr. Bahr: To approve the MOA with the academic community for work on the Coast 2050 effort in the amount of \$106,000, including \$20,000 for maps.

Second: Mr. Bigford
Passed unanimously. [6/58]

V. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Status of Coastwide Strategy (Coast 2050)

Dr. Good briefed the Task Force on the status of the Coastwide Strategy (Coast 2050). Mr. Frugé received positive comments on the CWPPRA program from the White House working group. [1/86-236]

B. Report of Program Performance and Project Implementation

Mr. Scott Clark of the Corps of Engineers reported on the implementation status of approved priority project list projects.

Mr. Clark was recognized for his work with CWPPRA. [1/237-388]

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

Mr. Podany briefed the Task Force on the status of the 7th Priority Project List. He stated that due to commitment of 7th PPL funds to previously approved multi-year funded priority list projects, about \$10,000,000 could be anticipated for new projects on the 7th PPL. [4/471-533]

Colonel Conner reaffirmed his instruction at the July 23, 1997 Task Force meeting that the Technical Committee should not to be constrained by a \$10,000,000 cost limit but pick good projects.

D. Status of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan Evaluation Report

Dr. Bill Good of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources reported on the status of the evaluation report required by Section 303(b)(7) of the CWPPRA. He stated that he expected to receive 2000 copies back from the printer in a month or two.

Mr. Jimmy Johnson of the Department of the Interior stated that the brochure "Caring for Coastal Wetlands" was almost completed and could be linked with the evaluation report. [4/533-5/192]

E. Consideration for Approval of Dates and Locations of FY 1998 Quarterly Task Force Meetings

The quarterly Task Force meetings were set for the following dates and locations: 1st quarter - January 14, 1998 at Bayou Segnette State Park, 2nd quarter - April 1, 1998 in Abbeville, 3rd quarter - June 24, 1998 in Thibodaux, and 4th quarter - September 16, 1998 in Baton Rouge. [5/193-448]

F Outreach Committee Report

Mr. Gamble reported on the committee's national outreach program. [5/449-546]

G. 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 (MRSNFR). He reported that Phase 1 of the Louisiana Barrier Shoreline study should be completed in December 1997 and MRSNFR is on schedule to be completed in December 1998.

Colonel Conner directed that each study team provide full reports on the studies to the Task Force at the January, 1998 Task Force meeting. [5/547-574]

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Katherine Vaughan of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources thanked Mr. Scott Clark for his contribution to the CWPPRA effort. [6/63-82]

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 was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on January 14, 1998 at Bayou Segnette State Park.¹ Task Force members will be contacted to confirm the date.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Colonel Conner declared the meeting adjourned. [6/87]

¹ Note: The Task Force meeting was subsequently changed to January 16, 1998, 9:30 a.m., New Orleans District. District Assembly Room.

Seventh Priority Project List Approved
by the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force^a

3/4/98

Project No.	Name of Selected Project on 7th Priority Project List	Lead Agency	Fully Funded Total Cost	Cummulative Fully Funded Total Cost
XME-22	Pecan Island Terracing	NMFS	\$ 2,185,900	\$ 2,185,900
XBA-63 BA-21	Stabilization Along Bayou Perot and Rigolettes, Phase 1	NRCS	\$ 10,342,700	\$ 12,528,600
XBA 1a "I"	Vegetative Planting of Dredge Material Disposal Site on Grand Terre Island	NMFS	\$ 928,900	\$ 13,457,500
CW-(Demo)	Effects of sediment and nutrients on thin-marsh Flotant Marsh	NRCS	\$ 460,222	\$ 13,917,722
Total for Projects Selected and Funded:			\$ 13,917,722	
PO-11	Cut Off Bayou Marsh Restoration	COE	\$ 6,510,200	\$ 6,510,200
PBS-1	Upper Oak River Freshwater Introduction Siphon	NRCS	\$ 12,471,800	\$ 18,982,000
XCS-48 (SA-1)	Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Alt No. 1	COE	\$ 9,391,600	\$ 28,373,600
XME-42	South Grand Cheniere Freshwater Introduction (Hog Bayou FW Introduction)	NRCS	\$ 5,130,500	\$ 33,504,100
XTE-62	Wine Island Eastward Expansion	COE	\$ 1,276,100	\$ 34,780,200
XBA-63 BA-21	Stabilization Along Bayou Perot and Rigolettes, Phase 2 ^b	NRCS	\$ 21,263,700	\$ 56,043,900
TE-11aii	Lake Pelfo Dedicated Dredging and New Cut Closure	EPA	\$ 6,314,700	\$ 62,358,600
PPO-2dh	Lake Borgne Shore Protection, Base Only	COE	\$ 15,133,400	\$ 77,492,000
Total for Projects Selected but Not Funded:			\$ 77,492,000	

Proposed Schedule of Allocations for Phased Projects

Project No.	Name of Phased Project from Previously Approved Lists	7th Priority Project List Cost	8th Priority Project List Cost ^c	Cummulative Cost
BA-25, PBA-20	Bayou Lafourche Siphon	\$ 7,987,000	\$ 7,500,000	\$ 15,487,000
MR-9, PMR-10	Delta-Wide Crevasses	\$ -	\$ 2,736,950	\$ 18,223,950
TE-34, PTE-26i	Penchant Basin Plan	\$ -	\$ 7,051,550	\$ 25,275,500
TE-32, TE-7i	Lake Boudreaux Basin Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management, Alternative B	\$ -	\$ 4,915,650	\$ 30,191,150
BA-24, XBA-48a	Myrtle Grove Siphon	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 35,191,150
CA-2, PTV-5	Nutria Harvest for Coastwide Restoration	\$ 640,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 36,931,150
Total:		\$ 8,627,000	\$ 28,304,150	

^a The selection meeting of the Task Force was conducted on January 16, 1998.

^b Phase 2 project cost (for associated work) has been shown here to equal the difference in cost (and work) between Phase 0 and Phase 1.

^c 7th Priority Project List phased project costs that are now deferred to the 8th Priority Project List.

January 16, 1998

CWPPRA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

7. Revised Cost Sharing¹.

a. General: As provided for in the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan, effective December 1, 1997, cost sharing is reduced for unexpended funds from 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal to 85% Federal and 15% non-Federal for all future Priority Lists projects and Priority Lists 1 through 4 projects. For Priority Lists 5 and 6 projects, cost sharing is reduced from 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal to 90% Federal and 10% non-Federal .

b. Definitions²: The term "total Project expenditures", as stated in paragraph 4.i., shall mean the sum of all Federal expenditures for the project and all non-Federal expenditures for which the Lead Agency has granted credit. An expenditure is a disbursement of funds for charges incurred for goods and services.

c. Implementation: All expenditures that were incurred through November 30, 1997 (invoices that were submitted to CEMVN-PM-P and all funds disbursed by check), will be considered part of the original cost sharing percentages. These expenditures will be subtracted from the approved current estimates and cost shared at 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal. The remaining funds expended beginning December 1, 1997 will be considered part of the revised cost sharing provisions.

d. Cost Sharing Agreements: Future cost sharing agreements will reflect the new cost sharing percentages and existing cost sharing agreements will be amended to reflect the new cost sharing percentages.

e. Database: As stated in paragraph 5.a., the Corps of Engineers will act as bookkeeper, administrator, and disbursing officer of all Federal and non-Federal funds. A database is in place at present to record all estimates, obligations, and expenditures. Lead agencies will keep the Corps of Engineers informed of current approved project estimates and schedules in order to have the latest information in the database.

¹Formally approved at the January 16, 1998 Task Force meeting.

²At the December 16, 1997 Joint Meeting of the P&E Subcommittee and the Technical Committee the term "expenditure" was further clarified as being on a cash basis. For example, work-in-kind (WIK) and costs paid would be considered expenditures. However, costs submitted would not be considered an expenditure.

ATTACHMENT A:

Status of CWPPRA Outreach Committee Action Assignments:

1. Develop feature stories that highlight scientific, environmental and economic aspects
Lead: National Marine Fisheries Service
Gordon Helm is the lead person on the committee to direct this on-going activity. There have been several regional feature stories this past year including Point Au Fur and Lake Salvador. The outreach committee will pursue this area more aggressively in the coming months.
2. Conduct project tours for media, constituents, and school groups
Lead: Environmental Protection Agency & US Fish and Wildlife Service
This assignment has become the action portion of the project dedications. Due to funding limitations, the project tours have been accomplished during dedications. CWPPRA has received favorable press from these activities. This activity is on-going.
3. Refine/expand mailing lists, identify key media contacts
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
There is a project to merge the LADNR, Coast 2050, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, BTNEP, and Watermarks mailing lists. This will provide a mailing database that is more comprehensive than the present one.
4. Develop/maintain event calendar focusing on regional and local civic government events
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
This issue is being addressed through the CWPPRA Homepage. There have been start-up difficulties and a protocol is being developed that will allow easier in-pur of activities onto the calendar. Additionally, the mailing database will be used to sort individuals and groups targeted for information.
5. Provide materials for CWPPRA Task Force member briefings to high levels
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
This activity is on-going. The CWPPRA slide show has been developed as a basic tool for use by presenters. The tabletop/full size displays are available. A color CWPPRA brochure has been developed. A full size poster of Louisiana coastal wetlands will be available for mass distribution. Material can and will be developed as needs become apparent and activities dictate.
6. Develop/distribute information for outside public officials use
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
This activity has been combined into activity number 4. It relates to the mailing database, Homepage development, material development, and CD-ROM development.

7. Identify/develop personal contacts with environmental, industry, and civic groups (stakeholders)
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
This activity has been greatly advanced by the involvement in Coast 2050. The coordinator will increase efforts to interact with industry/business interests and large land owners.
8. Identify/establish contacts with "issue leaders" from above groups
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
This activity has been rolled into activity number 7.
9. Identify opportunities to participate in conventions, meetings, develop exhibit calendar
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
A calendar of events will be developed to participate in those regional and national events identified as being a priority. That calendar will be developed in draft by the end of January. It will reflect activities proven to be effective in the past to include National Wetlands Month/Alexandria, Va., National Science Teachers Association National Convention, etc.
10. Promote/maintain CWPPRA Internet Homepage
Lead: Corps of Engineers
A budget increase was executed and a Homepage Workgroup was formed to assist the NWRC/NBS in their upgrade of the CWPPRA Homepage. This activity is on-going.
11. Develop speakers bureau/identify agency speakers/provide canned presentations
LADNR/Outreach Coordinator
LADNR (Sharon Thompson) has taken the lead to develop a speaker's bureau. The thrust of this endeavor comes from the Coast 2050 Initiative and the need to reach various groups of people. This activity is on-going.
12. Procure/develop tabletop displays
Lead: Outreach Coordinator
The tabletop display has been procured and is in the inventory. The development of constantly changing themes for use on the display is on-going.
13. Biannual publication of *Watermarks*, expand distribution
Lead: Corps of Engineers/Natural Resources conservation Service
The publication has expanded to quarterly.
14. Conduct project dedications
Lead: All
On-going

15. Finalize publication of general overview brochure and slide presentation & individual project pamphlets

Lead: Environmental Protection Agency

The overview brochure and the slide presentation have been completed under a contract with Dr. Paul Coreil of LSU-CES. Individual project pamphlets will continue to be developed as an on-going activity.

CWPPRA OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

January 16, 1998

1. Action Item Summary: See Attachment A
2. Conferences and Conventions
3. Project Dedication
4. Public Groups, Schools, and Governments
5. Coast 2050
6. Watermarks
7. Budget
8. Recommendations
9. Minutes of 12/18 Meeting. See Attachment B

1. Action Item Summary: See Attachment A

2. Conferences and Conventions:

Louisiana Science Teachers Association (Shreveport, November 6-7):

CWPPRA was represented at this event by displaying the tabletop display with the CWPPRA mural/message. CWPPRA partnered with a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency's Public Outreach Section. Ms. Terry Branch from the EPA's Regional Office assisted with the activities at the booth. Approximately 300 science teachers from around the state participated in this event. Outreach materials from CWPPRA as well as wetland materials from the EPA were available to the teachers for their classroom use.

National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Convention (Kansas City, November 12-14):

Herb Bourque (NRCS) and Jay Gamble (CWPPRA-EPA) traveled to Kansas City to represent CWPPRA and set up the large display at an assigned booth (#611). The display consisted of the large CWPPRA mural, interactive CD/computer (NWRC), and various handouts (pamphlets, brochures, fact sheets, posters, etc.). There were approximately 32,000 registered convention attendees by late Thursday afternoon. Needless to say, there was a lot of noise and activity. The traditional blue and gold FFA jackets being worn by the young people were nice to see, as well as their politeness and good conduct.

It's really difficult to assess the impacts of attending an activity like this. It was relatively expensive (approximately \$3500) to attend and this particular audience was very diversified. We did not distribute all of the material we had taken with us and ultimately shipped some of the material back. Many people went past the display and read the message on the mural depicting coastal wetland loss in Louisiana. Herb and I both had numerous one-on-one conversations with individuals and groups. But was it cost effective and did we "get the message out" to a national audience in an effective way? Herb and I agreed that we did not.

ENCL 6

Our joint recommendation to the CWPPRA Task Force is that we do not attend this particular function as an exhibitor in the future. While the number of attendees was certainly impressive, it turned out to be an unmanageable task to do effective outreach from an exhibitor setting. It may be better to target segments of the agricultural community to do public outreach regarding coastal wetland losses and not to such a diverse national group.

From a regional perspective, working with LSU-CES in their various wetland program endeavors around the state (Wildwoods Wanderings, Marsh Maneuvers, various 4-H Camps) has shown to be effective in getting the CWPPRA message out to a largely agricultural group.

3. CWPPRA Project Dedication:

Lake Salvador (October 15):

The remoteness of this particular CWPPRA project dedication provided many challenges for the multi agency group committed to the logistics of this ceremony. To the attendees of the dedication ceremony, the challenges were transparent and that is the main indicator of our success. NMFS/LADNR were the overall coordinators of the project dedication with various other agencies and departments taking the lead for various subtaskings. This was the first occasion for many of us to eat nutria in it's various forms (sausage and barbecued).

4. Public Groups/Schools/Governments:

During the last quarter, the CWPPRA outreach coordinator has been active in talking to various public and private groups relating to CWPPRA/Coast 2050. It has been my experience, that when beginning the talk with Coast 2050, some regression is necessary to CWPPRA. From there, some additional regression is necessary to elaborate on the basic functions and values of coastal wetlands. That indicates we need to continue with the very basic message that wetlands are important and they perform vital functions in our environment. CWPPRA is a method/vehicle for restoring-protecting-enhancing lost functions and values of Louisiana's coastal wetlands in crisis. Some of the groups that were given programs include the following:

- Buras High School (Plaquemines Parish)
- Ponchatoula High School (Tangipohoa Parish)
- Tangipohoa School Superintendent & staff
- Lake Maurapas Society (Tangipohoa & St. John Parishes)
- Sixth Ward Association-Lafitte (Jefferson Parish)
- League of Women Voters (St. Tammany Parish)
- Tangipohoa Parish Council
- St. Tammany Parish Council
- EPA Region 6 Outreach Staff

5. Coast 2050:

The CWPPRA outreach coordinator and members of the outreach committee have been involved with the Objectives Development Team (ODT) and Regional Teams of the Coast 2050 effort. Many meetings with the ODT, Coastal Zone Managers, fisheries agents, and county extension agents have taken a lot of time and mileage. Hopefully, those efforts will result in meaningful public input to the Coast 2050 effort. It has been interesting the responses from the public regarding this new planning effort. To say they are a little skeptical would be to put it mildly. One political figure from St. Tammany Parish referred to Coast 2050 as more bureaucratic nonsense. We have our work cut out for us.

6. Watermarks:

Following budget approval by the Task Force permitting the quarterly publication of Watermarks, the outreach committee began development of themes to be used as a guide to the publishers. A preliminary summary of those themes can be found in Attachment B.

7. Budget:

The Outreach Committee met on January 15 in a special meeting devoted to institutionalizing the process the committee uses to make budget recommendations to the Technical Committee/Task Force. The outreach committee will distribute those decisions and recommendations after a review and comment period.

8. Recommendations:

- A. That specific line item changes or additions to funding to the CWPPRA Outreach Committee budget by the Task Force or Technical Committee are reviewed by the Outreach Committee prior to becoming final.
- B. Extend membership of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee to the Gulf of Mexico Program, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and the LSU-Cooperative Extension Service with full voting privileges except for budgetary items.
- C. That a permanent full-time CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator/GS-12 be established at one of the Breaux Act federal agencies.
- D. The chairmanship of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee rotate among the various member agencies for a duration to be determined later. Or, the chairmanship duties are assumed by the full-time outreach coordinator position as a part of his/her job description.

9. Minutes of 12/18 Outreach Committee: See Attachment B

COST SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

P/L	Total No. of Projects	Current Estimate (a)	Expenditures To Date (b)	Unexpended Funds (c)	75% x Current Est (d)	75% x Expend + 85% x Unexp (PL 0-4, 7) + 90% Unexp PL 5 & 6 (e)	Increase Over Orig 75% Cost (e-d)
0	1	238,871	123,202	115,669	179,153	190,720	11,567
1	17	43,166,429	12,581,639	30,584,790	32,374,822	35,433,301	3,058,479
2	15	53,918,458	13,358,275	40,560,183	40,438,844	44,494,862	4,056,018
3	17	45,029,251	8,461,702	36,567,549	33,771,938	37,428,693	3,656,755
4	10	15,500,087	239,767	15,260,320	11,625,065	13,151,097	1,526,032
5	9	43,778,271	2,396,925	41,381,346	32,833,703	39,040,905	6,207,202
6	13	38,220,049	112,198	38,107,851	28,665,037	34,381,214	5,716,178
7	0	36,931,150	0	36,931,150	27,698,363	31,391,478	3,693,115
Total	82	276,782,566	37,273,708	239,508,858	207,586,925	235,512,270	27,925,346
Available		281,995,484			231,160,268	231,160,268	
Balance		5,212,918			23,573,344	(4,352,602)	
		(Fed & N/F)			(Fed)	(Fed)	

Notes:

- (1) Includes FY 98 estimated \$42,500,000 work allowance.
- (2) Includes \$36,931,150 for Priority List 7 phased projects (\$37,181,150 less \$250,000 for Bayou Boeuf).
- (3) Includes 7 proposed deauthorizations:
 - Bayou Perot
 - Eden Isles
 - Grand Bay
 - Pass-a-Loutre Crevasse
 - White's Ditch
 - Avoca Island
 - Bayou Boeuf (Phased)
- (4) Includes \$7.6M cost increases approved by Task Force 21 Nov 97. (Isles Dernieres + \$4.1, Whiskey Island + \$1.8, Aichafalaya Seal + \$0.4, and Big Island + \$1.3).
- (5) Includes additional anticipated cost increases to W. Pr-a-la-hache (PL 3, + \$3.2M) and Grand Bayou (PL 5, + \$2.8M).

**PROGRAM STATUS
ADDITIONAL KNOWN INCREASES**

	<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>Federal Costs</u>	<u>Cumulative Federal Funding Status</u> (\$4,352,000)	
Starting Point (20 Dec 97 Spreadsheet)				
1. Adjustments (Assume 85-15 Cost Sharing)				
a. Fully-Funded Cost Increase of West Belle Pass	\$300,000	\$255,000	(\$4,607,000)	
b. Fully-Funded Cost of Grand Bayou Expansion, \$2.9M vs. \$2.8M	\$100,000	\$85,000	(\$4,692,000)	
c. Fully-Funded Cost of Approved Monitoring Plans*	\$5,000,000	\$4,250,000	(\$8,942,000)	
d. Fully-Funded Cost of Unapproved Monitoring Plans*	\$4,140,000	\$3,519,000	(\$12,461,000)	
e. Anticipated Oyster Lease Impacts*	\$625,000	\$531,250	(\$12,992,250)	
f. Anticipated O&M Increases*	\$12,000,000	\$10,200,000	(\$23,192,250)	
2. Additional Potential Deauthorizations				
None	\$0	\$0		
3. Deferrals	<u>7th List Cost</u>	<u>Total Deferred</u>	<u>Fed. Share of Deferred Amt</u>	<u>Cumulative Federal Funding Status</u>
a. Delta-Wide Crevasses	\$2,736,950	\$2,736,950	\$2,326,408	(\$20,865,843)
b. Penchant Basin Plan	\$7,051,550	\$7,051,550	\$5,993,818	(\$14,872,025)
c. Lake Boudreaux Basin	\$4,915,850	\$4,915,650	\$4,178,303	(\$10,693,723)
d. Nutria Harvest Demo	\$1,740,000	\$1,100,000	\$935,000	(\$9,758,723)
e. Bayou Lafourche Siphon	\$15,487,000	\$7,500,000	\$6,375,000	(\$3,383,723)
f. Myrtle Grove Siphon	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$4,250,000	\$1,616,278
Subtotal	\$36,931,350	\$ 28,304,150	\$24,058,528	
4. Other Adjustments			<u>Amount</u>	
a. FY 99 Federal Allotment			\$42,100,000	\$43,716,278
b. 8th List Federal Funding of Deferred Projects			\$24,058,528	\$19,657,750
5. Federal Funds Available for New Projects on 7th and 8th List			<u>Amount</u>	
Non-Federal Matching Share			\$19,657,750	
Total Funds Available for New Projects On 7th & 8th Lists			\$3,468,983	\$23,126,733

* Preliminary estimates provided by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

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 coastal use and resource 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.

Report Status

Status

(Italics indicate that the draft report is under review by the CWPPRA Feasibility Study Steering Team and Bold indicates that the draft report is under revision by the contractor following Steering Team comment. Projected dates reflect the best optimistic estimate for report completion of the study manager.

A. Review of prior studies, reports, and existing projects	Final
B. Conceptual and quantitative system framework	Final
C. Assessment of resource status and trends	Final
D. Inventory and assessment of physical conditions and parameters	Final
E. Inventory and assessment of existing environmental resource conditions	Final
F. Inventory and assessment of existing economic resource conditions	Final
G. Forecast trends in physical and hydrological conditions with no action	Draft
H. Forecast trends in environmental resource conditions with no action	<i>Draft</i>
Ha. Forecast trends in economic resource conditions with no action	1/97
I. Formulation of strategic options	<i>Draft</i>
J. Assessment of strategic options	1/98
K. Identification and assessment of management and engineering alternatives	<i>Draft</i>
L. Description and rationale for the selected plans	2/98
M. Project implementation plans and	2/98
N. Final report and EIS collaboration.	4/98

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
Allocated for FY 98	\$550,000

c. **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.

The scope of Phase 2 is being revised per Task Force recommendations from the September

1997 meeting. Schedules and budgets are being developed by DNR and will be available for Steering Team review in early January 1998.

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

CELMN-PD-FE

FACT SHEET
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

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. Data and design information development for the intermediate concept plans are 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.
- ii. Tasks Underway: Tasks involving the development of future without action conditions are being initiated through the MOA with LUMCON. Modeling of the hydraulic effects of the combined MRSNFR and Barrier Shoreline study alternatives in the Barataria basin are being run. Landscape modeling runs of the Barataria alternatives are also being run. The wetland evaluations for the intermediate study alternatives have been initiated and the field data collection phase is finished. Real Estate cost estimates for the individual alternatives are ongoing. The study efforts are being closely coordinated Coast 2050 planning process. This coast wide multi-interest public planning process will directly influence the implementability of all study alternatives. Information from the outfall and landscape modeling efforts as well as the completed engineering analysis should be available in mid January. Environmental benefit analyses are scheduled to be completed by mid February. A new completion date of mid June 1998 is projected for the draft study report. A completion date of December 1998 is still anticipated for the final report.
- 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.

ENCL9

Total Estimated Cost (100% Fed)	\$4,082,500
Allocated through FY 1995	\$919,000
Allocated for FY 1996	\$993,400
Allocated for FY 1997	\$1,458,600
Allocated for FY 1998	\$458,600
Balance to Complete After FY 1998	\$712,500

b. Issues.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.

The Coast 2050 effort should be an effective means of coordinating and addressing these issues.

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. 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

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING AGENDA

District Assembly Room
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Building
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana

January 16, 1998
9:30 a.m.

Tab

- I. Meeting Initiation
 - a. Introduction of Task Force Members or Alternates
 - b. Opening Remarks by Task Force Members

- II. Adoption of Minutes from the 17 September 1997 Meeting D

- III. Letter from Mr. Norm Thomas E

- IV. Report on Potential Funding Deferrals in Multi-Year Funded Projects:
 - a. Bayou Boeuf Pumping Station, TE-33, XTE-32i; (EPA)
 - b. Bayou Lafourche Siphon, BA-25, PBA-20; (EPA)
 - c. Delta-Wide Crevasses, MR-9, PMR-10; (NMFS)
 - d. Penchant Basin Plan, TE-34, PTE-26i; (NRCS)
 - e. Lake Boudreaux Basin Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management, TE-32, TE-7F; (USFWS)
 - f. Myrtle Grove Siphon, BA-24, XBA-48A; (NMFS) and
 - g. Nutria Harvest for Coastwide Restoration, LA-2PTV-5 (USFWS) F

- V. Consideration for Approval of Project Deauthorizations *Approved 16 Jan 98*
 - a. Eden Isles East Marsh Restoration Project (PPO-4);
 - b. Bayou Perot/Bayou Rigolettes Restoration Project (BA-21, XBA-65A); and
 - c. White's Ditch Outfall Management (BS-4a)
(Robert Schroeder)..... G

- VI. Identification of Known Cost Increases in the Program and Potential Deauthorizations
(Tom Podany)..... H

- VII. Recommendation of the 7th Priority Project List and Discussion of the 8th Priority Project
List (Robert Schroeder)..... I

- VIII. Status of Feasibility Studies (Mr. Podany)
 - a. Presentation on the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study (Steve Gammill)
 - b. Presentation on the Mississippi River Sediment Nutrient and Fresh Water
Redistribution Study (Tim Axtman)..... J

Initiation of Proposed de-authorizations - Approved
Pass-a-Loutre Avoca
Grand Bay Bayou Boeuf

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING AGENDA
(continued)

District Assembly Room
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Building
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January 16, 1998
9:30 a.m.

Tab

- IX. Report of the Atchafalaya Liaison Group (Tom Podany).....K
- X. Status of the State Conservation Plan (Katherine Vaughan/Beverly Ethridge) L
- XI. Status of the Coastwide Strategy, Coast 2050 (Bill Good)M
- XII. Report of Program Performance and Project Implementation (Steve Mathies)..... N
- XIII. Consideration for Approvals:
 - a. Construction of Sweet Lake-Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration, C/S-11b;
 - b. Construction Cost Increase for West Point a la Hache Outfall Management, BA-4C; and
 - c. Construction Cost Increase for West Belle Pass, TE-23, PTE-15a;
(Robert Schroeder)..... O
- XIV. Report and Confirmation of Approvals:
 - a. Construction Cost Increase for Big Island Mining, AT-3/XAT-7;
 - b. Construction Cost Increase for Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery, AT-2/PAT-2;
 - c. Construction with Construction Cost Increase for Isles Dernieres Barrier Island Restoration Projects (East Island, TE-20 and Trinity Island, TE-24/XTE-41/PTE-15a); and
 - d. Construction with Construction Cost Increase for Whiskey Island (PTE-15bi)
(Robert Schroeder)..... P
- XV. Proposed Standard Operating Procedure for Handling Changes in Cost Sharing Under the Conservation Plan (Robert Schroeder)..... *PL 5 & PL 6 will be 90/10 in their entirety.* Q
- XVI. Outreach Committee Report (Jay Gamble).....R
- XVII. Additional Agenda Items S
- XVIII. Request for Public Comments..... T
- XIX. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting *8 Apr 98 Bluebonnet Swamp* U

9 Apr 98 Isles Dernieres Ground Breaking

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING
January 16, 1998

STATUS OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES

For information.

Mr. Steve Gammill will report to the Task Force on the status of the Louisiana Barrier Shoreline Study and Mr. Tim Axtman will provide a status report on the Mississippi River Sediment Nutrient and Fresh Water Redistribution Study. Enclosed are fact sheets for the two studies.

*Need TF dec @ next mtg on
funding of Chenier plain FS.*

January 13, 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.

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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.

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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.

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L. Description and rationale for the selected plans	2/98
M. Project implementation plans and	2/98
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1997 meeting. Schedules and budgets are being developed by DNR and will be available for Steering Team review in early January 1998.

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

CELMN-PD-FE

FACT SHEET
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT**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. Data and design information development for the intermediate concept plans are 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.
- ii. **Tasks Underway:** Tasks involving the development of future without action conditions are being initiated through the MOA with LUMCON. Modeling of the hydraulic effects of the combined MRSNFR and Barrier Shoreline study alternatives in the Barataria basin are being run. Landscape modeling runs of the Barataria alternatives are also being run. The wetland evaluations for the intermediate study alternatives have been initiated and the field data collection phase is finished. Real Estate cost estimates for the individual alternatives are ongoing. The study efforts are being closely coordinated Coast 2050 planning process. This coast wide multi-interest public planning process will directly influence the implementability of all study alternatives. Information from the outfall and landscape modeling efforts as well as the completed engineering analysis should be available in mid January. Environmental benefit analyses are scheduled to be completed by mid February. A new completion date of mid June 1998 is projected for the draft study report. A completion date of December 1998 is still anticipated for the final report.
- 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.

Total Estimated Cost (100% Fed)	\$4,082,500
Allocated through FY 1995	\$919,000
Allocated for FY 1996	\$993,400
Allocated for FY 1997	\$1,458,600
Allocated for FY 1998	\$458,600
Balance to Complete After FY 1998	\$712,500

b. Issues.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.

The Coast 2050 effort should be an effective means of coordinating and addressing these issues.

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. 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

Revised Study Schedule

< Outfall Modeling (initial results)	10 Feb
< Landscape Modeling (initial results)	17 Feb
< Environmental Benefit Analysis	17 Feb
< Economic Analysis	31 Mar
< Environmental Compliance	31 May
< Draft Report	30 Jun
< Review of Draft Report	31 Aug
< Final Report	30 Oct
< Review of Final Report	15 Dec