

# Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act

## TASK FORCE MEETING

April 14, 1999

### Minutes

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Opening comments were made by Colonel William Conner, who convened the thirty-fourth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task force at 9:30 a.m. on April 14, 1999, in the Estuarine Habitat & Coastal Fisheries Center, Lafayette, Louisiana. The agenda is shown 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 to law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President Bush on November 29, 1990.

#### II. ATTENDEES

The attendance record for the Task Force meeting is presented as enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members.

Dr. Len Bahr, State of Louisiana  
Mr. William Hathaway, Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. David Fruge, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Mr. Don Gohmert, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mr. James Burgess, U.S. Department of Commerce  
COL William L. Conner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

All of the Task Force members were in attendance, except for Mr. Hathaway who was initially represented by Ms. Beverly Ethridge and later by Ms. Becky Weber.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes for the meeting held on January 20, 1999, were discussed. Ms. Beverly Ethridge of EPA reminded the Task Force of the lead taken by Mr. Bill Hathaway in the previous Task Force meeting of returning money from a project not currently ready to expend allocated funds. She appealed to the other CWPPRA agencies to follow that lead taken by EPA and determine which of their project could also return funds to the CWPPRA budget. She suggested to the Task Force that this issue be included as an agenda item in future Task Force meetings. COL Conner agreed and made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Jim Burgess seconded the motion and the minutes of the Task Force meeting held on January 20, 1999 (enclosure 3) were then approved unanimously.

#### **IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

##### **A. Recognition of Distinguished Service for Departing Members of the CWPPRA Program.**

Mr. Robert Tisdale passed out certificates of appreciation to the following departing members of the CWPPRA program or to representatives from those agencies:

Colonel William L. Conner  
Mr. Robert Schroeder  
Dr. Peter S. Mathies  
Mr. Thomas E. Bigford  
Mr. Ric Ruebsamen

##### **B. Coast 2050 – Presentation of the Proposed Feasibility Study**

Mr. Thomas Podany gave a presentation on the Coast 2050 Feasibility Study. He discussed the Coast 2050 plan, regional strategies, and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) process and how those would relate to the new feasibility study. The feasibility study would consist of multiple studies over the next ten years, allocate \$3.5 million each year to complete those studies, and have a 50-50 Cost Sharing Agreement between the Federal and state governments.

Mr. Bill Good initiated a discussion of the future of the Planning Management Team (PMT). He suggested keeping the PMT as part of the CWPPRA Program since it has the ability to work outside of the Breaux Act, act as a "bridge" between the State Wetland Authority and the Task Force, work directly with locals, and has a high level of scientific and technical expertise. Although the PMT has fulfilled its Coast 2050 obligations, he felt that the PMT could still provide technically sound coastal solutions to complex environmental problems.

Mr. Mark Davis commented that the focus on the Coast 2050 feasibility study should be the greatest priority of the Task Force. He agreed that the PMT did an outstanding job with the Coast 2050 report but felt that the Task Force shouldn't add committees just to add committees. The Task Force made no decision on the future status of the PMT at this meeting.

Mr. Jack Caldwell gave an update to the Task Force on the status of the Holley/Constance Beach project. He said that the state has \$2 million and was going to put out a scope of services soliciting engineering firms to complete the study. The state would seek WRDA funds primarily for construction but would ask the CWPPRA Task Force to fund a proportional share for wetlands protection.

A long discussion followed involving members of the Task Force and the public about the Coast 2050 feasibility study and the Holley/Constance Beach project.

##### **C. Approval of Operations and Maintenance, Monitoring and Cost Increases in the Program**

Mr. Gary Rauber gave a brief update of the O&M cost increases in the program stating that this number was currently estimated at \$9,863,991. This value was derived via comparing the baseline estimates to the current budget estimates.

Motion by Mr. Dave Fruge: To approve the cost increases  
Second to motion: Mr. Don Gohmert  
Motion passed unanimously.

#### D. Project Approvals

Mr. Podany presented the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the construction of the Fritchie Marsh Wetland Restoration Project, and the Thin Mat Marsh Enhancement Demonstration Project, the combining of monitoring funds for the Naomi Outfall Management and the Dupre Cut East projects, and the combining of Phases 1 and 2 of the Barataria Land Bridge Project. Dr. Bahr did have some concern with the O&M costs for the Fritchie Marsh Wetland Restoration and the Thin Mat Marsh Enhancement Demonstration projects which was then explained by Mr. Britt Paul.

Mr. Randy Hanchey suggested that the Task Force determine if there would be any real cost savings in combining selected PPL projects. Mr. Rick Hartman agreed and added that O&M cost in the first few years could be accurately estimated but that these numbers could easily change 10 years down the road. COL Conner suggested that a discussion of the O&M process (i.e. how project O&M cost are derived, funded, and spent) should be included as an agenda item at the next Task Force Meeting.

Motion by Mr. Fruge: To approve the Technical Committee's recommendations

Second to motion: Mr. Gohmert

Motion passed unanimously.

#### E. Selection of Candidate Projects for the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL

Mr. Robert Tisdale initiated the discussion on the selection of the PPL9 candidate projects and gave a brief definition of the terms non-complex, semi-complex, and complex projects. Ms. Becky Weber questioned the definitions described in the PPL9 candidate project handouts indicating that there was some discrepancy in the definitions in the PPL9 Planning Process. Mr. Podany suggested taking away the "semi-complex" term and just have non-complex projects with the understanding that some of these projects would take more than one year to develop. Complex projects would still be those which would take up to 3 years to develop. COL Conner synopsisized the discussion and recommended that PPL 9 be revised to indicate 30 selected "non-complex" projects with some noted as possibly taking more than 1 year, that complex projects would take up to 3 years to develop, and that the term "semi-complex" should be removed altogether. The Task Force agreed that no vote on this item was necessary.

#### F. Status of St. Bernard Parish's Request for the Establishment of a Task Force on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

The Task Force agreed to support a study of closing the MRGO using non-Breaux Act funding (the study would not be a priority list project).

#### G. Discussion of the EPA Letter on the PPL9 Planning Process

Ms. Weber indicated that Mr. Bill Hathaway raised some issues on the clarity of the PPL9 Planning Process and wanted everyone to be clear on the voting procedures and definitions described in that document. She suggested establishing a workgroup to review and possibly amend the PPL9 Planning Process. COL Conner agreed that this was a good idea and would be helpful in the process of future PPL selections. Dr. Bahr suggested adding a glossary to make the document clearer.

#### H. Report on the Development of an Options Paper for Cash Flow Budgeting of Future Selected and Approved PPL Projects.

Mr. Podany said that the report was in draft form with the latest discussion considering a 2-step approval process (PED and Construction) and O&M funding on a 5 year basis. The Cash Flow Management Workgroup was set to meet on April 20 to discuss the paper and work out budget alternatives and issues.

Mr. Hanchey gave a detailed presentation on some of the critical elements of a cash flow budget. This included a discussion of the 2-step approval process, a suggestion to consider adopting a cash flow budget starting with PPL9 with a systematic look back at PPL funds prior to the 9<sup>th</sup>, and the fact that cash flow will get the same number of projects started but sooner and with cost savings and program flexibility. The workgroup would develop a number of cash flow budget options and compile pros and cons for each of those options.

A long discussion followed addressing various concerns of CWPPRA moving to a cash flow management option.

#### I. Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study Presentation

Stephen Smith made a presentation to the Task Force on the completed Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study. He gave a brief history of how the study was developed, its budget, and the members of the team. He continued with a discussion of the potential future of the study area without implementation of a project, explained the array of alternatives looked at by the study team, and then described the assumptions and features of those alternatives. The presentation concluded with the advantages of each of the alternatives and a recommendation by the workgroup of a plan that includes features of both alternatives. This recommend plan would tentatively preserve 8,110 acres and create and maintain 9,400 acres of marsh at an estimated cost of ~~\$84.5~~ million.

#### J. Delivery of Status Reports

Mr. Podany led the discussion of the status reports. He informed the Task Force of the following program performance and project implementation numbers:

- 81 active projects
- 30 projects completed (2 since the last Task Force Meeting)
- 6 projects currently under construction
- 18 planned to begin in FY99

Mr. Podany continued the status reports stating that the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL process was on schedule, work is being done on the Report to Congress and the Feasibility Study Steering Committee, a presentation on Outreach would be given at the next Task Force Meeting, there would be an Atchafalaya Liaison Group meeting on April 22, and there would be a presentation on the status of the MRSNFR Study at the next Task Force meeting.

#### K. Faulting, Subsidence, and Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana Presentation

Mr. Woody Gagliano gave a presentation to the Task Force on faulting and subsidence and how that has and will effect land loss in coastal Louisiana. The issues presented will be important factors to consider in the planning of future wetlands restoration projects.

#### L. Additional Agenda Items

Dr. Bahr reminded everyone that "May Day" would be on April 30, 1999.

Mr. Burgess suggested putting Coast 2050 information on the CWPPRA web site.

Ric Ruebsamen thanked everyone for his certificate, said that it was a rewarding 8 years working on the CWPPRA Program, and that the biggest reward was seeing projects built and all of the agencies working so well together.

#### **V. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING**

The Task Force did not specifically discuss the date for the next meeting; however, the next Task Force meeting has since been scheduled for August 4, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. at the University of New Orleans in New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### **VI. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No written questions or comments were received from the public.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Task Force Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

TABLE OF AGENDA

Estuarine Habitat & Coastal Fisheries Center  
646 Cajundome Blvd.  
Lafayette, Louisiana

April 14, 1999  
9:30 a.m.

	<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 January 20, 1999 Meeting.....	D
III. Recognition of Distinguished Service of Department Members of the CWPPRA Program (Tisdale) - 9:30 am to 9:45 am.....	E
IV. Coast 2050, Preview of Presentation to Mississippi River Commission and Discussions of the Proposed Federal Feasibility Study (Podany) - 9:45 am to 10:15 am. ....	F
V. Discussion and Consideration for Approval of Operations & Maintenance, Monitoring, and Cost Increases in the Program (Rauber) - 10:15 am to 10:30 am.....	G
VI. Project Approvals	
a. Combining Monitoring Funds for Naomi Outfall Management and Dupre Cut East Projects;	
b. Construction Approval of Fritchie Marsh Project and the Thin Mat Marsh Enhancement Demonstration Project	
c. Combination of Barataria Land Bridge, Phases 1 and 2 (Tisdale) - 10:30 am to 10:45 am .....	H
VII. Selection of Candidate Projects for the 9 <sup>th</sup> PPL (Tisdale) - 10:45 am to 11:00 am. ....	I
VIII. Status of St. Bernard Parish's Request for the Establishment of a Task Force on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (Hathaway) - 11:00 am to 11:20 am.....	J
IX. Discussion of the EPA Letter on the PPL9 Planning Process (Weber) - 11:20 am to 11:50 am.....	K

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

TABLE OF AGENDA  
(continued)

	<u>Tab</u>
X. Report on the Development of an Options Paper for Cash Flow Budgeting of Future Selected and Approved PPL Projects (Podany) - 11:50 am to 12:15 pm .....	L
LUNCH (If Time Requires) - 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm	
XI. Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study Presentation (Smith) - 1:15 pm to 1:40 pm .....	M
XII. Delivery of Status Reports: a. Program Performance and Project Implementation; b. 9 <sup>th</sup> Priority Project List Schedule; c. Report to Congress; d. Feasibility Study Steering Committee; e. Outreach Committee Report; f. Atchafalaya Liaison Group, and g. Coast 2050 Planning Management Team (Good) (Podany) - 1:40 pm to 2:10 pm.....	N
XIII. Faulting, Subsidence and Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana Presentation (Gagliano) - 2:10 pm to 2:30 pm .....	O
XIV. Additional Agenda Items and Request for Public Comments - 2:30 pm to 2:45 pm.....	P
XV. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting - 2:45 pm to 3:00 pm .....	Q
Adjourn - 3:00 pm	

### ATTENDANCE RECORD

DATE(S) Apr 14, 1999	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION CWPRRA	LOCATION Lafayette, La.
PURPOSE Task Force Meeting		

### PARTICIPANT REGISTER

NAME	JOB TITLE & ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Gary Rauber	COE	(504) 862-2543
Jenelle Wiser	LSU	225 388 5377
Gerry Bodin	FWS	(318) 291-3118
Timmy Vincent	National Audubon Soc	(318) 893-9206
Rich Varuso	COE	(504) 862-2984
John Lopez	UNO	(504) 847-1669
Paul Kemp	LSU	(225) 388-6358
Dan Soila	LDNF	318-373-0032
Myron Alam	CPL	225-528-6880
Jim [unclear]	LDNR/CRD	225-342-0981
James R. Buitel	LDNR/CRD	225-342-9423
[unclear]	LDNR/CRD	225-342-3949
Britt [unclear]	NRIS	318-473-7816
Gary Duszinski	LDNR	225 342-7267
Sue Howes	COE	504 862-2518
Jimmy Johnston	USGS/NWRC	318 266-8556
Steve Gammill	LDNR	225-342-9429
Sherry [unclear]	LDNR/CRD	318 893-0368
Bill [unclear]	LDNR	225-342-7308
Verene Pickham	EPA	225-389-0736
Jack Coddin	LDNR	225-342-4503
Bill Berry	Budgetary lessons	504-566-0425





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, Louisiana  
71302

March 24, 1999

Sue Hawes  
Chairperson  
CWPPRA Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Sue:

RE: Approval to Combine Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project (XBA-63 / BA-27)

The Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Phase 1 was approved on PPL 7 and Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Phase 2 was approved on PPL 8. Because most of the implementation activities for these two phases could be performed concurrently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service hereby requests approval by the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Task Force to combine the two phases into a single project, with all accounting and status reports to be performed under the auspices of PPL 7.

This concept has been discussed among NRCS and Corps of Engineers accounting personnel and the Department of Natural Resources and it seems to offer significant accounting advantages. For example, if the projects were not combined NRCS and DNR would have to keep separate records of charges for the two phases and the Corps would maintain "two accounts" and two status reports. If the phases were formally combined and accounted for under PPL 7, there would be no need for separate accounting and reporting.

If this proposal is approved, the budgets of the two phases would simply be added together, and the project name and number would be Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project Phases 1 and 2 (XBA-63 / BA-27).

Therefore, NRCS requests approval by the Task Force to combine the two phases into a single project, with all accounting and status reports to be performed under the auspices of PPL 7.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (318) 473-7751.

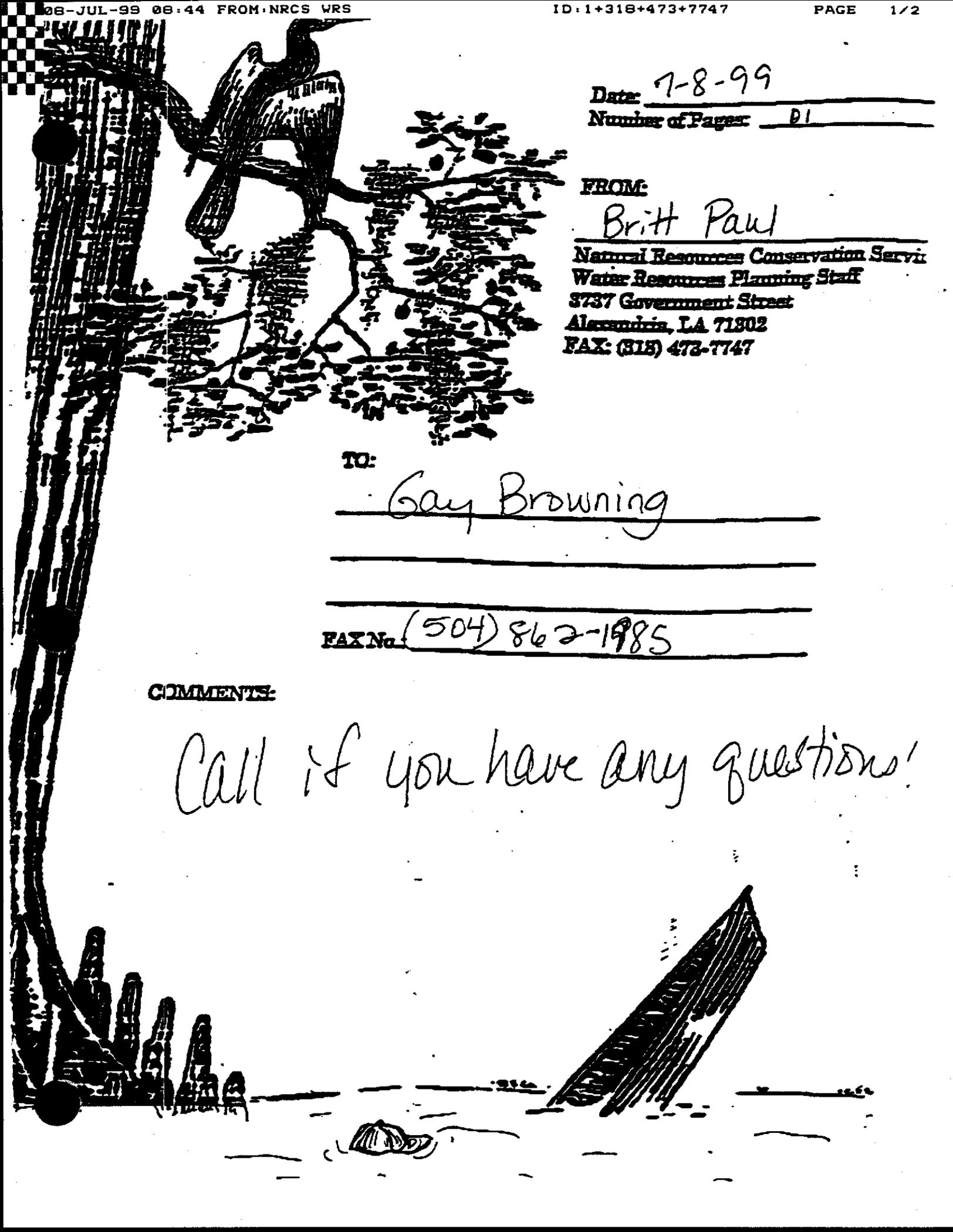
Sincerely,

*Donald W. Gohmert*

Donald W. Gohmert  
State Conservationist

cc: George Boddie, Project Manager, DNR, Baton Rouge, LA  
Bruce Lehto, ASTC/Water Resources, NRCS, Alexandria, LA  
W. Britz Paul, Water Resources Planning Staff Leader, NRCS, Alexandria, LA  
Randolph Joseph, Jr., Assistant State Conservationist/FO, NRCS, Lafayette, LA  
Allen Bolotte, District Conservationist, NRCS, Boute, LA  
Tim Landreneau, District Conservationist, NRCS, Thibodaux, LA  
Quin Kinler, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Baton Rouge, LA

*BJP*



Date: 7-8-99

Number of Pages: 01

FROM:

Britt Paul

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Water Resources Planning Staff  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302  
FAX: (518) 473-7747

TO:

Gay Browning

FAX No. (504) 862-1985

COMMENTS:

Call if you have any questions!

March 4, 1999

TO: Gerry Duszynski, DNR and Tim Osborne, NMFS ✓

FROM: Steve Mathies

*Steve Mathies*

**SUBJECT: Increased funding for the East Timbalier Island Projects**

The Breaux Act Task Force voted yesterday via fax vote to approve an additional \$1.32 million to fund construction of the East Timbalier Island Project (Phases I and II). This money is to be used to fund the low base bid, two additional project features and provide 5% contingency of the construction bid price. The two additional features are 1) additional material to expand the gulfside dune from 150 to 200 feet and 2) addition of rock to protect a portion of the island not in the original project design.

March 4, 1999

TO: Gerry Duszynski, DNR and Tim Osborne, NMFS ✓

FROM: Steve Mathies *Steve Mathies*

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**TO: Breaux Act Task Force Members**

**Colonel William Conner  
Mr. Bill Hathaway  
Mr. Dave Fruge  
Mr. Don Gohmert  
Dr. Len Bahr**

**FROM: Steve Mathies**

**SUBJECT: Increased funding for the East Timbalier Island Projects**

At this time the Task Force has approved funding of \$7.9 million for construction of the East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration Project (Phase I and II). The NMFS (CWPPRA lead agency for the projects) in consultation with Louisiana DNR has requested an additional \$1.32 million to fund the low base bid, addition of two additional project features and 5% contingency of the construction bid price. The two additional feature are 1) additional material to expand the gulfside dune from 150 feet to 200 feet and 2) addition of rock to protect a portion of the island not in the original project design.

Please indicate your position below:

Approve

CB

Do Not Approve

Comments:

**TO: Breaux Act Task Force Members**

**Colonel William Conner  
Mr. Bill Hathaway  
Mr. Dave Fruge  
Mr. Don Gohmert  
Dr. Len Bahr**

**FROM: Steve Mathies**

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Please indicate your position below:

Approve *D.O.W. Mathies 3/3/99*  
*for Becky Weber, EPA*  
*and Bill Hathaway, EPA*

Do Not Approve

Comments:

**TO: Breaux Act Task Force Members**

**Colonel William Coaner  
Mr. Bill Hathaway  
Mr. Dave Fruge  
Mr. Don Gohmert  
Dr. Len Bahr**

**FROM: Steve Mathies**

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Please indicate your position below:

Approve *D.W. Mathies 3/3/99*

Do Not Approve

FOR: *Bill Hathaway, EPA*

Comments:

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400  
Lafayette LA 70506



FAXFORM  
FAX (318) 291-3139  
COMM (318/291-3115)

Date: March 3, 1999

To: Steve Mathias, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, LA

From: Dave Frugé

Subject: FAX Vote on Cost Increase for E. Timbalier Island Projects

Pages Attached: 1

The completed form indicating my vote for approval is attached. I encourage you to include information on the anticipated benefits of the additional (alternative) project features in the file for this action.

*David W. Frugé*  
David W. Frugé

**TO: Breaux Act Task Force Members**

- Colonel William Conner**
- Mr. Bill Hathaway**
- Mr. Dave Fruge**
- Mr. Don Gohmert**
- Dr. Len Bahr**

**FROM: Steve Mathies**

**SUBJECT: Increased funding for the East Timbalier Island Projects**

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Please indicate your position below:

Approve *David W. Fruge*

Do Not Approve

Comments:

**TO: Breaux Act Task Force Members**

**Colonel William Conner  
Mr. Bill Hathaway  
Mr. Dave Fruge  
Mr. Don Gohmert  
Dr. Len Bahr**

**FROM: Steve Mathies**

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Please indicate your position below:

*Yes* Approve

Do Not Approve

Comments:

*Donald W. Gohmert  
3/4/99*

**TO: Breaux Act Task Force Members**

**Colonel William Conner  
Mr. Bill Hathaway  
Mr. Dave Fruge  
Mr. Don Gohmert  
Dr. Len Bahr**

**FROM: Steve Mathies**

**SUBJECT: Increased funding for the East Timbalier Island Projects**

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Please indicate your position below:

Approve

Do Not Approve

Colonel Conner intentionally  
did not vote.

Comments:

March 2, 1999

Memorandum

To: Tim Osborn  
Gerry Bodin  
Wes McQuiddy  
Britt Paul

From: ~~Steve Mathies~~

Subject: East Timbalier Bids

To clarify and explain the reasoning behind Alternates, I offer the following:

Alternate #1

The additional cubic yardage in the alternate is to expand the gulf side dune from 150 feet to 200 feet in width over the entire project. The dune width of 150 feet is considered the minimal amount to avert wash over and subsequent breeches on the islands. The increased width will add to the longevity of the project.

Alternate #2

The additional rock in the alternate was deemed necessary when looked at from the longevity of the project. The original project concept did not have the rock in this section, however, it was realized as the design went forward that this was the **only** portion not protected and therefore at risk. DNR feels that the relatively small amount of additional funding required to protect the project is justified due to the facts that the mobilization and demobilization costs are already absorbed in the bid and there are no maintenance funds included in the project budget.

THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
 THE RESTORATION CENTER  
 301-713-0174 PHONE 301-713-018

*WAC*  
~~12~~ 19/2  
*How*

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Colonel William Conner	FROM: Tim Osborn
COMPANY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	DATE: 02/19/99
FAX NUMBER: 504-862-1259	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES IN: 2
PHONE NUMBER: 504-862-2077	SENDER'S REFERENCE N:
RE: East Timbalier	YOUR REFERENCE NUMB

*Steve -*  
*What do you think? We owe Tim a quick response.*

*WAC*

- URGENT
- FOR REVIEW
- PLEASE COMMENT
- PLEASE REPLY
- PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Colonel- Enclosed is a letter to you on a request for additional funding for the construction of the East Timbalier Project (phase I and II). We got four bids and Weeks Marine came in as low bidder. We got pretty close to our budget but need the additional money to give the notice to proceed to the dredging company.

Weeks is a good company which just bought out the T.L. James group. The weather window and the number of bidders that we have is the best we could have hoped for.

Your vote for the additional funding is appreciated. Thank you.

*Tim*

*Roger Clemens to the Yankees?! Why have a season next year?!  
 Tim*

*Call  
 Tim Osborn  
 (301) 455 5824  
 mobile*

*JJA 3:20*



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

February 19, 1999

Colonel William Conner  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
7300 Leak Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Dear Colonel Conner:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would like to request from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force additional funding for the construction of the East Timbalier Island Barrier Island projects (Phase I and II).

On February 3, the Louisiana Office of State Purchasing opened four bids that were received for the East Timbalier projects. The low bidder was Weeks Marine, Inc. which proposed \$8.3 million for the base bid of the project. Alternate I and II of the bid package would require, under the Weeks Marine bid, an additional \$550,000 for the fully designed project. At this time, the CWPPRA Task Force has provided \$7.9 million for the construction phase of this project.

In consultation with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, there is a consensus that the project is a high priority and that bidding from the four dredging companies offered the best environment for finding the best price for the project. Moving forward with the project at this time also offers the best weather window for construction. Additionally, this is the second bid solicitation for these projects. The first solicitation, in September, 1998, received only bid at approximately \$10 million (base bid). It was decided then to wait and re-bid the projects in early 1999. During the interim, modifications were made to the design and bid package to streamline the project and clarify some issues that dredgers had raised in the first solicitation.

The NMFS requests \$1.32 million for the funding of the base bid and the two alternates for the East Timbalier Island projects and a contingency fund (amounting to 5% of the construction bid price). We ask your assistance in seeking the support of the CWPPRA Task Force on this request by polling via telephone and fax.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this request.

Sincerely,

Tim Osborn  
Program Officer

cc: Dave Fruge,  
Don Gohmert,  
Bill Hathaway





**Fax Transmittal**

2/5/99

**TO: Steve Mathies**

**FROM: Tim Osborn**

**Regarding: East Timbalier Island Bids**

Steve,

The East Timbalier Island bids were opened this week. The best bid looks like Weeks Marine for \$8.3 million for constructing both East Timbalier Island I and II projects. The cooperative agreement with DNR has about \$7.9 million in the budget for the job.

In consulting with DNR, NMFS will likely come to the Task Force with a request for the additional funding for the construction job. While the numbers are still being tallied, the request would probably be for about \$750K. We'll have a better estimate early next week.

It was good talking to you earlier this week.

Thank you,

Tim

cc: Rickey Ruebsamen, David Burkholder, Gay Browning

cc:Mail for: Tim Osborn

Subject: East Timbalier Bids and Additional Funding  
 From: Tim Osborn 2/9/99 3:00 PM  
 cc: geryd@dnr.state.la.us at EXTERNAL  
 cc: rachelw@dnr.state.la.us at EXTERNAL  
 To: davidb@dnr.state.la.us at EXTERNAL  
 To: jackc@dnr.state.la.us at EXTERNAL  
 To: hancheyr@dnr.state.la.us at EXTERNAL  
 To: katherinev@dnr.state.la.us at EXTERNAL  
 cc: gotek@aol.com at EXTERNAL  
 cc: Ric Ruebsamen at -NMFS-BR  
 cc: Richard Hartman at -NMFS-BR  
 cc: Terry McTigue at -NMFS-SEFC

Jack, Katherine, Randy,

Rickey Ruebsamen and I have looked at the bidding for the East Timbalier Island (Phase 1 and 2) projects that were opened last week. The bidding was competitive (4 bids) and close to our budget. With the funding available, it appears that an additional \$500-800K would be needed to fund the bid of Weeks Marine.

For NMFS, we believe that the projects are worthy of the additional funding and would like to seek your concurrence in making a joint request to the Task Force for the money to cover the base bid and both alternates. We believe that the Task Force will be supportive of this request.

Thanks,

Tim

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To	Steve Mathie	From	Tim Osborn
Co./Dept.	e-mail to	Co.	
Phone #	DNR FYE	Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	