

# **Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act**

## **TASK FORCE MEETING**

**August 4, 1999**

### **Minutes**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Opening comments recognizing Messrs. Tim Osborn and Robert Tisdale for their contributions on behalf of the Task Force were made by Colonel Thomas Julich, who convened the thirty-fifth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:40 a.m. on August 4, 1999, in the University Center Bourbon Room 211B, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, 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 Frugé, U.S. Department of the Interior

Mr. Don Gohmert, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mr. James Burgess, U.S. Department of Commerce

COL Thomas Julich, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

All of the Task Force members were in attendance.

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

The minutes for the meeting held on April 14, 1999, were discussed. Mr. Dave Frugé offered a correction to paragraph I., Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study Presentation. The corrected cost figure in the last line is close to \$1 billion instead of \$84.5 million. Dr. Len Bahr made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Dave Frugé seconded the motion and the minutes of the Task Force meeting held on April 14, 1999 (enclosure 3) were then approved unanimously.

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

**A. Consideration for Construction Approval or Approval of Cost Increases or Changes in Scope of Work for Prior Approved PPL Projects.**

Mr. Robert Tisdale presented the recommendations of the Technical Committee pertaining to construction approval and approval of project cost increases for the following projects:

1. Barataria Bay Waterway West Bank Protection (BA-23) – PPL4 - NRCS  
Although the fully funded project cost has increased by 51 percent, a previously approved O&M cost increase accounts for 29% and a previously approved monitoring cost increase accounts for 3 percent of the \$1,112,368 cost increase above the baseline \$2,192,419 cost.

2. Violet Outfall Management (PO-9a) – PPL3 - NRCS  
The Technical Committee decided not to recommend approval after considering the magnitude of the project cost increase of \$5,006,000 above the \$1,821,000 baseline cost. The NRCS will meet with local officials to consider alternative solutions to the wetland problems in the project area before considering project deauthorization.

After a brief discussion during which Mr. Bill Hathaway directed the Technical Committee to provide updated program accounting information to the Task Force before decisions effecting the budget are considered.

Motion by Mr. Dave Frugé: To approve the recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the Barataria Bay Waterway West Bank Protection Project for construction with a \$1,112,368 cost increase above the baseline \$2,192,419 cost.

Second to motion: Mr. James Burgess

Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Consideration for Approval of Wave-Current Information System (WAVCIS)**

Mr. Robert Tisdale presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the sum of \$100,000 to be taken from unprogrammed planning funds to be used for WAVIS. A lengthy discussion followed during which Mr. Dave Fruge questioned the use of planning dollars for research. Mr. Don Gohmert stated that WAVIS should be part of the Barrier Shoreline study.

Motion by Mr. Don Gohmert: To approve the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

Second to motion: Mr. James Burgess

Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Confirmation of Approval for Funding of Additional Restoration Work – Point au Fer Island (Phase II) Restoration Project**

Mr. Robert Tisdale presented the fax vote of the Task Force approving funding in the amount of approximately \$800,000 to extend the shoreline protection along Point Au Fer Island beyond what was included in the approved Point Au Fer Canal Plugs Project (PTE-22/24) sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service. A discussion followed with members of the Task Force expressing the need to develop a process for project modifications on approved projects in the future. Mr. Bill Hathaway reiterated his request for up to date budget data to be supplied prior to funding requests. Colonel Julich called for a public vote on the approval of funding in the amount of approximately \$800,000 to extend the shoreline protection along Point Au Fer Island. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Bahr abstained.

D Presentation of Cash Flow Options Report and Recommendation to the Task Force from the Cash Flow Workgroup

Messrs. Randy Hanchey and Tom Podany presented the report of the Cash Flow Work Group for moving to a cash flow system of funding for Breaux Act projects. A lengthy discussion followed concerning both the ramifications of moving to a cash flow system as well as the specific details of the proposal at hand. Mr. James Burgess stressed the importance of the details of the initiative and the need to establish a minimum project cost effectiveness level for funding. He also stated the need for O&M details and sufficient funds for complex project analysis. Mr. Bill Hathaway suggested that money obligated by previously approved priority list projects could be made available. Mr. Randy Hanchey reported the work group's recommendation to begin cash flow funding with the 9<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (PPL). Mr. Dave Frugé suggested using a 0-glide path for each new CWPPRA authorization. Mr. Mark Davis urged the Task Force not to adopt a 0- glide path policy and plan for the long term. The Task Force agreed to support the concept and work out the details later.

Motion by Mr. Bill Hathaway: That the Task Force agree to support the cash flow concept and meet within 60 days to work out the details.

Second to motion: Mr. Dave Frugé

Motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of FY99 budget increase for Coast 2050 activities

Mr. Robert Tisdale presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve a budget increase of \$50,000 for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the FY99 planning budget for Coast 2050 activities.

Motion by Mr. Dave Frugé: To approve the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

Second to motion: Mr. James Burgess

Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion of Agency Needs and Preferences in Relation to the Aerial Photography Completed in 1998.

Mr. Robert Tisdale presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the expenditure of \$25,000 of planning funds for the purchase of 1,000 CD's containing coastwide 1998 aerial photography and vegetative mapping.

Motion by Mr. Dave Frugé: To approve the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

Second to motion: Mr. Don Gohmert

Motion passed unanimously.

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Agency Reports on Returning Funds from Approved Projects

Mr. Tom Podany briefed the Task Force on the status of the Technical Committee effort to identify excess funds that can be de-obligated in approved projects. He presented a list of projects with estimated excess funds identified to the Task Force. Mr. Hathaway asked the Technical Committee to produce a list of projects that are not moving forward presently. He suggested regular reports. Colonel Julich inquired about the mechanism in place to return funds. He directed the Technical Committee to establish a formal mechanism to return funds and provide a periodic review.

B. Presentation on Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient, and Freshwater Redistribution Study (MRSNFR).

The Study Manager Mr. Axtman provided a presentation on the status of the MRSNFR Study to the Task Force. The presentation include a brief overview of the studies structure, its various analyses, the outcome of the analyses, methods for developing recommendations from the analyses, and several scenarios and timelines for addressing the alternatives and recommendations the study would produce. The Task Force was informed that a meeting of the Feasibility Study Steering Committee was scheduled for August 9th to address the proposed scenarios for completing the study.

Task Force representatives, with regard to the study, made several comments on its content in relation to the Coast 2050 Plan. The comments primarily concerned the MRSNFR report addressing in some form river diversion alternatives, included in both the MRSNFR and Coast 2050 studies, but not addressed in the MRSNFR intermediate array of alternatives. Mr. Axtman indicated that the potential merits of other alternatives identified in the Coast 2050 Plan but not analyzed as part of the intermediate array of alternatives would be addressed in the MRSNFR report

Mr. Axtman also referred to the MRSNFR Study Teams initial screening criteria, which indicated that the selected intermediate alternatives represented the best apparent

alternatives. The Study Team recognized and allowed that based on final analysis of these alternatives other similar alternatives could be found to be viable. The Study Team also recognized that some other alternatives, based on spatially identified needs rather than best opportunistic use of resources, could have merit. However, the best opportunistic use of the available resources was the selected plan formulation strategy for the MRSNFR Study.

#### C. Delivery of Status Reports

Mr. Tom Podany will report the status of the following initiatives:

- a. Program Performance and Project Implementation;
- b. Status of Non-Complex Projects on the 9<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List;  
We are on schedule for the Task Force to select the 9thPPL in January 2000.
- c. Status of Scopes of Work Development for Complex Projects on the 9<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (PPL);  
The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will meet to review the SOW's with the intent of making funding recommendations in September.
- d. Status of Budget Development for Fiscal Year 2000;  
The agencies are preparing their budgets on schedule for the Task Force to approve in late September.
- e. Report to Congress;  
The Report to Congress is being prepared by DNR and is on schedule to be submitted in 2000.
- f. Feasibility Study Steering Committee;  
The committee will meet on August 9.
- g. Outreach Committee Report;
- h. Atchafalaya Liaison Group;  
The group will request approximately \$100,000 for additional modeling of the eastward flows in the GIWW.
- i. Workgroup Report on Criteria-Based Selection Procedures.  
The Technical Committee asked the work group to re-evaluate.

#### VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Mr. James Burgess discussed the need for budget data, project by project data, and a layout for budgeting of complex projects. Mr. Tom Podany addressed some of Mr. Burgess' concerns, assuring the Task Force that most of that data was available already.

B. Ms. Becky Weber, EPA, reported on the progress of the Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) Policy Committee. Mr. Wes McQuiddy, EPA, further elaborated on the current status of the MR-GO closure evaluation. Mr. Randy Hanchey spoke of the current planning efforts by the Port of New Orleans and Governor Foster's Office regarding the relocation of containerized shipping facilities.

C. Dr. Len Bahr told the Task Force of FEMA's intention of becoming more involved with the MR-GO closure evaluation as it relates to disaster avoidance. Also, Mr. Rod Emmer will be a FEMA liaison in Len's office.

D. Mr. Randy Hanchey reported on the current status of DNR's oyster relocation initiative. There are still many issues to be resolved, especially costs. He stated that the program needs CWPPRA input.

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

The next Task Force meeting will be held at 9:30 am on \*November 16, 1999 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in the Louisiana Room of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building. Final details will be provided via public notice and the CWPPRA Internet Web Page.

**\* The next Task Force meeting has since been rescheduled for 9:30 a. m. on October 7, 1999 in New Orleans, Louisiana in the District Assembly Room, at the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers.**

## **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 2:45 p. m.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING  
AUGUST 4, 1999

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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

**TASK FORCE MEETING  
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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING  
August 4, 1999

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF WAVE-CURRENT INFORMATION  
SYSTEM (WAVCIS)

**For Decision.**

Mr. Robert Tisdale will present the recommendation of the Technical Committee concerning funding of the Wave Current Information System (WAVIS).

**Recommendation of the Technical Committee:**

Approve the sum of \$100,000 to be taken from unprogrammed planning funds to be used for WAVIS.

*Close out Barrier Island Shoreline Study*



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

JACK C. CALDWELL  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

November 25, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee Members (Carrol Clark, DNR; Steve Mathies, USACE; Britt Paul, NRCS; Jeanene Peckham, EPA; Rick Hartman, NMFS; Ronnie Paille, USFW)

FROM: *JA* Greg Steyer, Chairman, Monitoring Work Group

SUBJECT: Recommendation for near-shore wave monitoring off the Isle Derniere Barrier Chain

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recently solicited the Monitoring Work Group (MWG) regarding a recommendation to install one wave/current station in the near-shore region of the Isle Dernieres Barrier Island Chain (attached). I stated in the memorandum that the establishment of the station would aid in leveraging additional federal funds. A few of the MWG members asked me to send correspondence elaborating how funds could be leveraged.

The DNR has obtained approval of the State Wetlands Authority to commit up to \$250,000 this fiscal year for a wave/current network along the coast, contingent upon finding a federal cost-share partner. Louisiana State University and DNR have solicited FEMA, OEP, the Oil Spill Coordinator's Office and our Congressional delegation, and have received overwhelming support. They suggested that a pilot implementation illustrating the benefits of this data information system would help in securing the funding necessary for the complete network.

The DNR proposal is requesting a one time CWPPRA cost of \$200,000 to demonstrate proof of concept through the implementation of one station, in hopes of securing upwards of 3.5 million of non-CWPPRA dollars over the next five years. DNR is currently preparing a full proposal to FEMA to solicit upwards of \$400,000 under their Hazard Mitigation Grants Program for this year. Our pre-proposal has already been accepted and approved, and we should know whether the full proposal is funded by March 1, 1999.

Although monitoring is typically the least favorite activity for CWPPRA to fund, I believe this small investment will pay off in terms of future funding, and most importantly, aiding in our evaluation of existing projects and planning of future projects.

Your consideration of this recommendation is appreciated.

/GS

cc: Jimmy Johnston  
Katherine Vaughan

ELIZAC...V&B...

## EXAMPLE

MEMORANDUM FOR Technical Committee

22 June 1999

**SUBJECT: WAVCIS Proposal**

We are trying to confirm a vote on the \$100,000 WAVCIS proposal for Isles Dernieres that was presented by Greg Steyer at the 8 December 1998 Technical Committee meeting (see enclosed memo).

Please confirm your vote concerning the proposal, let us know the funding account to be programmed, and the action to be taken. The statements below reflect various agency recollections of the vote:

Voted against proposal.

Approved proposal.

## 1. Funding. (Circle one)

a. Funds should come from Isles Dernieres excess construction funds.

b. Funds should come from unprogrammed planning funds.

c. Funds should come from unprogrammed construction funds.

## 2. Action. (Circle one)

a. The proposal should be put to a FAX vote before the next Task Force Meeting

b. The proposal should be presented at the next Task Force Meeting for a vote.

Comments:

Distribution:  
Randy Hanchey  
Gerry Bodin  
Bruce Lehto  
Becky Weber  
Rick Hartman

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING  
August 4, 1999

**APPROVAL OF FY99 BUDGET INCREASE FOR COAST 2050 ACTIVITIES**

**For Decision.**

Mr. Robert Tisdale will present the recommendation of the Technical Committee concerning a budget increase for Coast 2050 activities.

**Recommendation of the Technical Committee:**

Approve a budget increase of \$50,000 for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the FY99 planning budget for Coast 2050 activities.

DNR is requesting an additional \$49,421 in CWPPRA Planning Funds to address the following shortfall in funding:

**1. Coast 2050 Budget Shortfall  
10/1/98 to 4/30/99**

<b>Personal Services *</b>	<b>\$ 8,292</b>
<b>Travel **</b>	<b>\$ 3,285</b>
<b>Operating Services ***</b>	<b>\$ 4,554</b>

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**TOTAL \*\*\*\* \$ 16,131**

**\* Personal Services**

Personal Services includes salaries, wages, retirement, Fica, Medi-tax, and group insurance. This shortfall in salaries and associated costs is due to the extraordinary amount of public meetings held during the development of the 2050 Plan. Ecosystem Management Section staff attending these meetings included the following: Phil Pittman, Steven Gammill, Catherine Grouchy, Paul Clifton, Bryan Piazza, Bren Haase, Jessica Wallace, and Cynthia Taylor. Administrative staff who attended one or more public meetings included Dr. Bill Good and Diane Smith. A total of four hundred sixty-five (465) additional hours were required for 2050 Plan preparation, reproduction, editing and dissemination.

**2. 5/1/99 to 9/30/99**

**Anticipated Costs of Completing the 2050 Appendices**

<b>Personal Services*</b>	<b>\$ 24,440</b>
<b>Supplies **</b>	<b>\$ 2,350</b>
<b>Printing ***</b>	<b>\$ 6,500</b>

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**TOTAL \$ 33,290**

DNR originally received \$ 61,000 in MIPR funds for printing and other activities associated with the Coast 2050 Plan document and the Executive Summary. Of this amount \$ 29,765 was reprogrammed to USGS/NWRC for their editing, formatting, and technical review of the draft summary and Plan document. DNR retained \$ 31,235 for printing of the Plan document and the Executive Summary. Of that amount \$ 2,896.97 remains, which will be utilized with the additional requested funds to complete the printing of the six (6) 2050 appendices.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING  
August 4, 1999

**DISCUSSION OF AGENCY NEEDS AND PREFERENCES IN RELATION TO THE  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPLETED IN 1998**

**For Decision.**

Mr. Robert Tisdale will present the recommendation of the Technical Committee pertaining to the purchase of 1998 aerial photography and vegetative mapping.

**Recommendation of the Technical Committee:**

Approve the expenditure of \$25,000 of planning funds for the purchase of 1,000 CD's containing coastwide 1998 aerial photography and vegetative mapping

## 1997 Louisiana Coastal Marsh Vegetative Type Map Products

Prepared by:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Fur and Refuge Division

New Iberia, LA

and

U.S. Geological Survey

National Wetlands Research Center

Lafayette, LA

Options:

### 1) CDROM development for 1997 Louisiana Coastal Marsh Vegetative Type Map

#### Scope

Develop a CDROM that contains Louisiana Coastal Marsh Vegetative Type data from 1968 to 1997. The Charbreck, 1968, Charbreck and Linscombe, 1978, Charbreck and Linscombe, 1988 and the Charbreck and Linscombe, 1997 will be used to produce the digital data for the CDROM. The CDROM will contain additional information (basemap of imagery, roads, hydrology, political boundaries and other layers of importance) to allow the users to perform simple queries on the data and allow printing of the data through the use of Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) ArcExplorer software.

#### Schedule

The master copy of the CDROM will be delivered to the press within 9 months of executed signatures of the agreement.

#### Cost \$25,000

Costs include:

Compilation of the four salinity maps

Development of CDROM

Development CDROM jacket

Production of CD's 1000 copies

### 2) Coast Wide Poster of the 1997 Louisiana Coastal Marsh Vegetative Types

#### Scope

Develop a poster depicting the 1997 Vegetative Types for coastal Louisiana. The Charbreck and Linscombe, 1997 data will be used to produce the poster. The poster will show the fresh, intermediate, brackish and saline marshes in Coastal Louisiana. The maximum size of the poster will be 42 inches by 36 inches.

#### Schedule

The final copy of the poster will be delivered to the printer within 9 months of executed signatures of the agreement.

**Cost \$30,000****Costs include:**

Development of postscript file for printing

Printing(four color process printing 42x36 size poster) 5000 copies

**3) Hardcopy prints of 1997 Louisiana Coastal Marsh Vegetative Types by the USGS 30x60 minute tile series****Scope**

Develop ten 1:100,000 scale maps depicting the 1997 Louisiana Coastal Marsh Vegetative Types. These maps will match the USGS 1:100,000 map series. The Charbreck and Linscombe, 1997 data will be used to produce the maps. The maps will show fresh, intermediate, brackish and saline marshes in Coastal Louisiana. The maximum size of the maps will be 42 inches by 36 inches.

**Schedule**

The final copies of the maps will be delivered to the printer within 9 months of executed signatures of the agreement.

**Cost \$50,000****Costs include:**

Development of 10 postscript files for printing

Printing(four color process printing 42x36 size poster) 1000 copies of the set