

# Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act

## TASK FORCE MEETING

January 20, 1999

### Minutes

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Opening comments were made by Colonel William Conner, who convened the thirty-third meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task force at 9:30 a.m. on January 20, 1999, in the Burden Research Plantation in Baton Rouge, 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

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

The minutes for the meeting held on October 21, 1998, were discussed. COL Conner commended Messieurs Podany, Schroeder, and Bigford for their extensive and meaningful involvement as a participant in the CWPPRA program and wished them well on his new challenges. Dr. Len Bahr made the motion to approve the minutes and Jim Burgess seconded the motion. The minutes of the Task Force meeting held on October 21, 1998 (enclosure 3) were then approved unanimously.

#### IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

##### A. Status of the Coastwide Strategy (Coast 2050)

Mr. Good reported that the Coast 2050 report was doing well and that the main report should be ready by February and the appendix by March – both would be available for distribution. Mr. Good also mentioned that the report would be used for the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL Planning Process.

Mr. Caldwell stated that the President supports the Offshore Revenue Bill (Senate Bill #25) and that the Energy Commission Hearing would be held on January 27, 1999.

Dr. Mathies stated that he felt that the Coast 2050 report could be used as a means to save Louisiana coastal wetlands and that the CWPPRA organization should bring the problems of coastal erosion in Louisiana to the national spotlight. Dr. Mathies also mentioned that the public nomination meetings were to be held on January 25-28, 1999 and that the nominated projects would have to address Coast 2050 strategies. At these meetings, 60 projects would be nominated, which would be narrowed down to 30 projects during the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee meetings in March.

Mr. Davis commended the Task Force for their work on the Coast 2050 Plan and suggested that it be accepted by all levels of government. COL Conner challenged the Task Force members to take the Coast 2050 Plan and turn it into actions.

#### B. Discussion and Consideration for Approval of Potential Cost Increases in the Program

Dr. Mathies discussed the figures in the enclosed table entitled "Potential Cost Increases of the Program." Dr. Mathies stated that CWPPRA spent \$10,529,544 on 8<sup>th</sup> PPL projects, total deferrals equaled \$36,026,634, and that the estimated FY99 allotment of funds would be \$41,864,079. Adding the non-Federal share, the dollars available for 8<sup>th</sup> PPL projects equaled \$6,713,061.

#### C. Consideration for Approval of Project Construction

Dr. Mathies gave a brief description of the Sabine Refuge Structures, Oaks/Avery, Plowed Terrace Demonstration, Brady Canal, or Compost Demonstration Projects and asked if anyone had problems with those projects. No one offered any questions or problems.

Motion by Mr. Fruge: That the Task Force approve all 5 projects for construction

Second to Motion: Mr. Burgess

Motion passed unanimously (Ms. Ethridge represented Mr. Hathaway during vote)

#### D. Delivery of Status Reports

Dr. Mathies briefly discussed the status of current CWPPRA projects stating that there were 11 projects currently under construction, 74 active projects, 28 completed projects, 11 deauthorized projects (2 of which were already completed), and 26 projects scheduled to begin in fiscal year 1999. Of those 26 scheduled projects, 1 would begin in the first quarter, 6 in the second, 14 in the third, and 5 projects were scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Dr. Mathies also mentioned that the COE planned to start the MRGO Back Ditch Project in the first quarter along with 3 other projects proposed to start in the third quarter. COL Conner proceeded to ask Dr. Mathies to verify those project numbers and asked if there was a dollar figure on the ongoing projects. Dr. Mathies reiterated the project totals but did not have any monetary figures for the ongoing projects present at the meeting.

Dr. Mathies stated that the next item was the discussion of the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL but that we had already covered that item with the Coast 2050 discussion. He also mentioned that there would be a meeting in December 1999 to discuss the Report to Congress.

Dr. Mathies continued the with the status reports with a discussion on the Feasibility Study Steering Committee. Dr. Mathies stated that the Barrier Island Feasibility Study was to be completed by March 1999 and that Draft report on the Mississippi River Nutrient Study would be

completed by February 1999. Therefore both reports should be available for the next Task Force Meeting.

A discussion then followed with regard to the CWPPRA Outreach Program. Dr. Mathies stated that the CWPPRA organization needed to be more serious about public awareness to the program due to the changing political climate. He encouraged everyone to passionately preach and make pleas to implement Breaux Act Projects. Dr. Mathies mentioned that Jefferson Parish did an outstanding job of organizing and participating in a Groundbreaking Ceremony for a recent CWPPRA project. Dr. Mathies also described two conferences that could be great opportunities to highlight Louisiana's Coastal Wetland problems, namely, The Third Annual American Wetlands Month Conference and the Coastal Zone 99 Conference. Dr. Mathies suggested that the committee put together a national publication about Breaux Act Projects and Louisiana's coastal wetlands restoration efforts by all agencies to highlight what CWPPRA has done to get its efforts recognized.

Dr. Bahr (for Denise Reed) encouraged attendance at the Meeting of Estuarine Research Federation in New Orleans on September 25-30, 1999. Ms. Ethridge mentioned the opportunity to view a video that would be aired on a public television station in New Orleans which would highlight Breaux Act Projects and give tremendous exposure to the program. She asked for any suggestions on how to create more drama for and add substance to the video to be aired on the television station.

Mr. Thomas Harrington stated CWPPRA's efforts to educate the technical community were outstanding; however, there needs to be more public involvement.

Mr. Davis mentioned the Conference of American Waterway Operators and said that it would be a good forum to discuss Breaux Act efforts. He suggested using the "No Time To Lose" Report as a Breaux Act Outreach tool and to complement the Coast 2050 Report.

Mr. Burgess stated that in the year of reauthorization of the Breaux Act, it is important to identify all program reports and education information and to establish a schedule for when these documents will be complete and become available to the public.

Ms. Gautreaux thanked the Task Force for establishing an Outreach Committee. She also mentioned that everyone should be thinking of May Day, which will be an opportunity to give exposure to the Breaux Act programs.

Mr. Rauber stated that up until last year, the Atchafalaya Liaison Group focused on monitoring ongoing Corps of Engineers study to re-plumb the Atchafalaya River for flood control. In their last meeting, the group looked at diverting some water from the Atchafalaya River to the Terrebonne marshes via the GIWW. There is a need to complete a hydrologic model (UNET) to determine the feasibility of this idea which would cost approximately \$100,000. A time and cost estimate to produce this model is not yet available.

E. Discussion of the Sizing the 8<sup>th</sup> List Priority Project List (PPL) by Reprogramming Funds in the Program.

Dr. Mathies reiterated where the previously discussed \$6,713,061 in available funds for the 8<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List came from.

Motion by Mr. Hathaway: "In the spirit of cooperation and in the spirit of cash flow management" and speaking on behalf of EPA, Mr. Hathaway proposed that \$16,095,883 of the funds currently tied up in the Bayou Lafouche project be added to the funds available for the 8<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List. This would make the total funds available for PPL8 approximately \$22.8 million and would allow funding for the top 7 ranked projects on the Technical Committee's 8<sup>th</sup> Project Selection List, provided that the Upper Oaks, Sabine, and Lake Portage projects be funded only for the initial phase of those projects.

Second to Motion: Dr. Bahr

Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Hathaway suggested that all other CWPPRA agencies review their funded projects currently unscheduled for construction and consider a similar proposal.

Mr. Davis applauded EPA's proposal and continued by stating that every dollar that CWPPRA has should go as far as possible and that every project that is part of the Breaux Act solution should be adamantly pursued. He added that there is no point in keeping millions of dollars tied up in projects that "might" eventually require the funds.

COL Conner continued the discussion by stating that the Corps of Engineers would review its funded/unscheduled projects to see if they could recommend a similar proposal to EPA's. COL Conner also requested that every agency study the 19 projects currently funded but unscheduled for construction to see if any of those funds could be more effectively utilized. COL Conner concluded the discussion by asking if there were any other agencies that were prepared to make a similar proposal to EPA's at that time. No agency representatives responded.

#### F. Selection and Approval of Funding for the 8<sup>th</sup> PPL

Dr. Mathies stated that the available funds for the 8<sup>th</sup> PPL was approximately \$22.8 million per Mr. Hathaway's proposal to move Bayou Lafouche project funds. Mr. Hathaway reiterated that the newly available funds would then fund the top 7 ranked projects on the Technical Committee's Selection List (including the phased projects discussed earlier).

Mr. Fruge agreed with the idea provided that additional funds would be available on future PPL's to complete the phased projects of the 8<sup>th</sup> List. All present agreed and added that this was the purpose of going to a cash flow management system.

Mr. Lehto asked if the second phase of the Lake Portage project (adding rocks to the bank) would be completed if future studies showed it was necessary. Mr. Fruge confirmed that was the case. Mr. Lehto also asked where the \$2.5 million funded for the Upper Oaks project was derived from. Ms. Hawes stated that these funds were for E&D and for the construction of the channel.

COL Conner reiterated that the total funds available for the 8<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List are \$22.8 million and that this would fund the first 7 projects ranked on the Technical Committee's Selection List located in Tab I of the Task Force Book.

Motion by Mr. Fruge: To approve the 8<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List

Second to motion: Mr. Burgess

Motion passed unanimously

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

Dr. Mathies stated that the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee was directed at the last Task Force Meeting to derive an options paper for cash flow management. The preparation of this paper would require participation of CWPPRA's state partner, who has been unable to meet as of that time. These meetings were postponed from December 1998 to February 1999. Currently, the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources have put together two "strawman" proposals for cash flow but those had not been distributed since there has been no meeting yet to discuss them.

Mr. Caldwell applauded the cash flow management concept and has discussed the matter with Commissioner Drennen who also is strongly in favor of the concept.

Mr. Hathaway asked if there was going to be a workgroup put together to discuss this matter and if that group would meet prior to the cash flow discussion. Dr. Mathies said that each agency would get their "financial whiz-kids" to attend the cash flow discussion but there would be no meeting prior to that discussion.

Mr. Burgess asked if this workgroup would produce options for cash flow management or would they present a single recommendation to the Task Force. Dr. Mathies said that hoped that when the group got together that they could come up with a recommended proposal after their discussions. However, if they could not come to an agreement, then several options would be presented. Mr. Fruge and COL Conner agreed that the best thing would be for the financial workgroup to present all of the options discussed and to make a recommendation on the cash flow concept to the Task Force.

H. Additional Agenda Items

Dr. Mathies discussed the proposal made by Mr. Jimmy Johnson that \$23,000 of CWPPRA PPL9 planning funds be designated to purchase 1700 frames of aerial photography taken of coastal Louisiana in early 1998. The frames would be scanned, JPG files created, and the files would be placed on CD and on the Internet at the CWPPRA homepage.

Mr. Johnson explained that the photography was take in January and February of 1998 by USGS and that NRCS participated in the development of color infrared photos referred to as Digital Ortho Quarter Quads. The plan is to scan the photographs and place them on CDs and the Internet at a reduced cost of \$14 per frame. The photographs are not rectified.

Motion by Mr. Fruge: To approve the proposal by Mr. Johnson and designate \$23,000 of CWPPRA PPL9 planning funds to purchase the aerial photography.

Second to motion: Mr. Burgess

Motion passed unanimously

I. Public Comments

Mr. David Richard commended EPA for their proposal to offer up Bayou Lafouche money to fund additional projects on the 8<sup>th</sup> PPL. Mr. Richard mentioned that the demonstration projects weren't addressed at this meeting and specifically asked about funding for the Mandalay Demonstration project. Mr. Richard also mentioned the Constance-Holly Beach project needs support and questioned whether any money was available to begin studying the problem in that

area. This area is very similar to the Barrier Island project with less cost and greater benefits. Dr. Bahr and Mr. Davis echoed Mr. Richard's concerns for the Constance-Holly Beach area.

Mr. Caldwell stated that in the Louisiana Legislature's last session, \$2 million was appropriated for the study of the Constance-Holly Beach area. There are also current plans for a thorough study for the area with any available funds and the money for construction would be allocated at a later date.

COL Conner asked Mr. Caldwell to prepare a presentation to show the status of the DNR study by the next Task Force Meeting. Mr. Caldwell agreed. COL Conner expressed concern over the confusion of whether the Constance-Holly Beach Project is a CWPPRA project, a Department of Transportation project, or a FEMA project and that the project should be studied regardless since people and their homes are at risk, not merely the wetlands.

Mr. Burgess reminded everyone that there would be a good opportunity for the Constance-Holly Beach project to make it as a complex project on the 9<sup>th</sup> List with the new Coast 2050 process. Dr. Mathies agrees and stated that the selection meetings for the 9<sup>th</sup> list would occur in March of 1999 and echoed Mr. Burgess remarks that this would be a perfect opportunity to get the project on a PPL.

Mr. Gagliano expressed concern over what happens to the planning management team with the new 9<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List Planning Process. It is a useful device and a resource that should not be lost. He recommended that the team continue under its same structure to provide input into further implementation of the recommendations of Coast 2050. Mr. Gagliano also mentioned, with respect to the Outreach Committee, that several professional societies have something called the Distinguished Lecture Series where they select people who speak well and provide them with a stipend to do outreach at professional meetings. He recommended that the CWPPRA Outreach Committee consider that sort of mechanism for program exposure and set aside some money to cover those costs. Mr. Gagliano also mentioned that very little has been done in the way of studying the effects of a major fault zone (running through Golden Meadow) on land loss along the Louisiana coastline and offered to do a presentation at the next Task Force meeting on that his finding on that subject.

Dr. Bahr stated that he would like to see a presentation on the status of the Barrier Island Study at the next Task Force meeting.

Ms. Horn applauded the work of the CWPPRA agencies and supported the development of the infrared photos voted on earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Rauber mentioned that no mechanism existed to accept complex projects like the Constance-Holly Beach Project on the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL which has other agencies involved outside of CWPPRA. He asked for guidance from the Task Force on how to handle this situation. Mr. Caldwell said that this had been discussed and stated that CWPPRA needs to move in a direction of multi-complex projects involving benefits other than wetlands and that CWPPRA should at least make a monetary contribution equal to the perceived wetland benefits for those projects. Dr. Bahr said that Mr. Rauber's comments were appropriate but the answers and guidance requested would not come at the end of this meeting. Ms. Hawes mentioned that the Constance-Holly Beach Project would more than likely be suggested at the nomination meetings in Cameron Parish the following week and that CWPPRA should consider the area as a complex project and deal with who pays for what part of that project at a later date. Mr. Caldwell said that the state is going to study the Constance-Holly Beach area regardless of what CWPPRA decides but hopes

that they will be willing to make monetary contributions to that state project when funds available.

COL Conner summarized to the Task Force that they should review the Breaux Act, Title 3, Section 302 and that anything that CWPPRA does at the nomination meetings needs to be justified by that section of the Act.

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

The next Task Force meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 14, 1999 at 9:30 am in Lafayette, Louisiana with a dinner for the Task Force members the evening before. Task Force members will be contacted with final meeting details at a later date.

**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 11:35 a.m.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

TABLE OF AGENDA

Burden Research Plantation  
4560 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

January 20, 1999  
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 October 21, 1998 Meeting ..... D
  
- III. Recognition of Distinguished Service of Department Members of the CWPPRA Program (Tisdale) - 9:30 am to 9:45 am. .... E
  
- IV. Status of the Coastwide Strategy, Coast 2050 (Good) - 9:45 am to 10:00 am. .... F
  
- V. Discussion and Consideration for Approval of Potential Cost Increases in the Program (Mathies) - 10:00 am to 10:45 am. .... G
  
- VI. Discussion of Sizing the 8<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (PPL) by Reprogramming Funds from Previous PPL Projects having Implementation Problems (Tisdale) - 10:45 am to 11:00 am. .... H
  
- VII. Selection and Approval of Funding for the 8<sup>th</sup> PPL (Tisdale) - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. .... I
  
- VIII. Report on the Development of an Options Paper for Cash Flow Budgeting of Future Selected and Approved PPL Projects (Mathies) - 12:00 pm to 12:15 pm. .... J
  
- IX. Consideration for Approval of Construction for:
  - a. Sabine Refuge Structures Project (CS-23, XCS-47 / 48i),
  - b. Oak/Avery Project, TV-13b, Phase I (Vegetative Component),
  - c. Plowed Terrace Demonstration Project (CS-25), and
  - d. Brady Canal Project (TE-28)
  - e. Compost Demonstration Project (XCS-36/CS-26)(Tisdale) - 12:15 pm to 12:30 pm ..... K

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

TABLE OF AGENDA  
(continued)

Tab

- X. Delivery of Status Reports:
- a. Program Performance and Project Implementation;
  - b. 9<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List;
  - c. Report to Congress;
  - d. Feasibility Study Steering Committee;
  - f. Outreach Committee Report; and
  - g. Atchafalaya Liaison Group  
(Mathies) - 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm..... L
- XI. Additional Agenda Items and Request  
for Public Comments - 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm..... M
- XII. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting - 1:30 pm to 1:45 pm..... N
- Adjourn - 1:45 pm



## ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) Jan 20, 1999	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION CWPPRA	LOCATION Baton Rouge Burden Center
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## PURPOSE

Task Force Meeting

## PARTICIPANT REGISTER \*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Gary Rauber	Project Manager COF	(504) 862-2543
Rich Varuso	Project Manager COE	(504) 862-2984
Tom Harrington	Citizen Play Pl, Vice Chair Aviation Br. PPG	504 394-0397
Lionel Serpas	PLAUMEMINES Parish	504 682-0081 EX 2288
Sill Hicks	Proj. Mgr - COE	504 862-2626
Penny Paille	FWS	318-291-3117
Firmy Vincent	National Audubon Society	318 893 8206
Ladney Mulberry	GDD # 7 Cameron - CRCL	318 569 2159
Gerold Grace	National Wetlands Research Center	318-266-8501
Mark Durr	CRCL	225 344 6555
Ken Balch	Govt Office	225 342 3968
Cullen Curd	"	"
Linka Baynham	"	"
Ted Johnson	Senate Lake Land + Oil	318-598-3230
Louise Gold	USDA - NRCS	318-473-7756
DALE KNIEGEMEN	DRP COR - Corps of Engineers	(504) 862-2077
David Richard	Stream Co	318-433-1055
Rex H. Coffey	LSU - Cooperative Ext. Service	225 388 2266
Britt Paul	USDA - NRCS	318-473-7816
Robert Tisdale	Corps, New Orleans	504-862-2204
CHRIS ANDRY	St. Bernard Parish C2M	504 278-4303
Quin Kinley	USDA - NRCS	225 382 2047
Sue [unclear]	Administration, CRD/DNR	225-342-7308

LMV FORM 585-R  
JAN 88\* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record,  
please indicate so next to your name.

Encl. 2

PROCUREMENT, CRI, MU, ...



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
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PURPOSE

PARTICIPANT REGISTER \*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Kirk (Cher) Amie	BLFWD	(504) 447-7155
Gerry Duszynski	DNR/CRD	225 342-7267
Rickey Ruebsamen	DOC/NMFS	225-389-0508
Vernon Behrloft		318-235-6956
MARTIN CANTZENNE	CONG-Billy Tauzin	225-621-8490
KARON GOUTREUX	Governor's Office	225-342-4739
Jennete Visser	LSU	225 388 6377
Terro Trunley	Economist - NRCS	318-473-7686
Sidney Coffee	Comm. Dir. DNR	504-342-4844
Jimmy Shuffler	USGS - NWRC	318-266-8556
Walter Thomas	LDWF	225 765-2956
Jane Jallot	NRCS	318-291-3060
John Scurich	Plaquemines Parish Govt / Exec. Asst to Parish President	504-394-4080
Bill Berry	Burlington Resources	504-566-6425
James R Buckle	DESIGN ENGR SUPERVISOR / LDWF	225-342-9423
Marnie Winter	Jeff. Parish	504-736-6440
Beverly Schneider	EPA	225-389-0737
Zick Hartma	NMFS	389-0508
Gerry Bodin	FWS	318-291-3118
Paul Corent	LSU Ag Center - LCE3	225 388-4141

\* 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

October 21, 1998

### Minutes

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Opening comments were made by Colonel William Conner, who convened the fifteenth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:35 a.m. on October 21, 1998, in the Conservation Hearing Room of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in Baton Rouge, 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 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 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. Tom Bigford, U.S. Department of Commerce  
COL William L. Conner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chairman

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

The minutes for the meeting held on July 23, 1998, were discussed. COL Conner praised the work of Dr. Bahr on the productive meeting held on October 20, 1998 with the State Wetland Authorities. Mr. Tom Bigford announced that he will be moving to another job position in his agency, and this meeting of the Task Force would be his last to serve for the Department of Commerce. Mr. Bigford also indicated that Mr. Jim Burgess of his agency would be filling the Department of Commerce position on the Task Force. COL Conner commended Mr. Bigford for his extensive and meaningful involvement as a Task Force member of the CWPPRA Program, and wished him well in his new challenges. Mr. Bill Hathaway made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Don Gohmert seconded the motion. The minutes of the Task Force meeting held on July 23, 1998 (enclosure 3), were then approved unanimously.

#### IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

##### A. Recommendation of Procedure for Conducting the 9<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (PPL).

Mr. Edmond Russo provided a brief overview of the new planning process for 9<sup>th</sup> PPL projects. Dr. Steve Mathies presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the procedure for the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL process, which was refined through extensive efforts of the agencies and the State (enclosure 4). The most significant change to the process was the distinction between non-complex and complex projects, and the respective approaches outlined for developing these different project types. Non-complex projects were to be developed in a traditional manner. Complex projects would have a development plan that would address issues and analyses in the level of detail required. The course of study to arrive at the costs and benefits of complex projects would not be constrained to a single PPL cycle. This development stage would be planned prior to study initiation to extend through the number of PPL cycles necessary to ensure that the project could compete for funding on that future PPL when the project was fully developed. There were some minor recommendations for corrections/revisions to the procedure that were identified for compiling a final revision. These are reflected in the revised version, which is presented in enclosure 5.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the PPL 9 Project Planning Process with recommended revisions.

Second to Motion: Dr. Bahr

Motion passed unanimously

Dr. Bahr recommended that due to the notable changes in the PPL process, a summary version be included in the public notice that announces the start of the 9<sup>th</sup> PPL. It was the consensus of the Task Force to pursue this recommendation.

##### B. Recommendation of Approval for the FY 99 Planning Budget.

Mr. Russo provided an overview of the FY 99 budget, which was refined by the agencies and the State through several iterations prior to this meeting. The original budget, which was presented to the Task Force in their meeting books, was replaced with a revision copy during the meeting. Mr. Russo explained that the revisions were very minor and did not effect the budget figures. The original FY 99 budget is contained in enclosure 4 following the Draft PPL 9 Planning Process. Likewise the revised FY 99 budget is presented in enclosure 5 after the Final PPL 9 Planning Process version.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the Task Force approve the FY 99 Budget.

Second to Motion: Mr. Gohmert

Motion passed unanimously

### C. Discussion and Recommendation for Development of a Cash Flow Budgeting Procedure.

Dr. Mathies indicated that there are early stage developments of these concepts, but that the Task Force should provide guidance on such a procedure. A draft working proposal is contained in enclosure 6. Mr. Gohmert suggested that an Options paper be developed to elevate several possible methods for cash flow budgeting, and that a summary of pros and cons be compiled to compare the outlined options. Based on the comparative essay, a recommendation of the most favorable option should be stated for consideration of the Task Force in arriving at a decision for proceeding. Mr. Gohmert recommended that each agency should consider electing an individual with the appropriate background and experience in their organization to participate in developing the paper. Mr. Bigford mentioned that due consideration of the language contained in our Cost Sharing Agreements should be investigated to ensure compatibility with the options proposed for consideration. Ms. Vaughan suggested that consideration should also be given to grant requirements, permit requirements, and a timeline to "Zero Glidepath" of the Program, i.e., fiscal closeout of projects at the conclusion of the Program. Dr. Bahr suggested carefully phrasing the wording of the paper regarding program closeout, so that no momentum is lost in transitioning through reauthorization. By consensus of the Task Force, these guidelines were agreed upon for development of the Options Paper on Cash Flow Budgeting.

### D. Recommendation of Project Deauthorization

Dr. Steve Mathies presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to approve the deauthorization of Southwest Shore White Lake Protection (Demonstration Project), ME-12. Enclosure 7 contains that request. The standard operating procedures in effect for deauthorization were followed.

Motion by Mr. Hathaway: That the Task Force approve the deauthorization of Shore White Lake Protection (Demonstration Project), ME-12.

Second to Motion: Mr. Bigford  
Motion passed unanimously

### E. Report on Potential Cost Increases in the Program

In review of the spreadsheet on potential cost increases in the program, it was decided that any new project proposed additions be deleted from the spreadsheet. For this reason, the potential increase amount of \$348,073 (total cost) for Chenier Au Tigre was deleted. Also, an error in the spreadsheet computations was identified for correction. For item 3.f., the correct figure for the Cumulative Federal Funding Status cell should have been \$35,204,509. These changes revised the Total Funds Available for New Projects on the 8<sup>th</sup> PPL to \$6,818,088. The original and revised spreadsheets are contained in

enclosures 8 and 9 (revised first sheet only), respectively. The decision for establishing the available dollars for PPL 8, based on approval of these potential cost increase items, was deferred until the next Task Force meeting.

F. Discussion and Recommendation for the Bayou Lafourche Project.

Mr. McQuiddy delivered a presentation of the latest available costs and benefits of the project, and indicated that some additional work would be necessary to complete the investigations. Several speakers and the Task Force ensued into a lengthy discussion after this presentation. Some indicated that this project has the potential to benefit the bayou, but uncertainty remains of the impacts to the local residents based on the results presented up to the present time. Also, some believed that further study was necessary to resolve questions of implementability, costs, and wetland benefits. There were some comments that the project would be appropriate for this program if final study results reveal that there are substantial wetland benefits. If the project would appear, after further study, to be primarily beneficial for other factors, such as water supply and quality, there was the suggestion that another funding source be pursued other than CWPPRA. Based on this, some believed that with the prospect the project would result in multi-use benefits, it may become appropriate that CWPPRA cost share on the project with other applicable authorities and/or partners.

After much debate, there was discussions to return a portion of the project construction funds, if an additional \$500,000 would be approved to finalize the remaining investigations that have been initiated thus far.

Motion by Dr. Bahr: That \$500,000 be granted for completion of studies, \$11 million of construction funds of the project be returned to the General Fund until further study is completed, and the remaining funds be retained in the project (\$3.7 million for E&D, \$12 million for construction).

Second to Motion: Mr. Hathaway

With the State unable to vote on matters involving funding:

Opposed: USFWS, NMFS, and NRCS.

In favor: USEPA

Motion failed

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That all but \$4.2 million for the Bayou Lafourche project be deobligated, that the Task Force approve expenditure of \$500,000 for the initial additional engineering studies, that the remaining engineering and design studies would require the approval of the Task Force and that approval would be contingent upon adequate partners being identified that would provide in the Task Force's opinion sufficient financial support that would render our wetland contribution to be a cost effective one.

Mr. Hathaway indicated that there is no procedure in the Program to allow a motion to be heard by other than the sponsoring agency, regarding decisions of funding for that sponsor's projects. With the uncertainty of this, COL Conner indicated that he must disallow Mr. Frugé's motion at this time until a legal opinion could be provided on this matter. Consequently, the discussion came to a conclusion, where the matter would be resolved at a later date. Despite this, there was general consensus for providing at a minimum the required funding to complete the study questions. Ms. Vaughan stated that provision of such funds would have to be contingent on approval of the State's cost share by the State Wetlands Authority.

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That \$500,000 be granted to complete the required studies, contingent on approval of the State's cost share by the State Wetlands Authority.

Second by Dr. Bahr

Motion passed unanimously

#### G. Consideration for Approval of Final Monitoring Plans.

Dr. Mathies offered the recommendation of the Technical Committee for the Task Force to consider approval of the following project monitoring plans:

- a. Nutria Harvest and Wetland Restoration Demonstration Project, LA-02;
- b. Sweet Lake/Willow Lake, CS-11b;
- c. Compost Demonstration Project, CS-26;
- d. Plowed Terrace, CS-25;
- e. Bayou Chevee, PO-22;
- f. East Timbalier Sediment Restoration, TE-25;
- g. Whiskey Island, TE-27; and
- h. East Timbalier, TE-30

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That these monitoring plans be approved as presented.

Second to Motion: Mr. Hathaway.

Motion passed unanimously

#### H. Recommendation for Approval of Bid Overrun Procedure.

Dr. Mathies presented the revised Bid Overrun Procedure (enclosure 10) for consideration of Task Force approval.

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That the procedure be adopted by the Task Force.

Second to Motion: Mr. Hathaway

Motion passed unanimously

**I. Recommendation for Approval of Project Implementation for Nutria Harvest Demonstration Project, LA-02TS**

Enclosure 11 contains a letter of request for implementation of the Nutria Harvest project, which was presented by Messrs. Darryl Clark and Noel Kindler.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the project be approved for implementation as presented

Second: Mr. Gohmert

Motion passed unanimously

**J. Report on Status of Updating Fully Funded Monitoring Plan Costs for Priority Project List Projects**

Mr. Townsley provided an overview of the economic evaluations made to date. A summary is presented in enclosure 12. Of issue was whether agencies having completed projects should move towards returning excess project funds to the General Fund, in order to minimize the additional amount of funds that would be recommended to properly fund operation and maintenance (O&M) of projects. The Economic Workgroup indicated that if excess funds were returned to the General Fund, about \$7.5 million would be needed to cover unanticipated O&M costs. If no excess funds from projects were returned to the General Fund, about \$10.5 million would be needed for this. The Task Force endorsed agency reviews of completed projects, in order to return funds not deemed needed so that these evaluations could be completed by the next Task Force meeting.

**K. Discussion on Decision to Establish Consistency of Acreage Amounts Reflected in Various CWPPRA Reports and Publications.**

Dr. Mathies delivered the recommendation of the Technical Committee to ensure that we maintain consistency when publishing CWPPRA project acreage amounts, in order to avoid conflicting reports. It was the consensus of the Task Force to adopt this as a policy.

**L. Delivery of Status Reports**

Dr. Steve Mathies provided summaries of the reports, which are contained in enclosure 13.

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

The next Task Force Meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 20, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Task Force members will be contacted with final meeting details at a later date.

**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 3:30 p.m.