

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING

July 6, 2000

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Opening comments were made by Colonel Thomas Julich, who convened the thirty-ninth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at approximately 9:45 a.m. on July 6, 2000, at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, in 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 B. 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 except Mr. Hathaway, who was represented by Mr. Troy Hill.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. James Burgess said he would like a summary reflected in future minutes of the outcome of any Task Force decisions that were made subject to the review and approval by the Technical Committee.

Motion by Mr. Dave Frugé: To approve the minutes from the Task Force meeting held on April 5, 2000 with the change recommended by Mr. Burgess.

Second to motion: Dr. Len Bahr

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Recommendations for Projects (Schroeder)

Mr. Robert Schroeder presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee concerning the following projects:

- a. Construction Approvals: Barataria Bay Waterway East Bank Protection Project (BA-26); Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project, Phases 1 and 2, Construction Units One and Two (BA-27); Caernarvon Outfall Management Project (BS-3a)
- b. Cost Increase: Point au Fer Island - An increase of \$30,222.08 is necessary to balance overspending which was uncovered in an audit of the project.

Motion by Mr. Dave Frugé: To approve construction of the above projects (BA-26, BA-27 and BS-3a)

Second to motion: Mr. James Burgess

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Don Gohmert: To approve a cost increase for the Point au Fer Island project of \$30,222.03 to balance overspending which was uncovered in an audit.

The motion was seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Projects Being Considered under Deauthorization Process (Schroeder)

Mr. Robert Schroeder presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee and other information concerning the deauthorization of several Breaux Act projects.

Motion by Mr. Don Gohmert: To approve for the initiation of the deauthorization process for the Red Mud demonstration project.

The motion was seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Recommendations on Changes to Demonstration Project Process, Including Potential Project Additions (Rauber)

Mr. Gary Rauber presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to revise the Standard Operating Procedure for Demonstration Projects by specifying a project submittal deadline, removing the specific site requirement, and indicating an annual funding process. Mr. James Burgess wanted to add the project monitoring plan to the list of evaluation criteria for demonstration projects. The Task Force adopted by consensus the revised demonstration project process with the change recommended by Mr. Burgess.

D. Proposal to Include Environmental Design Component for Phase 1 Projects (Hanchey)

Mr. Randy Hanchey presented a proposal to include a separate ecological assessment of the goals and proposed strategies and features of each Phase 1 project. A long discussion followed with Mr. Randy Hanchey maintaining that the current evaluation process does not address specific goals. He suggested that more quantitative analysis be performed, including modeling, if necessary. Mr. Don Gohmert expressed his opinion that professional judgement and experience were adequate to design projects, in some cases, and the findings of the monitoring team could be used to fine tune or correct the projects. Mr. Bob Schroeder informed the Task Force that the Technical Committee had not considered this item ready for presentation to them. After more discussion, the Task Force generally agreed that the matter should be reviewed further by the Technical Committee.

E. Report on Monitoring (Steyer)

Mr. Greg Steyer reported on the Breaux Act project monitoring program. He also presented a proposal for expert review of a proposed coastwide reference monitoring system. The consensus of the Technical Committee had been favorable for such a review costing up to \$30,000. Mr. Burgess wanted to see the program plan and know how it effected the budget. After a brief discussion, the Task Force generally agreed that the Technical Committee should evaluate the pros and cons of the proposal and report back to them.

Motion by Mr. Don Gohmert: To approve an expert review of the proposed coastwide reference monitoring system costing up to \$30,000 subject to the approval of the Technical Committee.

Second to motion: Dr. Len Bahr

Motion passed unanimously.

V. INFORMATION

A. Salt Marsh Rehabilitation with Hydraulically Dredged Sediment (Dr. Irv Mendelssohn)

Dr. Irv Mendelssohn presented the results of EPA and Sea Grant funded research on the effect of placing dredged material on deteriorating salt marsh. The results show dramatic improvement to the marsh, even when the dredged material effluent has a high water to soils ratio

B. Status of Funds in the Breaux Act Construction Program and Overview of Cashflow Management Tracking (Podany)

Mr. Tom Podany briefed the Task Force on the status of funds in the Breaux Act planning and construction programs. The following tables were enclosed in the meeting briefing books:

1. Planning Program.
 - a. Status of Planning Funds. Funds in the amount of \$662,609 are currently unbudgeted and are available for future planning efforts.
2. Construction Program.
 - a. Status of Construction Funds. Taking into consideration approved current estimates, project expenditures through present, Federal and non-Federal cost sharing responsibilities, we estimate that there are \$28,001,625 federal funds available, based on Task Force approvals to date.
 - b. Construction Program Potential Cost Changes. This table depicts potential future construction program cost increases and decreases affecting available federal funds. If these increases and decreases are taken into consideration, \$909,751 in Federal funds would be available at present.
 - c. Projects Returning Excess Funds. A total of \$4,547,491 may be returned from projects that have completed or almost completed construction. Current project estimates will reflect these decreases when the final accounting of first costs is completed.
 - d. CWPPRA Project Summary Report by Priority List. A priority list summary of project schedule, available funding, baseline and current estimates, obligations and expenditures, for the construction program as furnished by the lead agencies for the CWPPRA database.
 - e. Analysis of Status of Construction Funds. This table is an analysis of Federal and non-Federal cost sharing responsibilities as determined by the current approved project estimates.
3. Cash Flow Management.
 - a. PPL 9 Program Summary by Project and Phase. This table shows project baseline estimates by phase through FY07.
 - b. PPL9 Detailed Project Baseline Estimates by FY. This table shows baseline estimates shown by phase and category for all projects. Estimated costs are shown for FY00 through FY07.
 - c. Cash Flow Management of PPL's through Fiscal Year 09. This graph illustrates historical spending for PPL's 1 through 8 compared to income available. The graph also illustrates possible spending and income on future hypothetical PPL's over the next 10 fiscal years.
 - d. Hypothetical PPL Table. This table was used to develop data for Cash Flow Management graph.
4. CWPPRA Project Status Summary Report. This report is comprised of project information from the CWPPRA database and as furnished by the lead agencies.

**C. Report on State Initiatives to Resolve Oyster Relocation and Land Rights Issues
(Caldwell and Hanchey)**

Mr. Jack Caldwell described the plan being developed for oyster relocations. He recommended that a committee be formed to deal with the issue. He then described the state's plan to deal with the land rights issue. He asked the Task Force to take action on the issue. Mr. James Burgess applauded the state's initiative and then moved to form a committee to recommend policy for the next meeting. Mr. Don Gohmert stated that these were sensitive issues and probably could not be resolved by the next meeting. He wants them brought up at every meeting. The Technical Committee was tasked with forming committees to work on the two issues.

D. Report on Technical Committee Selection of Projects as Phase 0 Candidates for Priority List 10 (Schroeder)

Mr. Robert Schroeder reported on the Technical Committee selection of projects as Phase 0 candidates for the 10th PPL. The Technical Committee selected twenty-one candidate projects at a meeting on May 17, 2000.

E. Consideration Adopting a 2-Year Cycle for the Selection of Priority Lists and Finalization of Schedule to Review Process (Podany)

Mr. Tom Podany presented a proposal for a two-year planning cycle for the selection of Phase 1 Priority Project Lists. He included some pros and cons of the proposal. A brief discussion followed with most people generally against the idea.

Motion by Dr. Len Bahr: To table the discussion of adopting a 2-year cycle for project selection for the time being.

Second to motion: Mr. Don Gohmert

Motion passed unanimously

F. Presentation from Moffatt and Nichol on Modeling Efforts for the Black Bayou Hydrologic Modification Project and Applicability to Other Projects

A representative of the firm of Moffatt and Nichol presented a report on their modeling efforts for the Black Bayou Hydrologic Modification project and the applicability of similar modeling to other projects

G. Report from Public Outreach Committee (Wilson)

Mr. Scott Wilson presented the Public Outreach Committee's *Annual Strategic Update Report* to the Task Force for comment and review. He asked the Task Force to fund approximately one quarter of Sydney Coffee, a state employee's, salary to work on outreach in Washington D.C.

Motion by James Burgess: To approve for one year, starting immediately, up to \$32,000 (1/4 of Sydney's salary)

Second to motion: Mr. Dave Frugé

Motion passed unanimously

Dr. Len Bahr discussed the need for CWPPRA funding for a coastal summit in 2001. A brief discussion followed. Dr. Bahr promised to mail a proposal to the Task Force within a month.

H. Proposed Guidance for Selection of CWPPRA Projects for Phase 2 (Hanchey)

Mr. Randy Hanchey presented proposed guidance for selection of CWPPRA projects for Phase 2. He agreed to work with the Technical Committee on the issue.

I. Status of Mississippi River, Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution Feasibility Study (Axtman)

Mr. Tim Axtman reported on the status of the Mississippi River, Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution Feasibility Study.

J. Recognition of the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study (Podany)

Mr. Tom Podany presented the completed Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study for formal recognition by the Task Force.

K. Status of the Bayou Lafourche Siphon Project (McQuiddy)

Mr. Wes Mcquiddy reported on the status of the Bayou Lafourche Siphon Project. He stated that investigations to date show that it is possible for Bayou Lafourche to convey 1000 cfs with channel improvements. The stability of the bayou banks is still being analyzed. He expects a report by January 2001.

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Bill Good stated that the report to Congress is ready for signatures.

Ms. Marnie Winter of Jefferson Parish presented a letter of support for the Jonathan Davis Project (BA-20). The letter urged the Task Force to approve construction of 15,000 feet of shoreline protection without delay.

VII. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next Task Force meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on October 4, 2000, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

VIII. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Rodney Gilbeau offered members of the public an opportunity to comment on issues of concern.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Task Force Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. in the afternoon.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

AGENDA

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
District Assembly Room
New Orleans, Louisiana

July 6, 2000
9:30 a.m.

TAB

- I. Meeting Initiation 9:30 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.
 - a. Introduction of Task Force Members or Alternates
 - b. Opening Remarks by Task Force Members

- II. Adoption of Minutes from the April 5, 2000, Meeting 9:35 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.....D

- III. Salt Marsh Rehabilitation with Hydraulically Dredged Sediment (Dr. Irv Mendelssohn) 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.E

- IV. Status of Funds in the Breaux Act Construction Program and Overview of Cashflow Management Tracking (Podany) 10:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. F

- V. Recommendations for Projects (Schroeder) 10:10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.:
 - a. Approvals: Barataria Bay Waterway East Bank Protection Project (BA-26); Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project, Phases 1 and 2, Construction Units One and Two (BA-27); Caernarvon Outfall Management Project (BS-3a)
 - b. Cost Increase: Point au Fer Island..... G

- VI. Projects Being Considered under Deauthorization Process (Schroeder) 10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.:
 - a. Red Mud
 - b. Violet Freshwater Distribution
 - c. Flotant Marsh Fencing Demonstration
 - d. Hopper Dredge Demonstration H

- VII. Report on State Initiatives to Resolve Oyster Relocation and Land Rights Issues (Caldwell and Hanchey) 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. I

- VIII. Report on Technical Committee Selection of Projects as Phase 0 Candidates for Priority List 10 (Schroeder) 11:00 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.....J

- IX. Recommendations on Changes to Demonstration Project Process, Including Potential Project Additions (Raubert) 11:10 a.m. to 11:20 a.m..... K

- X. Proposal to Include Environmental Design Component for Phase 1 Projects (Hanchey) 11:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.L

ENCL 1

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING AGENDA
(continued)

	<u>Tab</u>
XI. Consideration of Adopting a 2-Year Cycle for the Selection of Priority Lists and Finalization of Schedule to Review Process (Podany) 11:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	M
XII. Presentation from Moffatt and Nichol on Modeling Efforts for the Black Bayou Hydrologic Modification Project and Applicability to Other Projects 11:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.	N
XIII. Report from Public Outreach Committee (Wilson) 12:10 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.	O
XIV. Proposed Guidance for Selection of CWPPRA Projects for Phase 2 (Hanchey) 12:20 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.	P
XV. Report on Monitoring (Steyer) 12:30 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Q
XVI. Status of Mississippi River, Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Redistribution Feasibility Study (Axtman) 12:45 p.m. to 12:55 p.m.	R
XVII. Recognition of the Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study (Podany) 12:55 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	S
XVIII. Status of the Bayou Lafourche Siphon Project (McQuiddy) 1:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.	T
XIX. Additional Agenda Items.....	U
XX. Request for Public Comments	V
XXI. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting	W

ATTENDANCE RECORD

DATE (S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
6 July 2000	CWPPRA	District Assembly
PURPOSE		
TASK FORCE MEETING		
PARTICIPANT REGISTER*		
NAME	JOB TITLE, ORGANIZATION AND E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #
MARK DAVIS	CRACK	225 344 6555
Wenneke Vinner	LSU (CMVSS@LSU.EDU)	225 388 6377
Brian Kendrick	MPH, INC	504 379-2781
MARTIN CINCIENNE	CONG Billy Tauzin	225 621-8490
Gerry Bodin	US Fish + Wildlife Service	(337) 291-3118
CHRIS KNOTTS	LDNR	225-342-6871
Kerry St. P.	RTNEP	318(60)-259-0869
Benechuk	EPA	225-389-0737
Handy	DOI-FWS	337/291-3115
J-MEUNEZ	mtu	540-662-6623
Quin Kinter	NRCS	225-382-2047
Wes McQuiddy	EPA	214-665-6722
Jarune Pullman	EPA	225 389-6736
Bill Bourdier	Ferryman & Henegar	941-261-0094
Don Johnson	NRCS	318-473-775

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

Marvette Green Madison Land Co Inc 504-454-0707

ENCL 2

ATTENDANCE RECORD

DATE (S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
6 July 2000	CWPPRA	District Assembly

PURPOSE
TASK FORCE MEETING

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE, ORGANIZATION AND E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #
Bruce Lehto	MACS bruce.lehto@la.usda.gov	318-473-7256
Tom Podany	USACE	504-862-2502
J. Paridas	Pharmemina Parish	312 6690 x1903
Greg Steyer	DNR/CRD	225 342 1412
JOHN FORET	NMFS, LAF ^{JOHN.FORET@NOAA.GOV}	337 482-5915
Br. H. Paul	NRIS	318-473-7811
Jay Browning	CCE	504-862-2755
C. M. Gagliano	CCT	225-383-7455
C Swarzenski	USGS	225-389-0287
Chris Rogers	Engineer Intern T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc. chris@tbsmith.com	504-868-1050
WAYNE PAGE	Director of SALES & MARKETING wppage@aol.com WALSH ENVIRON MENTAL	225 936-9043
JEFF SHELLEN	MOFFATT NICHOL, ENG	919/731-4626
ONEIL MAURON	Jefferson Park / CCEC	(504) 347-2100
Scott Wilson	USGS / NWRC	337 266 8644
Cheryl Brodeur	DNR / CRD	(225) 342-6610

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

ATTENDANCE RECORD

DATE (S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
6 July 2000	CWPPRA	District Assembly
PURPOSE		
TASK FORCE MEETING		
PARTICIPANT REGISTER*		
NAME	JOB TITLE, ORGANIZATION AND E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #
Sue King	La. House Natural Resources Committee	225-342-6386
Rick Hoffman	NOAA - Fisheries	
GREGORY J. Du COTE	LDNR/CMD	225342.9052 P 225.342.9439 F
Minnie Winter	Jeff. Parish	736-6440 (504)
Cullen Curale	GOCA	
Sidney Coffee	DNR	
Kyle Rodriguez	Gov's Office	
Malcolm Myer	Senate John Brewer's Office	
Brad INMAN	Env. Scientist CH2M Hill binman@ch2m.com	352-335-7911
Rebecca Triche	CRCL	
Tim Axelman	USACE PM-C	601) 862-1921
Alex Breany	Director, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District	(504) 447-7155
Alvin Hebert	Chairman, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District Board of Commissioners	504 4477155
Jimmy Johnson	USGS / NWRC	337-266-8556
Allison Davis	Student,	

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

THOMAS JOHNSON CH2M HILL / New Orleans
Glen Thomas LDWF

593-9421
7652956