

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
April 16, 2003

FINAL Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Peter J. Rowan convened the fiftieth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Act Task Force. The meeting began at 9:35 a.m. on April 16, 2003 at the Estuarine Habitats and 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 into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President George 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:
Ms. Karen Gautreaux, State of Louisiana (Mr. Randy Hanchey substituting for a portion of the meeting)
Mr. Miguel Flores, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. David Frugé, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Don Gohmert, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mr. Rollie Schmitten, U.S. Department of Commerce
Colonel Peter J. Rowan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
All of the Task Force members were in attendance.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2003 TASK FORCE MEETING

Colonel Rowan called for comments on the minutes from the previous Task Force meeting. There were none.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten moved to adopt the minutes from the January Task Force meeting, Mr. Dave Frugé seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Request: Construction Approval for the Sediment Trapping at the Jaws Project.

Mr. John Saia stated that the Technical Committee recommends that the Task Force approve funding in the amount of \$3,392,135 for this project. Mr. Dave Frugé moved to approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

Mr. Randy Hanchey, representing the State of Louisiana on the Task Force, asked a question about concerns brought up by local interests. He understood that there was one formal objection and asked if these issues have been resolved. Mr. Rollie Schmitten asked that John Foret, NMFS Project Manager, address this. Mr. Foret stated that there were two resolutions from Iberia and St. Mary's Parish, and both parishes have rescinded their resolutions. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that they met with Acadiana Bay Association last week and they were fully supportive of the project.

Colonel Rowan asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Task Force on this project. There were no comments.

Mr. Dave Frugé moved to approve the Technical Committee recommendation. Mr. Miguel Flores seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Request: Construction Approval for the Hopedale Hydrologic Restoration Project.

Mr. John Saia stated that the Technical Committee recommends that the Task Force approve funds in the amount of \$1,562,000 for construction of the project.

Mr. Donald Gohmert moved to approve the Technical Committee recommendation. Mr. Dave Frugé seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Request: Bayou L'Ours Ridge Hydrologic Restoration De-authorization.

Mr. John Saia stated that de-authorization was requested by the lead agency, NRCS, and that the Task Force initiated de-authorization procedures at the January 2003 Task Force meeting. Letters were sent to affected landowners and elected officials seeking comments regarding the proposed de-authorization. No comments were received. The Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force de-authorize this project.

Mr. Dave Frugé moved to approve the Technical Committee recommendation to de-authorize the project. Mr. Rollie Schmitten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Request: CWPPRA Oyster Ad Hoc Committee.

Dr. Good stated that in the summer of 2000, the Task Force asked that an interagency committee be formed, chaired by LDNR. The purpose was to develop an oyster lease program to have a mechanism to evaluate and compensate oyster fisherman so that projects could go forward. The overall recommendation stems from two years of meetings to find a mutually acceptable means to acquire oyster leases. The recommendation involves an appraisal as to the value of the lease and the cost of the crop.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux made the following motion:

"The Breaux Act Task Force acknowledges receipt of the March 10th, 2003 report prepared by the Chairman of the Breaux Act Oyster Lease Ad Hoc Committee, and the draft regulations contained therein. The Task Force acknowledges that DNR has promulgated these draft regulations in accordance with La.R.S. 56:432.1, paragraph E.

The Breaux Act Task Force recognizes that project-specific Cost Share Agreements and federal law and regulations set forth the procedures for crediting DNR for the real estate interests that DNR provides to the project including oyster leases."

Mr. Don Gohmert seconded the motion. The Colonel asked for comments from the public. There were none. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Request: Approval of the Implementation for the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System.

Mr. Rick Raynie provided a briefing on the background of the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) and the approach used to develop a budget neutral plan. At the request of the Task Force in January 2001, the CRMS system was discussed. In April 2002, the Task Force approved CRMS in concept and authorized the development of a budget neutral plan. USGS and LDNR then started working on land rights and developing an implementation plan. They have met with agencies individually to discuss the implementation plan.

Mr. Miguel Flores pointed out that EPA was very supportive of using a probability-based monitoring design. He stated that it is a good approach to look at the cumulative effects of individual projects and to have in place a benchmark monitoring system. Mr. Flores asked if there was a QA plan. Mr. Rick Raynie stated that the monitoring program has a QA plan, approved by EPA. In fact, they recently went through an audit by EPA and got high marks. They plan on using the same QA plan. In response to a question from Mr. Flores concerning project-specific monitoring, Mr. Raynie stated that they are not suggesting that we discontinue specific project monitoring, but that monitoring will include CRMS stations as part of their monitoring, as well as other data sets available.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux stated that she understands that there are questions about specifics and that those questions may not be able to be answered in any detail until it starts. Therefore, can LDNR/USGS provide quarterly reports to the Task Force, in addition to annual reports? It does not have to be presented at every meeting, but, she would like it to be part of the material that is sent out to the Task Force as part of the binder.

Mr. Dave Frugé stated that he liked Ms. Gautreaux's idea about a feedback loop. He said he was in favor of the program and made three points: (1) it won't cost more, (2) it is a better vehicle to fold in other monitoring, and (3) it will give us better planning information. He is in favor of the proposal.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten stated that initially, NMFS did have questions, but based upon the comments from an outside peer review, they support the approach. The program improves the data collection and improves the cost.

Mr. Randy Hanchey stated that he continues to have questions. He suggested that they have early meetings with contracting and funding staff to work out the details on how we will do this.

Colonel Rowan stated that he doesn't see why this plan doesn't have to follow the same rules as other projects. They will have to come back and request additional funds for any cost over-runs.

In response to Mr. Hanchey's question about the need to amend CSAs, Colonel Rowan stated that since each project has monitoring included as a line item in their CSAs, the funds do not need to be taken out of the CSAs. Monitoring could be conducted in-house, by contract, or through CRMS. He doesn't think that the CSAs need to be modified. It will just be provided to another "service provider". If anything, the CSAs emphasize that CRMS has a cost limit by specific project.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten made the following motion:

"That the Task Force approves CRMS as submitted, contingent upon the development of an execution plan with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and other appropriate participants, to be presented at the August Task Force meeting. Further, it is the Task Force's expectation that CRMS will be a program having a budget which will be submitted annually for approval by the Task Force."

Mr. Frugé seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

It should also be clearly noted that is the expectation of the Task Force that the CRMS program will provide quarterly reports to the Task Force on progress made to date.

F. Request: Approval of the Prioritization Process for Future PPL 1-12 Phase II Authorizations.

Following a brief overview of the efforts on the agenda item by Mr. John Saia, Ms. Julie LeBlanc presented a Powerpoint presentation on the proposed criteria and plan for implementation. On the slide regarding Criterion 3, Implementability, Mr. Rick

Hartman commented that as projects move forward to construction the point score for this criterion will likely change. In fact, when a project is ready to construct, the point score for that project should be a "10". Mr. Dave Frugé stated that because of this one would expect updating of project scores.

Following the presentation, Colonel Rowan asked for comments.

Mr. Randy Hanchey stated that it was not clear in his mind how the criteria will be used. Is it static and we decide that we will never build some projects? Or is it a way to allocate available funds on projects?

Mr. John Saia said that the ranking will be provided to the Task Force for their use, as they see fit.

Mr. Hanchey asked: Does this mean that they will be expected to de-authorize projects that are low on the list?

Mr. John Saia stated: No. He also elaborated that funding could go up or the authorization could be extended.

Mr. Rick Hartman stated that the Task Force will also be provided additional information with the ranking. The intent is that we look at all projects in the ranking. The intent was to have the Technical Committee review all projects not yet approved for construction, but there will be additional information on projects that could be funded under other funding sources. The Corps will also provide the implementation schedule for all ranked projects. There is not an expectation to hold money back for a project that is 10 years down the road, but, you may withhold funds for a project that is coming up soon.

Mr. John Saia emphasized that it is a decision making tool.

Mr. Dave Frugé stated, in essence, that all of us realize the need to move the best projects forward, but we have to balance that with the need to build the best projects.

Mr. Hanchey, representing the State of Louisiana on the Task Force, stated that this all assumes that there are appropriate criteria. There are number of these criteria that would allow certain project types to receive points in a number of places. In addition, he is not sure if the weighted score is correct either. He suspects that if we try to turn this into a pure numeric process, everyone will be unhappy.

Mr. Don Gohmert stated that if we accept the criteria as a tool, it may not be perfect, but if it allows us to rank one against the next, it is helpful. We have to be about building projects. If we do have a group of projects that come up for approval, this process will give us the greatest return for the dollars that we invest. I hope that we don't get into holding money for a better project. If we can satisfy ourselves that if it comes times to make a decision and if the project will not be ready for 6 months, we have to make that decision.

Mr. Hanchey, representing the State of Louisiana on the Task Force, stated that the problem that we face is that we are doing E&D for projects that we cannot build. Now we are going to face the situation that we will not proceed with projects on later lists. We created an expectation for PPL1-8, but not for PPL9-12.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten stated that he was prepared to take that risk. It is a prioritization system, we can at least evaluate against some criteria.

Mr. Randy Hanchey asked if there would be an opportunity for review? Mr. John Saia stated that there was opportunity for the Task Force to comment [the proposed

criteria was sent to the Task Force, including Mr. Hanchey, via email on 12 Mar 03] and the next step is to implement the criteria.

Mr. Rick Hartman stated that the ranking process needed to be implemented in June of this year, so the Task Force has to address it now.

Mr. Dave Frugé stated that he has been following the development of the criteria all along, had identified his concerns, and that those concerns had been addressed by the Technical Committee.

Mr. Don Gohmert stated that it is a tool, and not a decision-making mechanism. Approving the process does not commit us to using it.

Mr. Miguel Flores stated that it is a tool available to make a decision on whether or not to fund a project.

Mr. Bob Jones, representing Terrebonne Parish, stated that if CWPPRA starts banking money again, this is a problem. The Task Force must indicate that this is a tool, CWPPRA should not bank large sums of money.

Mr. O'Neil Marlborough, representing Jefferson Parish, read a letter from Jefferson Parish. Part of the letter stated that it has always been understood that projects will be funded as funding is required. When they supported cash flow, it was stipulated that only the projects on future lists would be subject to cash flow. They do not support "re-evaluation" of projects. They support a prioritization of those projects that are ready for construction, and that projects should not be put on hold for projects with a higher priority. After reading the letter, Mr. Marlborough stated that if you look at the criteria, it is doomed to fail.

Mr. Randy Moertle, representing several coastal landowners in the state, stated that he is concerned about the prioritization. It is commendable that they tried to put a score on each project. When the public finds out where project scoring falls, you will hear from the public. The box on the graph showed that there was an opportunity for public comment, and he doesn't feel that the comments were incorporated. For PPLs 11 and 12, they had the highest ranked project, however, there is no criteria for protection of infrastructure in the suggested criteria. What is the public "court of appeals" if he disagrees with the score assigned? His recommendation is that if there are projects that are ready to go, they should be funded.

Colonel Rowan stated that the "court of appeals" is this Task Force.

Mr. Sherril Sagrera, a landowner and representative of the Parish Advisory Committee on Coastal Affairs, stated that he has problems with the scoring system. He is afraid that this criteria system will be the same as the 2050 criteria scoring system. He has a problem with addressing areas of need or high loss. In his opinion, Freshwater Bayou and other areas are "hot spots" and will only get 3 points for that criterion.

In response to a Task Force representative's question, Mr. Randy Hanchey, on who will complete the ranking, Mr. Saia answered that the Engineering and Environmental Work groups will be doing the ranking. There will be public comment allowed on the ranking at the Technical Committee meeting in July 2003.

Mr. Don Gohmert stated that in light of the eloquent pleadings that we have heard, we should probably talk about how to apply it. Right now we have 9 projects scheduled to request Phase II approval in August 2003 and not enough money. What if

we only have 3 projects that come up, and we have enough money. Do we fund them all? Mr. Gohmert answered for himself: Yes.

Mr. Frugé stated that if a project comes up and is at the bottom of the list, he may not vote to fund it.

O'Neil Marlborough suggested a solution. If each one of these agencies would come with a scoring using the criteria, he would be more comfortable with it. The public doesn't have access to the Environmental and Engineering Workgroup meetings. There is no public input into the workgroup process. The chances of getting a ranking of projects that is "accurate" is unlikely. He would rather each agency come to the Task Force with their proposed ranking, and present it to the public. They commented on the process at the Technical Committee meeting, and not one thing changed.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten made a motion that the criteria process should be applied to all PPL1-12 projects that have not yet been approved by the Task Force and the ranking results should be presented at the July 16th Technical Committee meeting. It should be noted that the criteria process is not the determining factor in whether or not to fund a project.

Mr. Saia stated that all projects would be ranked.

Mr. Dave Frugé seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Request: Add the Freshwater Bayou Project on PPL 13 for further evaluation.

During the request for public comment agenda item, Mr. Charles Broussard, representing the Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory Committee, stated that they are primarily interested in the Mermentau Basin since the dredging of the Freshwater channel. Prior to the dredging of the Freshwater channel, which was done for the benefit of the entire nation, the FWS-sponsored annual count for ducks was 1,800,000-2,000,000. The last count was a little over 200,000. He happened to be at the hearing from the Corps of Engineers in Abbeville years ago on the channel dredging project. He asked how the levee would be maintained. The Corps stated that normal maintenance of the channel would maintain the levee. After construction, the channel exceeded its authorized depth and width. Vermilion Parish had General Marshall come down [to assess the situation], he stated that the Corps had an obligation to maintain the levee (in reviewing the minutes). He re-built this levee without rock. Again, this levee has disappeared. Mr. Broussard asked that the Task Force reconsider the number of projects being considered under PPL13, the Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory Committee asked for reconsideration of this vote.

Mr. Randy Hanchey asked if the Task Force should make some sort of response to Mr. Broussard on adding Freshwater Bayou to the PPL13 candidate list. LDNR supported the project. The Colonel asked if there were any comments from the Task Force members? There was a period of informal discussion, before deliberations resumed.

Mr. Miguel Flores stated that he thinks that adding Freshwater Bayou to the list sets a bad precedent. Mr. Dave Frugé said that in looking at the detailed scores (provided by the Technical Committee), there is another project ahead of this one. He is not

inclined to add two projects. Mr. Don Gohmert stated that he had no problem either way, but he felt that all of the projects ranked third should be added if this one is. Mr. Saia stated a concern about additional staff requirements to evaluate the additional projects. The Colonel asked for a motion.

Mr. Randy Hanchey, representing the State of Louisiana on the Task Force, moved that the Task Force add Freshwater Bayou to the list of those that will continue with further analysis. Mr. Don Gohmert seconded the motion. Those voting in favor of the motion: Randy Hanchey and Don Gohmert. Those opposed: Dave Frugé, Rollie Schmitten, and Miguel Flores. The motion did not carry.

V. INFORMATION

A. Report: Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects

Ms. Gay Browning reported on the status of Breaux Act funds and projects, referencing handouts included in the binder. She also reported that the current estimate is \$1.4 billion dollar if everything under PPL1-12, including complex projects, were funded. Ms. Browning stated that if all projects scheduled to ask for funding in August 2003 (9 projects), the program will be short by \$40M. She also stated that she had performed an initial closeout of projects by agency: the Corps owes LDNR \$43,000 for 10 completed construction projects, the FWS owes LDNR \$102,000 for 5 completed projects, NRCS owes LDNR \$250,000 for 5 completed projects, and the program will also need to return \$1.4M from NMFS and \$378K from FWS because of the recent change in escrow requirements. Mr. Randy Hanchey, representing the State of Louisiana on the Task Force, asked for a copy of the closeout report, detailed by project.

B. Report: Selection of Eight Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL13 by the Technical Committee.

Mr. John Saia provided an update on the Technical Committee's progress on the 13th PPL development. He stated that earlier this year Regional Planning Team (RPT) meetings were held, and nominations of up to 2 projects per basin were accepted. A total of 17 projects were nominated by the RPTs. On March 26, 2003, the Technical Committee met and selected 8 projects for further evaluation. Later this year, the Technical Committee will meet to select projects to recommend, for approval by the Task Force in January 2004.

C. Report: Status of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program.

Mr. Greg Linscombe, LWLF, presented a document on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. He provided a summary of the number of tails and funds paid out and stated that they will have a much more detailed report for the Task Force in August. Mr. Mr. Don Gohmert said that it is truly a control program, and we should continue the

program. Mr. Dave Frugé mentioned that there has been recent Federal legislation on nutria control, and asked Mr. Linscombe to elaborate. Mr. Linscombe indicated that a congressional representative is working with the FWS, and they (Congress) have authorized a program to allocate \$2M to Louisiana and \$4M to Maryland, annually, during the period 2004-2008. Cost sharing is 75% Federal, 25% non-Federal. Funding needs to be appropriated. The program could be used in conjunction with the CWPPRA program. Mr. Rollie Schmitten noted for the record, he would like to commend the sponsors of the nutria control program. This had every element of being controversial, but it was handled professionally. It looks like they will meet the target of 400,000 nutria removed by next year.

D. Report: Status of Letter to Senator Breaux.

Mr. John Saia stated that Mr. Greg Miller will present a graph that will lead into the discussion on moving PPL1-8 projects to cash flow and prioritizing all projects not yet approved for construction on PPLs 1-12. Mr. Greg Miller said that each Task Force member was handed out a copy of the letter that was sent from the Corps to Senator John Breaux, along with the graph that he will now present. Mr. Miller explained each of the lines on the graph: actual Federal and non-Federal receipts into the program, projected through 2009 (blue line); current estimate for Task Force approvals, projected assuming that all projects request construction funding (orange line); and obligations to date (green line). There is a \$395 Million gap between the anticipated funds into the program through 2009 and the funding need on PPLs 1-12. This gap is the reason that the Task Force must consider the two agenda items previously mentioned.

Mr. Miguel Flores asked if the graph shows that we have already spent more than what we have? Mr. Miller answered: No. He further explained that the dashed portions of the line is the projection if the Task Force were to approve all projects that are currently scheduled on PPLs 1-12. Mr. Miller said that the point is that the Task Force cannot allow the green line (obligations) to go above the blue line (funds in-hand).

Mr. Randy Hanchey asked why the orange line (Task Force approvals) was higher than the funds in-hand in the first years of the program. Ms. Gay Browning stated that from the beginning, the baseline estimate was always more than funds in-hand.

E. Report: Moving PPL1-8 Projects into Cash Flow.

Following a brief introduction of the efforts on this agenda item by Mr. John Saia, Ms. Julie LeBlanc presented a Powerpoint presentation that outlined the typed document put together under the direction of the Technical Committee.

Secretary Caldwell stated that we must go back to making the fundamental distinction between not having funds explicitly "obligated" and the "commitment" of the Task Force to fund OM&M. We are going to have to manage our cash. This goes back to the non-cash flow process. If there is a commitment (legal obligation), the Task Force will have to include funds for this obligation for OM&M first each year. Every year these commitments will have a higher priority than starting new projects.

Mr. Hanchey stated that we have already made this decision with PPL9 onward. We realize that we have an obligation to fund OM&M on PPL9 onward; thus, we need to spend our money first on these commitments. We should defer constructing new projects.

Mr. Flores agreed with the Secretary on the obligations that we need to meet. We need to meet our commitments and we need to live within our means.

Mr. Don Gohmert stated that if we do this, we have to make sure that we discipline ourselves to do this first and not approve projects for construction. This has to come off the top, because there are legal implications. We have to be forced to look at these obligations first.

Mr. Randy Hanchey stated that no one [outside of the CWPPRA program] has money in the bank for future obligations. He also stated that on some of these projects, we may need to discontinue OM&M.

The Colonel asked for public comments on this agenda item:

Mr. Bob Jones, representing Terrebonne Parish, stated that they have several projects on PPL1-8 and it is his understanding that those funds are put aside now. Under cash flow, there are no guarantees. On the prioritization process, they really don't have a problem with evaluating projects on a year-to-year basis. They have a problem if ALL projects go into the prioritization process, because a large project that will be built down the road may end up on the top of the list. If it is an overall ranking and some projects have to wait, they would object to moving PPL1-8 to cash flow because they would have to compete with other projects.

O'Neil Marlborough, representing Jefferson Parish, stated that their position is the same as Terrebonne's. They support the moving of OM&M on PPL1-8 to cash flow. Early on, the parish was the permit holder, and therefore, they are responsible for maintaining the project. They took it upon themselves that there was a trust, and they still trust that the sponsoring agency will maintain the projects. They did not even address what would happen after 20 years, because it was too far down the road. They took it on with the support of the Task Force to provide the commitment to the OM&M.

Secretary Caldwell stated: Yes, we are obligated to honor those commitments.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten stated that it is really important to note that the Task Force has to discipline themselves to maintain commitments.

Mr. John Saia returned to the Technical Committee recommendation on the agenda item. He stated that if the Task Force decides to request moving the OM&M for PPL1-8 to cash flow, the Technical Committee ask that the Task Force approve the process provided. It is understood that the Technical Committee has to apply this process and recommend a list of items to consider. Colonel Rowan asked if it would it be feasible to outline the impacts of imposing the process on their projects and provide a report back in August. Mr. Saia stated that this can be done by the August Task Force meeting.

Mr. Dave Frugé stated that they would like the Technical Committee to go through the process so that they know what they are approving (i.e., identify specific projects for which long-term O&M commitments are critical). He also stated that it sounds like most of the work done regarding this item has been at the conceptual level,

and that the Task Force wants more detail (regarding specific O&M commitments to be retained). Each agency was asked to give feedback to the Task Force on their specific projects at the next Task Force meeting.

F. Report: Outreach Committee Quarterly Report.

Mr. Scott Wilson presented the quarterly report to the Task Force, going over the handout that was provided in the binder. Dr. Bill Good commented on recent interviews with CNN Natural South (Secretary Caldwell and Ted Falgout). Dr. Good stated that they toured the Caernarvon Diversion structure, interviewed Ken Bolinger and went out to see the Christmas tree projects. Mr. Scott Wilson also stated that the Outreach Committee had recently provided Mr. King Milling with outreach materials.

Mr. Wilson stated that at the October Task Force meeting, the Task Force voted to allow the Outreach Committee to roll over existing funds in the amount of \$100,000. He stated that \$15,000 has been set aside for White House helicopter tours, currently scheduled for next month. The breakdown for the remaining \$85,000 include: (1) LA Coastal Survival Summit, (2) Society of Environmental Journalists (they cannot take funds from sponsors such as Shell, Exxon, etc.), (3) reprints of additional CWPPRA material, and (4) attend additional conferences.

Mr. Mike Dunn, reporter with the Baton Rouge Advocate and member of Society of Environmental Journalists, stated that Mr. Scott Wilson is asking for funding to help pay for their conference this year. Folks are always asking that the journalists "tell the story of coastal erosion in Louisiana". There will be working journalists in attendance and much of the focus of the program will be on wetlands. He asked that the Task Force support their proposal.

Ms. Lori LeBlanc, Executive Director of Restore or Retreat and on the Governor's Advisory Commission, stated that she was recently in Washington with a focus on the coast. However, it is more effective to bring people to the coast to be on the front line. The conference that they are advocating [for funding from the Outreach Committee] will be held from August 26-28th at LUMCON.

Mr. Rodney Gilbeaux, citizen of Cameron Parish, commented on Outreach activities that he was recently involved in. He stated that they are doing what they can to publicize the problem.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten asked if the Task Force officially approved the funds discussed previously. Colonel Rowan stated that the Outreach Committee was only required to report back to the Task Force.

VI. Additional Agenda Items

There were no additional agenda items.

VII. Request for Public Comments

Mr. Ted Beaulieu, representing the Acadiana Bay Association, stated that he has no objection with the Sediment Trapping at the Jaws. If they could have sediment trapping along the banks of the GIWW, they would be much better off and not allow sediments to enter into their bays and negatively affect fisheries. He stated that freshwater includes nitrates and sulfates that are detrimental to fisheries and that they should be sent to the east where it is needed. He asks that the Task Force consider this in support of the fishing industry. The fisheries that come out of this area are very valuable. He states that in selecting projects, the Task Force should make sure that the sediments are sent to areas that need them.

Mr. Toby Gasgoin read a statement for the record from the Oyster Task Force. The Louisiana Oyster Task Force has appointed him as their official representative. He looks forward to working with the CWPPRA Task Force.

Mr. Rodney Gilbeaux, thanked the group for their dedication as far as prioritizing projects. He also stated that the Oyster Bayou project was Number 8 [on PPL12] and the Task Force accepted 7. They now have Ducks Unlimited working with them and they are going to attempt to get a permit to construct the project. They will fund it themselves (drainage boards, landowners, oil companies). He stated emphatically: It will be done.

VIII. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on August 14, 2003, in New Orleans, Louisiana, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

BREAUX ACT
COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

April 16, 2003, 9:30 a.m.
Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center
646 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana

AGENDA

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Tab Letter</u>	<u>Agenda Item Description</u>
I.	A, B	Meeting initiation: 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. a. Introduction of Task Force members or alternates. b. Opening remarks of Task Force members.
II.	C	Adoption of Minutes from January 16, 2003 Task Force Meeting: 9:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
III.	D	Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects (Browning): 9:45 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Ms. Gay Browning will discuss the construction program and status of the CWPPRA accounts.
IV.	E	Report of the Technical Committee on the Selection of Eight (8) Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 13 (Saia): 9:50 to 10:00 a.m. Mr. Saia will report on the selected candidate projects for PPL 13 and the assigned lead agencies.
V.	F	Request for Construction Approval (pre-cash flow) Sediment Trapping at the Jaws (Saia): 10:00 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. Mr. Saia will present the Technical Committee's recommendation for Task Force approval for construction of the Sediment Trapping at the Jaws project in St. Mary Parish. This project will benefit 1999 acres of wetlands at a cost of \$3,392,135.
VI.	G	Request for Construction Approval (pre-cash flow) Hopedale Hydrologic Restoration project (Saia): 10:05 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. Mr. Saia will present the Technical Committee's recommendation for Task Force approval for construction of the Hopedale Hydrologic Restoration project in St. Bernard Parish. This project will benefit 134 acres of wetlands at a cost of \$1,562,000.

- VII. H Request for Bayou L'Ours Ridge Hydrologic Restoration Deauthorization (Saia): 10:10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**
Mr. Saia will present the Technical Committee's request for the Task Force to deauthorize the Bayou L'Ours project. In January 03, the Task Force initiated deauthorization procedures for this project. Letters were sent to affected landowners and elected officials seeking comments regarding the proposal to deauthorize the project. No letters of response were received.
- VIII. I Report on the Status of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (Linscombe): 10:15 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.**
Mr. Greg Linscombe of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will report on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program.
- IX. J CWPPRA Oyster ad hoc Committee (Caldwell): 10:20a.m. to 10:40 a.m.**
Secretary Caldwell will present a general agreement developed by the Oyster ad hoc Committee on a procedure to value leases and related matters. The LDNR has developed a proposed CWPPRA Oyster lease policy for the State of Louisiana. The work of the ad hoc committee and the LDNR proposed policy will be presented to the Task Force for review and action.
- X. K Request for Approval of the Implementation Plan for the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) (Raynie): 10:40 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
Mr. Rick Raynie will present the implementation plan for CRMS and request approval from the Task Force for full implementation of CRMS within the budget neutral plan with a cap of \$91,048,491. CRMS implementation would start in 2004 and would be budgeted through 2029.
- XI. L Report on Moving PPL 1-8 Projects into Cash Flow (Saia): 11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.**
Mr. Saia will present the results of discussions with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the methodology developed by the Technical Committee to place operations, maintenance and monitoring (OM&M) for PPL 1-8 projects into cash flow. The public will be given an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed methodology at the Task Force meeting.
- XII. M Report on the Prioritization Process for Future PPL 1-12 Phase II Authorizations (Saia): 11:20 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.**
As requested by the Task Force, Mr. Saia will present the methodology developed by the Technical Committee to prioritize projects on PPLs 1-12 for which construction has not been authorized. The public will be given an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed methodology at the Task Force meeting.

XIII. N Outreach Quarterly Report (Wilson): 11:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Mr. Scott Wilson will provide a report on the Breaux Act Outreach Program including recently developed plans to use the 2002 EPA strategic outreach funds.

XIV. O Additional Agenda Items: 11:50 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

XV. P Request for Public Comments: 12:05 p.m. to 12:10 p.m.

XVI. Q Date and Location of the next Task Force Meeting
The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., August 14, 2003, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

XVII. R Dates of Future Program Meetings

July 16, 2003	9:30 am	Technical Committee meeting	Baton Rouge
August 14, 2003	9:30 am	Task Force meeting	New Orleans
September 17, 2003	9:30 am	Technical Committee meeting	Baton Rouge
October 16, 2003	9:30 am	Task Force meeting	Baton Rouge
December 10, 2003	9:30 am	Technical Committee meeting	New Orleans
January 28, 2004	9:30am	Task Force meeting to select PPL 13	New Orleans

XVIII. Adjourn: 12:20 p.m.



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) April 16, 2003 9:30 a.m.	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Breaux Act Coastal Planning Protection and Restoration Act Task Force	LOCATION Estuarine Habitats and Fisheries Center Lafayette, La.
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PURPOSE <p style="text-align: center;">Task Force Meeting</p>
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PARTICIPANT REGISTER

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Amanda Bordelon	Ecology + Environment	ABordelon@ene.com	225-248-5080



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) April 16, 2003 9:30 a.m.	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Breaux Act Coastal Planning Protection and Restoration Act Task Force	LOCATION Estuarine Habitats and Fisheries Center Lafayette, La.	
PURPOSE Task Force Meeting			
PARTICIPANT REGISTER			
NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	E MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
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SSA Gorman	Vermilion		337-932-3600
Robert S. Van	Embarcadero		875-0720
Dewey Biddeman	Engineer	DeweyB@dnr.la.gov	337-252 0

Browning, Gay B MVN

From: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2003 5:26 PM
To: 'billg@dnr.state.la.us'; 'bpaul@la.usda.gov'; 'cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us'; Carney, David F MVN; 'david_fruge@fws.gov'; 'deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us'; 'don.gohmert@la.usda.gov'; 'erik.zobrist@noaa.gov'; 'flores.miguel@epa.gov'; 'gautreak@gov.state.la.us'; 'gerald_bodin@fws.gov'; 'hill.troy@epamail.epa.gov'; 'jackc@dnr.state.la.us'; Saia, John P MVN; 'lenb@dnr.state.la.us'; Rowan, Peter J Col MVN; 'randyh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'richard.hartman@noaa.gov'; 'rolland.schmitt@noaa.gov'; Podany, Thomas J MVN; Monnerjahn, Christopher J MVN; 'darryl_clark@fws.gov'; Rauber, Gary W MVN; Miller, Gregory B MVN; 'john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov'; 'mcquiddy.david@epa.gov'; 'peckham.jeanene@epa.gov'; 'philp@dnr.state.la.us'; 'Rachel.Sweeney@noaa.gov'; 'hill.troy@epa.gov'; Goodman, Melanie L MVN; Lopez, John A MVN; Browning, Gay B MVN
Subject: FINAL Minutes from the April 16th, 2003 Task Force Meeting

The Corps has incorporated comments received from Mr. Dave Frugé, FWS, into the minutes from the April 16th, 2003 Task Force meeting. No other comments were received. The final minutes are attached, along with the previously provided enclosures.

Julie Z. LeBlanc
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
(504) 862-1597



Task Force minutes AGENDA binder Apr TFmtg-16apr03-sig
FINAL 4-16-... 03 TF meetin... nin.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2003 2:40 PM
To: billg@dnr.state.la.us; bpaul@la.usda.gov; cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us; David Carney; david_fruge@fws.gov; deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us; don.gohmert@la.usda.gov; erik.zobrist@noaa.gov; flores.miguel@epa.gov; gautreak@gov.state.la.us; gerald_bodin@fws.gov; hill.troy@epamail.epa.gov; jackc@dnr.state.la.us; John Saia; lenb@dnr.state.la.us; Peter Rowan; randyh@dnr.state.la.us; richard.hartman@noaa.gov; rolland.schmitt@noaa.gov; Thomas Podany; Christopher Monnerjahn; darryl_clark@fws.gov; Gary Rauber; Gregory Miller; john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov; mcquiddy.david@epa.gov; peckham.jeanene@epa.gov; philp@dnr.state.la.us; Rachel.Sweeney@noaa.gov; hill.troy@epa.gov
Cc: Gay Browning; John Lopez; Melanie Goodman
Subject: DRAFT Minutes from the April 16th, 2003 Task Force Meeting

Attached are the draft minutes from the April 16th, 2003 Task Force meeting, along with the agenda and the sign in sheet. Please review and provide revisions/comments by Friday, May 9th, 2003.

<< File: Task Force minutes DRAFT 4-16-03.doc >> << File: AGENDA binder Apr 03 TF meeting .doc >> << File: TFmtg-16apr03-signin.pdf >>

Julie Z. LeBlanc
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