

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
May 4, 2005

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Peter J. Rowan convened the 58th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Act Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on May 4, 2005 at the Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center, Conference Room 119, 646 Cajundome Blvd., 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:

Mr. Miguel Flores, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Mr. Sam Hamilton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Ms. Sidney Coffee, State of Louisiana, Office of the Governor
Mr. Rolland Schmitt, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Mr. Donald Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Colonel Peter J. Rowan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2005 TASK FORCE MEETING

Colonel Rowan called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 17, 2005 Task Force Meeting.

Mr. Rollie Schmitt moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Sam Hamilton seconded, and the motion was passed by the Task Force.

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Decision: Approval of the CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment and Vision to be Conducted in 2005

Mr. Tom Podany said that the purpose of the Programmatic Assessment and Vision is to evaluate what CWPPRA has accomplished, determine necessary program adjustments in light of

the 10 year extension of the Breaux Act program and the potential authorization of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), and to provide a basis for future Task Force decisions. The Task Force and Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE) provided comments during the preparation of the outline. The preliminary draft assessment will be completed in September 2005, with a final draft available for review by October 2005. A final document will be completed by January 2006. The outline has six major sections:

- I. Coastal Louisiana Wetlands Loss and Restoration Background
- II. CWPPRA Program Structure
- III. CWPPRA Program Effectiveness
- IV. Compare/Contrast LCA and CWPPRA – Identification of Gaps
- V. Need for Continued Action
- VI. Strategic Vision

The cost estimate to complete the assessment is \$235,187. Some cost can be covered under existing budgets (\$71,163); therefore the funding required is \$164,024. There is currently \$511,949 available for obligation in the Planning Program, so funding is available. Mr. Podany asked the Task Force to approve the outline and budget.

The floor was opened to the Task Force for discussion:

Ms. Sidney Coffee felt that the Task Force needed to fully discuss the program's vision in more detail and she offered to host a meeting where this could take place. In a time of decreasing budgets, some may ask if both programs (CWPPRA/LCA) are needed. Although a lot of work has gone into this, she expressed concerns that the Programmatic Assessment and Vision proposal is too long and complicated. She is also concerned with the cost and timeline. Ms. Coffee stated that the history of CWPPRA could be limited to a few pages, and added that the 2003 Report to Congress already frames the direction of where the program is going.

Mr. Sam Hamilton suggested revisiting the target audience and the timeframe. The target audience will dictate when the assessment must be completed. If the audience includes the authorizing committees and OMB, our timeline is very quick and we may need to think about a condensed version.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten believes this is a positive initiative and agreed on the need to discuss the details in a side meeting. The gap analysis is critical to show where the program needs to focus in the future. Mr. Schmitten stated that this is a very good expenditure of funds and it is a healthy investment for the program. He added that he was flexible on the timing of completion. Mr. Don Gohmert agreed with Mr. Schmitten.

Mr. Miguel Flores was willing to accept the State's offer to schedule a meeting to discuss the strategic vision. Two key elements include: the gap analysis and how CWPPRA relates to LCA. Mr. Flores stated that it was important that we put these issues forward to the authorizing committees, OMB, whomever is looking at merging CWPPRA with LCA.

Mr. Randy Hanchey, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), felt the assessment might be too focused on CWPPRA and not enough on LCA. We must figure out how to synthesize CWPPRA with LCA. To do this, the Task Force needs to understand what is evolving in LCA in

terms of priorities and activities in the first 10 years. Since LCA has identified projects similar to approved ongoing CWPPRA projects, the time will come to make decisions as to which program will pursue construction and operation of these projects. The Task Force needs to get more integrally involved in what is happening in LCA. The issue of how to allocate responsibility between Breaux Act and LCA needs to be addressed by the CWPPRA Task Force and the LCA Program Management Team (PMT). The LCA PMT folks from the Corps Division office are not at this meeting today. The LCA PMT and the CWPPRA Task Force/Technical Committee need to get together. In order for LCA to succeed, it must have an interagency commitment similar to the one that exists in CWPPRA. It is possible that some CWPPRA local-scale projects may be unnecessary if larger-scale LCA projects are planned, or some existing CWPPRA projects may have to change operations. But, we also need to look at the timeframe for LCA to respond. If it will take 10-15 years to get an LCA project built, CWPPRA can protect the area in the interim. The sections of the assessment that deal with CWPPRA and LCA (Sections IV and V of the outline) should be expanded.

Colonel Rowan agreed on bringing the CWPPRA Task Force/Technical Committee and LCA Program Management Team together and asked the State to set a timeframe to host the meeting. He stated that the members are part of the Regional Working Group (RWG) that was envisioned under LCA and noted that we will need to bring that group back together. It will facilitate the establishment of a vision in concert with where the LCA Near-Term Plan is going. Colonel Rowan also asked the Task Force to provide approval to begin spending budgeted funds.

Mr. Randy Hanchey stated that LCA has a different challenge with respect to funding than Breaux Act since the Breaux Act's funding comes out of a trust fund. He speculated that questions may be originating from OMB – one question relates to the amount of dollars we're getting under CWPPRA and asks if we should "merge" CWPPRA and LCA, or at least look at CWPPRA as a source of funding when decisions are made on how much to appropriate to LCA under WRDA. The Corps and the State have to respond to these questions and have to provide a solid, defensible justification of CWPPRA as it exists today and a recognition of the need to synthesize and harmonize with LCA in the future. Ms. Sidney Coffee agreed with Mr. Hanchey's statements. She proposed scheduling the Task Force/LCA PMT meeting later in May or in early June and added that the Governor's Office would coordinate.

Colonel Rowan said that we needed to be able to articulate the reasoning for the existence of the 2 programs by the fall when Federal agencies submit and justify their budgets to OMB. He agreed with Ms. Coffee's plan to provide feedback to the Technical Committee on the vision and to move forward quickly. Mr. Hamilton stated that we are likely too late to provide this analysis for the authorizing committee since WRDA is well underway. Mr. Hanchey confirmed that the focus would likely be the appropriations committees.

Mr. Rollie Schmitt said that the 3 short-term tasks are: to hold the State-hosted meeting between the CWPPRA Task Force/Technical Committee and the LCA PMT within 30 days, complete the gap analysis within 60 days, and keep the public and parishes informed. He also envisioned a report back to the Task Force at the July meeting for final action to allow funding and efforts to continue. Ms. Sidney Coffee wanted to direct the Technical Committee to work immediately on the gap analysis and provide the information to the Task Force before the

upcoming meeting within 30 days. The information could be forwarded to PACE group to keep the public informed. Mr. Rick Hartman agreed that in order to perform a gap analysis, CWPPRA agencies need to understand the evolving LCA plans and there hasn't been any agency involvement in LCA in the last several months. Mr. Hanchey suggested that someone from the State and the Corps could be made adjunct members of the Technical Committee so they could bring some of the LCA philosophy and process to CWPPRA. Ms. Coffee agreed that this may be part of why the Technical Committee is struggling (because CWPPRA doesn't have a clear understanding of what is happening in LCA).

Mr. Don Gohmert believes that sections IV, V, and VI of the outline are the core sections in the document. It is important to give all target audiences the information needed to understand that LCA and CWPPRA are not *competing* programs, but are *complementary* programs. Mr. Randy Hanchey agreed and stated that we only need to look at the Everglades Program to see how slowly these multi-million dollar projects move. He noted that CWPPRA is a modest way to deal with the highest priority, urgent needs while waiting for the large-scale projects from LCA. Mr. Miguel Flores added that CWPPRA also provides geographical balance for the Near-Term LCA Plan.

Colonel Rowan stated that he heard general agreement that this is the right thing to do. He agreed that the cross-fertilization of information in this critical meeting between the CWPPRA Task Force/Technical Committee and the LCA PMT is inherently needed for the gap analysis. Colonel Rowan asked the Task Force if it would authorize the Technical Committee to spend Planning dollars to start this effort and asked that the State take the lead in setting up the meeting within 30 days. Ms. Coffee agreed and asked that the Technical Committee provide critical information prior to the meeting. Mr. Flores asked the Technical Committee to immediately begin to identify gaps and discuss direction. Mr. Gohmert agreed to go ahead and fund the full budget request.

The Task Force Chairman made a general motion that the Technical Committee continue to work within the guidance given and the State will take the lead to set up a meeting within 30 days to bring the CWPPRA and LCA management groups together for discussion on the strategic vision. Planning funds in the amount of \$164,024 was approved by the Task Force for disbursement to the agencies.

B. Report/Decision: Report of the Technical Committee's Selection of PPL 15 Candidate Projects and Decision to Continue PPL 15 Process

Mr. Tom Podany reported that the Technical Committee selected six PPL 15 candidate projects for further detailed analysis at their March 16th meeting from 11 nominations for PPL 15. The six projects are: Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion, Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation, Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses, South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Creation, Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection, and South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction.

Mr. Podany stated that the 2nd part of this agenda item relates to the Task Force's decision (at their February 2005) meeting to discuss a possible suspension of PPL 15 efforts to

allow the agencies to focus on completing the Programmatic Assessment and Vision. The Technical Committee believes that from a funding standpoint both efforts can occur concurrently and general consensus was to continue with PPL 15 at this time.

Colonel Rowan stated that a Task Force decision would only be required to deviate from the agreed-to PPL 15 process. Therefore Task Force action would only be required if their was agreement to suspend PPL 15 efforts. He directed the Technical Committee to continue under the existing PPL 15 process. Mr. Sam Hamilton and Mr. Rollie Schmitten expressed their agreement.

Mr. O'Neil Marlborough asked a question about the projects contingently approved for Phase I funding on the 14th PPL. What if these projects are not funded for Phase I by August 31st? Mr. Tom Podany stated that if the projects aren't funded by August 31st, they would compete for Phase I funding as candidate projects under the 15th PPL.

No Task Force decision was made on this agenda item.

C. Discussion: Initial Discussion Regarding FY06 Budget Development (Process, Size, Funding, etc.)

Mr. Tom Podany presented the strawman budget for FY06 that included the development of PPL 16. The Technical Committee will continue to coordinate among agencies and will request budget approval from the Task Force in October 2005. The current assumption is that the scope of work for PPL 16 will be similar to PPL 15, but feedback is required from the Task Force. Mr. Podany also noted that we are dipping into the program's reserve from previous years by funding the Programmatic Assessment and this must be considered in developing the FY06 budget.

The floor was opened to the Task Force for discussion:

Mr. Miguel Flores requested a discussion on approval of projects by the Task Force. He was previously uncomfortable with being given a slate of projects on which to vote without having the ability to discuss each project on their own merits and vote on approvals on a project-by-project basis. Mr. Tom Podany explained that the PPL 15 process, adopted by the Task Force, includes the preparation of a list of recommended projects for consideration by the Task Force for Phase I funding (at the October Task Force meeting). The Task Force has modified project lists in the past, but there has never been a project-by-project approval. Mr. Miguel Flores asked other Task Force members to provide views on how to proceed with approval of Phase I and II projects. Mr. Tom Podany pointed out that during Phase II, projects are discussed and voted on individually.

Mr. Sam Hamilton said it should be understood that the list is simply a recommendation and the Task Force may choose to look at projects individually. Mr. Hamilton added that Task Force members have always had the opportunity to discuss any project. Mr. Schmitten stated that as long as it was understood that the list is simply a recommendation, the Task Force can either take projects up one at a time or as a block.

Mr. Don Gohmert agreed with Mr. Hamilton. Projects recommended to the Task Force have been dissected and evaluated from different perspectives by the State, Federal agencies, and the public. He stated that the process being followed to screen candidate projects under PPL 15 has been approved by the Task Force and that projects are always open to discussion until approved. He noted that he struggling with what needed to be fixed.

Mr. Miguel Flores questioned whether the Task Force should merely accept the recommendation of the Technical Committee or have discussions on whether or not the recommended projects are the ones that should move forward. Colonel Rowan said that these projects are not being approved for Phase I approval today. The report today on PPL 15 is solely part of the narrowing process to determine a list of candidate projects which will be evaluated further prior to getting to a recommended list of projects for Phase I funding. Mr. Flores was not suggesting that the process be changed; he only wanted to raise a flag for the need to look at projects when there is a close call. He believes the Technical Committee is very valuable to the Task Force.

Mr. Hanchey noted that 5 projects will drop out of contention for PPL 15 without any further real discussion by the Task Force. He believed that this decision is more significant than the meeting in which we decide which projects are funded for Phase I.

Mr. Tom Podany pointed out that the Technical Committee is following the process that the Task Force approved for selection of 6 PPL 15 candidate projects. Mr. Tom Podany said the process allows projects to be reconsidered on future lists after being re-worked and improved. Mr. Miguel Flores wondered if a high priority project that does not make it through the process could have a chance to be reengineered? Mr. Tom Podany stated that this was a common occurrence and that projects are often considered in subsequent lists. Ms. Sidney Coffee added that the Task Force would better understand the decisions made by the Technical Committee if given a brief description of why projects did/did not make the list.

Mr. Randy Hanchey responded that when decisions on projects are close and questionable, he is not comfortable with the Technical Committee making these decisions and just reporting them. He believes that decisions to keep projects in the system are a Task Force responsibility. Mr. Gohmert reiterated that the process being followed by the Technical Committee in the selection of the 6 candidate projects has been approved by the Task Force. The Technical Committee is not acting arbitrarily and capriciously; they are following a process that the Task Force set out for them to screen projects. We can change the process for PPL 16 if we see fit. Colonel Rowan stated that he was comfortable with the process and the authorities that the Task Force delegated to the Technical Committee. He felt the Task Force does not need to make every individual decision. Mr. Randy Hanchey asked whether the Task Force-approved process needed to be revisited and commented on the level of public support for several projects that did not make the list. The State is questioned on why projects with a lot of public support are not selected. Mr. Sam Hamilton said that this is bottom-up process that is community driven. It may be worthwhile to have more discussion on projects in question and have the Technical Committee explain why one project ranked higher than others. He suggested tweaking the process for future lists so that there is an expectation that the Technical Committee has to explain

why projects are selected as candidates. Colonel Rowan rebutted that he believes that it is up to the individual staff members to bring these reasons back to his/her Task Force member. Ms. Coffee stated that this should be done publicly as part of this Task Force meeting. Colonel Rowan stated that the Technical Committee meetings *are* public meetings as well. Mr. Podany interjected that the Technical Committee was prepared to present the 11 nominees to the Task Force today to report on progress and added that the projects were publicly discussed during the March 16th Technical Committee meeting.

The floor was opened to the public for comments:

Mr. Dan Arceneaux, St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Manager, believes that the East Orleans Landbridge project is needed more than a lot of other projects. Extensive hydrocarbon extraction has been performed in St. Bernard Parish which is turning the wetlands into open water. The Pontchartrain Basin will be unprotected without the landbridge.

Ms. Marnie Winter, representing Jefferson Parish and PACE, made a comment relative to an item raised by Mr. Gerry Duszynski at the March 16th Technical Committee meeting regarding the PPL selection process. PACE would like to see a voting meeting added for future PPLs, after the four initial Regional Planning Team (RPT) meetings in which projects are nominated for the PPL. Currently, projects are nominated from the floor and parishes do not have a chance to fully understand the benefits or problems associated with a project. This extra meeting would allow parishes to have a more informed vote. Ms. Marnie Winter submitted a draft proposal to the Task Force that was supported by 8 of the PACE parishes. Ms. Winter stated that she would ask for concurrence from all parishes on the proposal.

Ms. Heather Szapary, representing Ms. Yarrow Etheredge – Director of the City of New Orleans Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs, asked the Task Force to reconsider the seventh-ranked project on PPL 15 list of 11 nominees, the East Orleans Landbridge project which was part of the Coast 2050 Plan. Some areas are being ripped apart during normal winter weather. The water is very shallow near Hospital Wall causing a navigational hazard. She added that the public support was not about popularity but credibility for the project.

Mr. Leo Richardson, property owner near the Orleans Landbridge project and member of the Civic Association Board, complimented the Breaux Act Newsflash staff for keeping everyone well informed. He is concerned that there is no other barrier island left to protect New Orleans. It is a confusing situation because even though the East Orleans Landbridge project received more numerical votes at the March 16th Technical Committee meeting, the project was not selected because it had one less agency support vote. The project would strengthen the landbridge and protect one and a half million people. Orleans Parish has a clear and present danger. He asked the Task Force to reconsider and include the project as a PPL 15 candidate project.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Director of Coastal Restoration for Terrebonne Parish, expressed her sympathy for everyone who has left meetings disappointed that their project did not make it through the process. She feels that rules should not be changed in the middle of the game; one

must play the hand they are dealt. Changing the rules at this point could become a management nightmare.

The floor was opened to additional comments by the Task Force:

Ms. Sidney Coffee asked the Task Force to consider adding the East Orleans Landbridge project as a PPL 15 candidate project. Because this project is on the cusp, the Task Force would not be reaching far down on the list. Mr. Randy Hanchey said that the evaluation criteria are subjective, and the Task Force should be willing to look at results and decide whether the right results were produced. He shared Ms. Coffee's concerns and would like the East Orleans Landbridge project added to the PPL 15 candidate list or even substituted for a project that he believes is an arguably low priority project, the Venice Ponds Marsh Creation project. He believes that the Venice Ponds project will have difficulty getting State support because of its location. The State is reluctant to spend considerable amounts of money in an area that is remote and has little value beyond the immediate marshes which may not be there long.

Mr. Miguel Flores asked about the implications to the process and budget if another project were added to the PPL 15 candidate list. Mr. Podany said that the Task Force directed the Technical Committee to select up to six candidate projects for detailed assessment and the Planning Budget was based on this. He feels that the cost of adding one project would be minimal and could be handled within the existing budget. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn, the Engineering Workgroup Chairman, agreed.

Mr. Sam Hamilton felt sympathetic to those with projects that did not make the list, but was also uneasy about reaching down and picking one project over others. Where do you draw the line? Both process and criteria may need to be revisited.

Colonel Rowan stated that he is comfortable with the process as executed. There are other programs to address needs such as flooding and navigation problems. One of CWPPRA's strengths is that each agency, looking at its resources, mission, and priorities, has a vote. That is why the number of agency votes are considered first before the weighted score.

Mr. Don Gohmert said that while he is sympathetic to the needs expressed, it is not fair to the people who were not here today that could not argue the same way on their projects. Ms. Coffee stated that we aren't reaching way down on the list to get this project, it is on the cusp. She argued that this project would have more benefits than the Venice Ponds project. Mr. Hanchey stated that if the Task Force decided to move forward with 7 candidate projects instead of 6, this would be perfectly consistent with the process.

Mr. Miguel Flores asked what would happen if the entire PPL 15 process were delayed until the next Task Force Meeting? Mr. Tom Podany said it would delay completion of the entire list.

Mr. Sam Hamilton asked about the additional time and money required if one or three projects were added to the list. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn, Engineering Workgroup Chairman, remarked that the addition of one project to the PPL 15 candidate list would not severely impact

the schedule or budget. But, adding multiple projects would involve the need to allocate more funding for site visits and evaluations.

Ms. Sidney Coffee made a motion to add the East Orleans Landbridge project to the PPL 15 candidate project list. Mr. Flores seconded. Ms. Sidney Coffee and Mr. Miguel Flores voted for the motion, while Mr. Don Gohmert, Mr. Rollie Schmitt, and Mr. Sam Hamilton voted against it. The motion was not approved.

Mr. Tom Podany stated that PPL process recommendations made by PACE will be discussed at the next Technical Committee meeting. The Technical Committee will provide the Task Force with a draft of the PPL 16 process for review and approval.

C. Discussion/Decision: Availability of Funding for Two Contingently Approved PPL 14 Projects

Mr. Tom Podany said that funding is currently not available to fund Phase I for two PPL 14 projects since there is a negative available balance in the program (South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (\$1.3 million) and East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (\$1.19 million)). If funding is not available before August 31st, 2005 these projects will be considered for Phase I funding along with the other candidate projects on the 15th PPL. The total number of candidate projects under PPL 15 would then be 8. The Technical Committee will recommend up to 4 projects to the Task Force for Phase I funding in October 2005.

No Task Force decision was made. This agenda item will be reconsidered at the next Task Force meeting.

V. INFORMATION

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

Ms. Gay Browning discussed the status of the CWPPRA accounts. The FY05 Planning Budget of \$5.2 million was approved in October 2004. Total costs approved for development of PPL 15 was \$1.2 million. Expenditures on PPL 15 to date total \$548,000 with an estimated \$631,000 remaining for continued PPL 15 development. The Construction Program has cumulatively received \$585 million in Federal funds since program inception. Total obligations equal \$516 million, and total expenditures are \$247 million. There are currently 130 active projects; 64 have completed construction, 13 are currently under construction, and 53 have not started construction yet. In January 2006, twenty-two projects are scheduled to request Phase II approval, and one complex project will request Phase I funding. The total increment one cost for these projects is \$381 million. The unencumbered balance in the Construction Program is currently -\$529,000. After de-authorized funds are returned, the unencumbered balance will be approximately \$470,000.

Ms. Julie LeBlanc explained that total cumulative funding into the Planning and Construction Programs from FY92-05 totals \$710 million. Unobligated funds total \$143.9 million, not including obligations for projects approved in October 2004. The average difference

between the unobligated balance and unencumbered funds for FY00-03 was approximately \$150 million each year. This difference was reduced to \$84 million at the end of FY04. Total program funding (Federal and non-Federal) prior to the 10-year extension was approximately \$1.15 billion, including \$5 million per year for Planning. With the 10-year extension of the Act, current projections through FY20 total \$2.06 billion (Federal and non-Federal). The total cost for all projects on PPLs 1 through 14 is \$1.73 billion, which is below the \$2 billion funding expectation through 2019. Total funding required to fund Phase I costs for all projects currently in Phase I, and Phase II and construction plus 20 years O&M for all projects currently in Phase II is \$800 million. This means that the program is capable of meeting its out-year funding requirements for OM&M for projects that have been approved for construction.

B. Report: Public Outreach Committee Report

Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron presented a copy of the new Southeast Louisiana Land Loss Map and invited everyone to take a copy of the map. She reported on the status of the Educational Partnership Program. Outreach staff helped members of the JASON project focus on Louisiana's disappearing wetlands during the 2004-2005 school year. The Outreach Program is also working with the National Science Teacher's Association. Over 19,000 requests were made for the "Explore Coastal Louisiana with Boudreaux" CD which is being reproduced. A Web Quest program has been created to utilize the LA Coast website to show children land loss videos, directing them to project fact sheets so they can understand what it takes to fix this problem. Teacher workshops are conducted to provide resources and training to show teachers how to put this information in the classroom. A CWPPRA math unit is being created with help from Mr. Chris Monnerjahn to teach high school students about shoreline protection. There is also a new education initiative targeted at K-4 students with help from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the National Park Service, and DNR.

C. Announcements from Task Force Members

Mr. Don Gohmert announced that the East Sabine Terraces project, cosponsored by NRCS and FWS, is under construction and will provide stability and decreased circulation in the area. Construction Unit 4 of the Barataria Landbridge project has been awarded consisting of 31,000 linear feet of concrete panel wall; and Construction Unit 6 is under construction, consisting of 30,000 linear feet of rock dike shoreline protection. The Black Bayou Culvert project has also been awarded and a notice to proceed will be issued soon. A report on the Coastwide Nutria Control project, which has harvested almost 300,000 animals this year, will be given this summer.

Mr. Sam Hamilton introduced the new National Wildlife Refuge Manager of the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refugees Complex in Louisiana, Mr. Ken Litzenberger.

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Sidney Coffee announced that on May 5, 2005, a State constitutional amendment will be introduced into the State Natural Resources Committee declaring that Outer Continental Shelf revenues that come to the State would be dedicated to coastal restoration.

Colonel Rowan and the Task Force recognized Mr. Rollie Schmitten's last meeting and presented him with a Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force Certificate for exemplary service from January 2002 to May 2005. Mr. Rollie Schmitten will retire from Federal service after 38 years. Mr. Schmitten thanked his team and specifically thanked the Corps CWPPRA team for their work.

Mr. Don Gohmert, on behalf of the Task Force, presented Colonel Rowan with a Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force Certificate for exemplary service from July 2002 to May 2005. Colonel Rowan's three-year term as District Engineer ends this month. Under Colonel Rowan's term, major accomplishments included construction of the PPL 1 West Bay Sediment Diversion project and leading the 1st cash flow funding cycle meeting when more projects came forward than there was money to fund.

Ms. Sidney Coffee, on behalf of Governor Blanco, gave special recognition to Colonel Rowan for his contribution to efforts to save Louisiana's coast, America's Wetlands.

Mr. Sam Hamilton, on behalf of the USFWS and Secretary of Interior, presented Colonel Rowan with a plaque for his outstanding leadership in restoring and protecting fish and wildlife resources in coastal Louisiana.

Mr. Miguel Flores, on behalf of the USEPA, presented Colonel Rowan with a token of appreciation for being the most active and engaged Colonel for the CWPPRA Task Force. Because of the Colonel's foresight, we have prioritization and we are undertaking a programmatic assessment of the program.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten, on behalf of NOAA, presented Colonel Rowan with the "Award for Excellence in Restoration".

Colonel Rowan commended the quality of people working on the CWPPRA program. He added that there is still a long way to go in restoring coastal Louisiana. Senate and House members must be actively engaged in the Water Resources Development Act process, and it is important for everyone to be involved in the State's activities.

VI. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Heather Szapary, representing Ms. Yarrow Etheredge and the City of New Orleans Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs, thanked the Task Force for reconsidering the East Orleans Landbridge project as a PPL 15 candidate project. The public in support of the project were confused by the process. It would be helpful to be provided with a list of criteria used by the Technical Committee to select projects. Also, the Pontchartrain Basin includes nine coastal

parishes having erosion issues. She recommended that in the future two projects be considered for the basin as is done for the Barataria Basin.

VII. CLOSING

A. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting

Colonel Rowan announced that the next Task Force meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., July 27, 2005 in New Orleans, LA. Mr. Tom Podany announced that the Fall Task Force meeting has been rescheduled from October 19th to October 26, 2005. The location for the next Technical Committee meeting on June 8, 2005 has changed from Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

B. Adjournment

Colonel Rowan adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:50 p.m.

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

AGENDA

May 4, 2005 9:30 a.m.

Location: Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center

Conference Room 119
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Lafayette, Louisiana

Documentation of Task Force and Technical Committee meetings may be found at:
http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm or
<http://lacoast.gov/reports/program/index.asp>

- | Tab Number | Agenda Item |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. | 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. |
| 2. | Adoption of Minutes from the February 17, 2005 Task Force Meeting: 9:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. |
| 3. | Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects (Browning): 9:45 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. Ms. Gay Browning will discuss the construction program and status of the CWPPRA accounts. |
| 4. | Decision: Approval of the CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment to be Conducted in 2005 (Rowan): 9:55 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. The Task Force will review and consider approval of the Technical Committee's proposal for a Programmatic Assessment of the CWPPRA program to be conducted in 2005. In February, the Task Force directed the Technical Committee to develop a proposal for the assessment after the Task Force provided additional guidance on the scope of the assessment. The goal of the assessment is to evaluate the program and potentially refine the role of the CWPPRA, in light of fourteen years of program progress, the LCA program and fourteen years of remaining authorization. |
| 5. | Report/Decision: Report of the Technical Committee's Selection of PPL 15 Candidate Projects and Decision to Continue PPL 15 Process (Podany) 10:25 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. The Technical Committee will report the results of the PPL 15 candidate selection and will outline the remaining activities and funding to complete PPL 15. At the March 16, 2005 Technical Committee meeting the Technical Committee selected six projects for candidate evaluations of eleven nominees reviewed coast wide for PPL 15. The six candidate projects selected are listed below. The Task Force will make a decision regarding the continuation of the PPL 15 process. |

Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion
 Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation
 Venice Ponds Creation Marsh Creation and Crevasses
 South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Creation
 Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection
 South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction

6. **Discussion: Initial Discussion Regarding FY06 Budget Development (Process, Size, Funding, etc) (Podany) 10:55 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.** The FY06 planning program budget discussion will be initiated, including a discussion on the PPL 16.
7. **Discussion/Decision: Availability of Funding for Two Contingently Approved PPL 14 Projects (Podany) 11:05 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.** Two projects were contingently approved for Phase I funding by the Task Force in February 2005 due to the limited funding available to the CWPPRA program at that time. Availability of CWPPRA funds and status of the projects will be reviewed and discussed.

Contingently approved, if funds are available by August 31, 2005:

South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation	\$1,311,146
East Marsh Island Marsh Creation	<u>\$1,193,606</u>
Subtotal	\$2,504,752

8. **Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Testroet-Bergeron) 11:20 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.** Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron will present a Public Outreach Committee report on the status of the Educational Partnership Program.
9. **Additional Agenda Items 11:35 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**
10. **Request for Public Comments 11:45 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.**
11. **Announcement: Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting 11:55 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.** The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., July 27, 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
12. **Announcement: Dates and Locations of Upcoming CWPPRA Administrative Meetings (Podany):**

2005			
June 8, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
* July 27, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
* Previously scheduled for July 13, 2005			
August 30, 2005	7:00 p.m.	PPL 15 Public Meeting	Abbeville
August 31, 2005	7:00 p.m.	PPL 15 Public Meeting	New Orleans
September 14, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
** October 26, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
** Previously scheduled for October 19, 2005			
December 7, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
2006			
January 25, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
March 15, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
April 12, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
June 14, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

July 12, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
August 30, 2006	7:00 p.m.	PPL 16 Public Meeting	Abbeville
August 31, 2006	7:00 p.m.	PPL 16 Public Meeting	New Orleans
September 13, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
October 18, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 6, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
		2007	
January 31, 2007	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge

Adjourn



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE 4 May 2005	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT Page <u>1</u> of <u>4</u>	LOCATION Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center Lafayette, LA
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PURPOSE
 BREAUX ACT TASK FORCE MEETING
PLEASE USE BLACK INK

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	ORGANIZATION	E MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
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Bri... ..	NRCS		318.473.7774
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JIM OWEN
 Sign-in sheets are included in Task Force or Technical Committee meeting minutes, which are publicly accessible at www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm

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P.



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE 4 May 2005	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT Page <u>2</u> of <u>4</u>	LOCATION Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center Lafayette, LA
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PURPOSE
BREAUX ACT TASK FORCE MEETING
PLEASE USE BLACK INK

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	ORGANIZATION	E MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
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MARK FORD	CRCL	mford@crcl.org	225-344-6551
DAN GREENBAUM	CZM ST BERNARD		504-271-5448

Sign-in sheets are included in Task Force or Technical Committee meeting minutes, which are publicly accessible at www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE 4 May 2005	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT Page <u>5</u> of <u>4</u>	LOCATION Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center Lafayette, LA
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PURPOSE
BREAUX ACT TASK FORCE MEETING
PLEASE USE BLACK INK

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	ORGANIZATION	E MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER
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Mack Howard	Sabine River Authority	mhoward@sra.dst.tx.us	409 746-2192

Sign-in sheets are included in Task Force or Technical Committee meeting minutes, which are publicly accessible at www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm

Browning, Gay B MVN

From: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2005 10:28 PM
To: 'betty.jones@la.usda.gov'; 'bpaul@la.usda.gov'; 'cheryl.walters@la.usda.gov'; 'chrisk@dnr.state.la.us'; 'cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us'; 'daniel.llewellyn@la.gov'; 'deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us'; 'diane.smith@la.gov'; 'don.gohmert@la.usda.gov'; 'edh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'erik.zobrist@noaa.gov'; 'flores.miguel@epa.gov'; 'gautreak@gov.state.la.us'; 'gerryd@dnr.state.la.us'; 'gsteyer@usgs.gov'; 'john_hefner@fws.gov'; 'jonathan.porthouse@la.gov'; 'kirk.rhinehart@la.gov'; 'mcquiddy.david@epa.gov'; 'parrish.sharon@epa.gov'; 'pat.forbes@GOV.STATE.LA.US'; Rowan, Peter J Col MVN; 'randyh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'richard.hartman@noaa.gov'; 'rolland.schmitt@noaa.gov'; 'russell_watson@fws.gov'; 'sam_hamilton@fws.gov'; 'sidney.coffee@gov.state.la.us'; Constance, Troy G MVN; 'britt.paul@la.usda.gov'; 'comvss@lsu.edu'; 'darryl_clark@fws.gov'; 'edh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'gabrielle_bodin@usgs.gov'; 'jimmy_johnston@usgs.gov'; 'john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov'; 'kevin_roy@fws.gov'; 'kirkr@dnr.state.la.us'; Park, Michael F MVN; 'philp@dnr.state.la.us'; 'rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov'; 'rickr@dnr.state.la.us'; 'sbergeron@usgs.gov'; 'scott_wilson@usgs.gov'; Hawes, Suzanne R MVN; Podany, Thomas J MVN; Monnerjahn, Christopher J MVN; 'finley_h@wlf.state.la.us'; Rauber, Gary W MVN; Browning, Gay B MVN; Miller, Gregory B MVN; 'jonathanp@dnr.state.la.us'; Goodman, Melanie L MVN; 'ruiz_mj@wlf.state.la.us'; Browning, Gay B MVN; Goodman, Melanie L MVN; Martinez, Wanda R MVN; Keen, Steve E MVN
Subject: FINAL Task Force Meeting Minutes - 4 May 05

Task Force, Technical Committee, P&E Subcommittee:

Attached are the FINAL minutes and transcripts from the 4 May 05 Task Force meeting. Enclosure 1 (agenda) and Enclosure 2 (sign in sheets) are also attached. Thanks to all who provided comments.

   
Task Force Meeting 5-04-05 Mting 5-04-05 Ttlay 5 2005.doc. Sign in TF 5 -4-05.pdf

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

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

From: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 7:48 AM
To: 'betty.jones@la.usda.gov'; 'bpaul@la.usda.gov'; 'cheryl.walters@la.usda.gov'; 'chrisk@dnr.state.la.us'; 'cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us'; 'daniel.llewellyn@la.gov'; 'deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us'; 'diane.smith@la.gov'; 'don.gohmert@la.usda.gov'; 'edh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'erik.zobrist@noaa.gov'; 'flores.miguel@epa.gov'; 'gautreak@gov.state.la.us'; 'gerryd@dnr.state.la.us'; 'gsteyer@usgs.gov'; 'john_hefner@fws.gov'; 'jonathan.porthouse@la.gov'; 'kirk.rhinehart@la.gov'; 'mcquiddy.david@epa.gov'; 'parrish.sharon@epa.gov'; 'pat.forbes@GOV.STATE.LA.US'; Rowan, Peter J Col MVN; 'randyh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'richard.hartman@noaa.gov'; 'rolland.schmitt@noaa.gov'; 'russell_watson@fws.gov'; 'sam_hamilton@fws.gov'; 'sidney.coffee@gov.state.la.us'; Constance, Troy G MVN; 'britt.paul@la.usda.gov'; 'comvss@lsu.edu'; 'darryl_clark@fws.gov'; 'edh@dnr.state.la.us'; 'gabrielle_bodin@usgs.gov'; 'jimmy_johnston@usgs.gov'; 'john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov'; 'kevin_roy@fws.gov'; 'kirkr@dnr.state.la.us'; Park, Michael F MVN; 'philp@dnr.state.la.us'; 'rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov'; 'rickr@dnr.state.la.us'; 'sbergeron@usgs.gov'; 'scott_wilson@usgs.gov'; Hawes, Suzanne R MVN; Podany, Thomas J MVN; Monnerjahn, Christopher J MVN; 'finley_h@wlf.state.la.us'; Rauber, Gary W MVN; Browning, Gay B MVN; Miller, Gregory B MVN; 'jonathanp@dnr.state.la.us'; Goodman, Melanie L MVN; 'ruiz_mj@wlf.state.la.us'; Browning, Gay B MVN; Goodman, Melanie L MVN; Martinez, Wanda R MVN
Subject: RE: DRAFT Task Force Meeting Minutes - 4 May 05

REMINDER:

Comments/revisions are requested by COB, Friday, 27 May 05. Please advise if you require more time to complete your review.

Julie

<< File: Task Force Meeting 5-04-05 Minutes - DRAFT.doc >> << File: Task Force Meeting 5-04-05 Transcripts - DRAFT.doc >>

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

From: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 1:34 PM
To: betty.jones@la.usda.gov; bpaul@la.usda.gov; cheryl.walters@la.usda.gov; chrisk@dnr.state.la.us; cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us; daniel.llewellyn@la.gov; deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us; diane.smith@la.gov; don.gohmert@la.usda.gov; edh@dnr.state.la.us; erik.zobrist@noaa.gov; flores.miguel@epa.gov; gautreak@gov.state.la.us; gerryd@dnr.state.la.us; gsteyer@usgs.gov; john_hefner@fws.gov; jonathan.porthouse@la.gov; kirk.rhinehart@la.gov; mcquiddy.david@epa.gov; parrish.sharon@epa.gov; pat.forbes@GOV.STATE.LA.US; Peter Rowan; randyh@dnr.state.la.us; richard.hartman@noaa.gov; rolland.schmitt@noaa.gov; russell_watson@fws.gov; sam_hamilton@fws.gov; sidney.coffee@gov.state.la.us; Troy Constance; britt.paul@la.usda.gov; comvss@lsu.edu; darryl_clark@fws.gov; edh@dnr.state.la.us; gabrielle_bodin@usgs.gov; jimmy_johnston@usgs.gov; john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov; kevin_roy@fws.gov; kirkr@dnr.state.la.us; Michael Park; philp@dnr.state.la.us; rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov; rickr@dnr.state.la.us; sbergeron@usgs.gov; scott_wilson@usgs.gov; Suzanne Hawes; Thomas Podany; Christopher Monnerjahn; finley_h@wlf.state.la.us; Gary Rauber; Gay Browning; Gregory Miller; jonathanp@dnr.state.la.us; Melanie Goodman; ruiz_mj@wlf.state.la.us; Gay Browning; Melanie Goodman; Wanda Martinez
Subject: DRAFT Task Force Meeting Minutes - 4 May 05

CWPPRA Task Force, Technical Committee, P&E Subcommittee:

Attached are the DRAFT minutes and transcripts from the 4 May 05 Task Force meeting. Enclosures 1 and 2 (final agenda and sign in sheets) will be sent with the final versions of the minutes/transcripts. Comments/revisions are requested by **COB Friday, 27 May 05**.

<< File: Task Force Meeting 5-04-05 Minutes - DRAFT.doc >> << File: Task Force Meeting 5-04-05 Transcripts - DRAFT.doc >>

Julie Z. LeBlanc
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