

13 September 24

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 5 September 24 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. The meeting was initiated at 9:30 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Mr. Durund Elzey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Acting Chairman
Mr. Brian Lezina, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
Mr. Kevin Roy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Patrick Williams, NOAA, National Marine and Fisheries Services (NMFS)
Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

A copy of the agenda is included as **Encl 1**. A copy of the sign-in sheet is included as **Encl 2**.

2. Agenda Item 1. Meeting Initiation

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid fashion, in person and via WebEx virtual meeting platform. Mr. Durund Elzey, USACE, introduced himself as Chairman and called the meeting to order. He then acknowledged the hard work that the CWPPRA Workgroups accomplished over the summer and behind the scenes conducting site visits, collecting data to develop Phase I and Phase II candidate projects. Mr. Elzey then highlighted the purpose of the meeting to consider the FY27 O&M and Monitoring incremental funding requests. He then asked Technical Committee members to introduce themselves and invited opening comments from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Elzey asked the Technical Committee for any recommended changes to the agenda for today's proceedings; none were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to adopt the agenda as is.

Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. McCormick seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Elzey then asked Ms. Vittoe to iterate the protocol for Technical Committee participation and public comment in this hybrid meeting format, instructions which were provided on PowerPoint slides throughout the presentation.

2. Agenda Item 2. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE).

Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE, presented an overview of CWPPRA funds. The fully funded total Program Estimate since its inception to the present (authorized projects from PPLs 1 – 33) is \$3.443 billion, with \$2.9 billion committed from the trust fund. She explained the total funded estimate (received since inception, and anticipated through FY2026) is \$2.618 billion, with the federal portion received through FY2024 of \$2.52 billion. Current Task Force-approved funding

for projects in Phase I, Phase II, and O&M and Monitoring totals \$2.7 billion, with the federal commitment at \$2.28 billion. Authorized funding for each agency as allocated currently totals \$2.372 billion. She mentioned the breakdown of federal and non-federal shares is depicted, which by law is a 15% contribution from the state. The funded estimate and current funded estimates are more aligned with recent funds received and funds committed; whereas the program estimate and current approved estimate are what the federal government share will have spent by the end of the projects' lives and approved phases, respectively. Ms. Cheavis reviewed the federal funds received through FY24, \$2,52,487,050, with a federal cost share requirement of \$1,991,675,976.63, leaving \$60,811,073.37 available.

As Ms. Cheavis previously mentioned, the Program Estimate is currently \$3,422,354,396 for PPLs 1 – 33. A request will be made today for the Technical Committee to the annual request for funding for Construction Program Technical Services in the amount of \$275,716. Two project budget increases totaling \$317,018 will also be requested. If all are approved, these budget increases bring the total program estimate to \$3,423,007,130.

Ms. Cheavis stated the CWPPRA Program has \$60,811,073 of funding carried from the May 2024 Task Force meeting. The Program anticipates an estimate of FY25 DOI funding in the amount of \$92,110,726 (which will be allocated for the FY25 construction program.) Thus, the total available funds for requests presented at today's proceedings are \$152,921,799. She went on to state the total of anticipated funding requests (which will be presented individually at this meeting) is \$20,517,771. If the funding requests are approved, the Program will move forward into December proceedings with available funds totaling \$138,453,758.

CWPPRA has authorized 238 projects. The 133 active projects including 24 in Phase I Engineering and Design, 28 in Phase II Construction and 6 support projects. There are 75 projects that have been constructed and are now in O&M phase, and 40 projects that have been closed financially. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 49 projects, transferred 10 projects, and placed 6 in the inactive category. The 6 technical support programs include Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS), Monitoring Contingency Fund, Storm Recovery Procedures, Construction Program Technical Services, the Wetland Conservation Plan, and Programmatic Signage.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee and the public;
No comments were proffered from either the Technical Committee or the public.

3. Agenda Item 3. Report: Status of Unconstructed Projects (Jennifer Vititoe, USACE)

Ms. Vititoe explained that the P&E subcommittee had its annual meeting in July to assess unconstructed projects that are at least three years old. In the interest of providing quality coastal restoration projects that are timely and cost effective, the goal is to identify projects with issues that should be addressed, especially those with issues critical enough to impede project progress. She explained the "critical watch" designation serves as a means of tracking unconstructed projects that have seen delays in construction and as a result may be at risk. Projects determined as critical watch may be on the list due to a number of factors, including age, cost growth, land rights issues, borrow etc. Of the 8 projects that will be presented 6 are on the list due land right issues, one due to age, and one due to cost growth. Ms. Vititoe provided a summary of eight

“Critical Watch” CWPPRA projects to bring closer attention to them as issues are being resolved. They are as follows: Island Road Marsh Creation and Nourishment, TE-117, land rights, West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Nourishment, TE-134, age and land rights, Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing, PO 173, age, Phoenix Marsh Creation East Increment, BS-42, cost growth, Bay Raccourci Marsh Creation Increment 2, TE-166, land rights, Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation, BA-195, land rights, Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation and Critical Shoreline Protection, BA-206, land rights, and Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension, BA-258, land rights.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered.

4. Agenda Item 4. Decision: Request for Project Scope Change for TE-171 Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project (Dr. Patty Taylor, EPA)

Dr. Taylor began by thanking the Technical Committee, her EPA team, and those in attendance both in person and virtually. She stated the Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, part of PPL 31, received Task Force approval for Phase I in January 2022 at cost under \$30 million which includes a contribution of 25% of construction costs, up to \$10 million by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. Dr. Taylor stressed the significant stakeholder involvement, beneficial use of sediment material, sustainable borrow, as well as synergy to add to the investment of five other projects in the area, in addition to the Caminada Headlands projects. She is requesting the scope change because total costs and ratio of the total cost to the number of net acres benefited deviated more than 25% from the Phase 0 approved project, which was for 605 acres at \$30 million. At the 30% design meeting in July 2024, 595 acres at a cost of \$55 million concerned fellow CWPPRA agencies. Design comments were incorporated, and the project footprint has been reduced by 34.60%, while increasing the cost by 53.75% from Phase 0 numbers. The 95% design meeting is scheduled for 7 October, 2024. In summary, Dr. Taylor stated EPA and CPRA request approval of a change in scope for the Port Fourchon Marsh Creation (TE-0171) Project. The proposed project is just under \$50 million, without the Port’s contribution, \$40 million for 543 acres, with the Port’s contribution, at a cost of \$101,463 per net acre. Dr. Taylor proceeded to thank Dustin White, the Project Manager at CPRA, Chett Chiasson, of the Port, the design team and GIS, the Engineer of Record for the project.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered from either the Technical Committee or the public.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion for the Request for Project Scope Change for TE-171 Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project.

Decision: Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion passed without dissent.

5. Agenda item 5. Decision: Request for Final Deauthorization of TE-157 East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection Project (Kevin Roy, FWS)

Mr. Roy explained the PPL 29 project was in the Terrebonne Basin west of Golden Meadow and was designed to create 306 acres of marsh and 12,500 linear feet of shoreline protection with a fully funded cost of \$42.3 million. He stated the project had not reached 30% design and is no longer considered consistent with the 2023 State Coastal Master Plan, and thus ineligible for cost share. To reduce the backlog in the Phase I hopper, this project will be seeking final deauthorization approval and be returning approximately \$2.3 to \$2.4 million of the \$3.4 million approved Phase I budget to the program. Mr. Roy stated a request to initiate the deauthorization was approved, letters were sent to the Congressional delegation and landowners, and no comments were received. FWS is requesting a recommendation for final approval of the deauthorization of the TE-157 project.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered from either the Technical Committee or the public.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion for recommendation for final Deauthorization of TE-157 East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection Project.

Decision: Mr. Roy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lezina; the motion carried without opposition.

6. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Request for Monitoring Budget Increase PO-33 Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation. (Bryan Gossman, CPRA).

Mr. Gossman introduced himself as a coastal scientist and the monitoring manager for the PO-33 Project and will be requesting an increase of the monitoring budget. He described the PPL 13 project in the Pontchartrain Basin was part of the Big Branch national Wildlife Refuge, received funding in February 2007, and was constructed by January 2009. Mr. Gossman stated the project created 417 acres of marsh in five cells and nourished 195 acres that were in danger of breaching to open water. The initial fully funded cost for monitoring was \$111,665, whereas the new estimate is \$229,390. Mr. Gossman restated the request of \$117,725 for a monitoring budget increase is to fund remaining monitoring administration, a final land-water analysis, and final OM&M report in 2029 as well as IDC.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion for recommendation for a Request for Monitoring Budget Increase PO-33 Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation in the amount of \$117,725.

Decision: Mr. Roy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams; the motion carried without opposition.

7. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for a Monitoring Budget Increase for TV-21 East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (Mark Mouledous, CPRA)

Mr. Mouledous began to introduce the budget increase for TV-21, however, developed issues with his audio. Mr. Brandon Champagne, CPRA, made the request for \$199,293 for a

monitoring budget increase to complete the remaining planned monitoring activities which include data collection and final report for project closeout.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion for a Monitoring Budget Increase for TV-21 East Marsh Island Marsh Creation in the amount of \$199,293.

Decision: Mr. Paul made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lezina; the motion carried without opposition.

8. Agenda Item 8. Request for a Transfer of Approved Monitoring to Approved O&M for the (BS-03a) Caernarvon Diversion Outfall Management Project (Angela Trahan, NRCS)

Ms. Trahan presented the request for a Technical Committee recommendation for approval to transfer \$53,716.16 from approved monitoring to approved O&M to finalize engineering and design for the final O&M close out event. She then explained the project received approval for a two-year extension and will seek approval of project closeout with a cost increase to execute the final maintenance event at a later date.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve the Request for a Transfer of Approved Monitoring to Approved O&M for the (BS-03a) Caernarvon Diversion Outfall Management Project I the amount of \$53,716.16.

Decision: Mr. Paul made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Roy; the motion carried without opposition.

9. Agenda Item 9. Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program's Technical Services (Cole Ruckstuhl, USGS)

Mr. Ruckstuhl presented the USGS and CPRA request for FY2025 technical services for the CWPPRA program in the amount of \$275,716. Examples of funding uses include LaCoast.gov website hosting, maintenance and security protocols, back-end databases, which allows multiagency sharing of information, public outreach, web content, fact sheets, and geospatial support of projects in engineering and design, construction, and end of life. He stated the amount is a slight increase to that of last year due to overhead, staff, as well as with hosting costs associated with LaCoast.gov.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve the annual budget request for the CWPPRA Program's Technical Services in the amount of \$275,716.

Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. McCormick; the motion carried without opposition.

10. Agenda Item 10. Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY27 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects (Jernice Cheavis, USACE)

Ms. Cheavis pointed out that project-specific incremental funding requests for administrative services are provided in the Technical Committee binders, and hereby requested recommendation to the Task Force total funding approval in the amount of \$190,457. She explained that this was an increase from last year, as they were catching up on more projects. The cost reflected a grand total of multiple incremental requests across several projects beyond increment 1.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve the Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY27 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects in the amount of \$190,457.

Decision: Mr. Williams made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. McCormick; the motion carried without opposition.

11. Agenda Item 11. Decision: Request for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding (Brandon Champagne, CPRA)

The request for FY27 O&M incremental funding totals \$4,869,200.72. Mr. Champagne presented the request as follows, highlighting specifically those exceeding \$100,000 in incremental funding.

- a. PPL9+ Projects requesting approval for FY27 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$4,512,483.72 for the following projects
 - Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49)
Incremental Funding Request: \$63,526.00
 - Cameron-Creole Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54)
Incremental Funding Request: \$8,821.00
 - Cameron Meadows Marsh Creation (CS-66)
Incremental Funding Request: \$5,106.00
 - Rockefeller Refuge Shoreline Protection with LA-08 (ME-18)
Incremental Funding Request: \$129,498.00
 - Grand-White Lake Landbridge Restoration (ME-19)
Incremental Funding Request: \$639,965.00
 - South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation (ME-20)
Incremental Funding Request: \$35,153.00
 - South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22)
Incremental Funding Request: \$12,485.00

- Cole's Bayou Marsh Creation (TV-63)
Incremental Funding Request: \$15,707.00
- Little Lake Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (BA-37)
Incremental Funding Request (Federal S&A): \$4,466.00
- West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (TE-52)
Incremental Funding Request (Federal S&A): \$3,948.00
- Bayou Decade Ridge Restoration (TE-138)
Incremental Funding Request (Federal S&A): \$5,273.00
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-48)
Incremental Funding Request: \$4,119.82
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68)
Incremental Funding Request: \$3,967.79
- Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery-Marsh Creation 3 (BA-164)
Incremental Funding Request: \$25,932.00
- Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BA-35)
Incremental Funding Request: \$3,161.00
- Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chaland Pass Restoration (BA-38)
Incremental Funding Request: \$6,705.11
- Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation (PO-104)
Incremental Funding Request: \$175,430.00
- Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation (BA-125)
Incremental Funding Request: \$40,216.00
- Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b)
Incremental Funding Request: \$2,864,259.00
 - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39)
Incremental Funding Request: \$2,784.00
- CWPPRA Nav Aids and Signage (LA-0328)
Incremental Funding Request: \$461,961.00

Mr. Champagne presented supplementary background information on ME-18 that requires an annual inspection and navigation aid sign maintenance, ME-19 that needs CPRA administration for the maintenance of the foreshore rock dike. He continued to explain that PO-104 requires topographical surveys and LA 238 requires signage maintenance and replacement for FY25 and FY26.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor for any additional comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY27 O&M Incremental Funding for PPL 9+ Projects totaling \$4,512,483.72 as presented.

Decision: Mr. Paul made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Roy; the motion carried without opposition.

b. PPL1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY27 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$356,717 for the following projects:

- Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a)
Incremental Funding Request: \$300,646.00
- Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 & 5 (CS-28-4-5)
Incremental Funding Request: \$8,152.00
- Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-0009)
Incremental Funding Request: \$47,919

Mr. Champagne presented supplementary background information on CS-04a, which requires additional contract administration as well as O&M contract costs and maintenance.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve FY27 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$356,717 for PPL 1-8 Projects as outline above.

Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Roy; the motion carried without opposition.

12. Agenda Item 12. Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding (Brandon Champagne, CPRA)

The total request for FY27 Monitoring incremental funding is \$11,685,853 and a and Monitoring budget increases in the amount of \$317,018. Mr. Champagne presented the requests as follows, highlighting those requests which exceed \$100,000:

- a. PPL9+ Projects requesting approval for FY27 Monitoring incremental funding in the total amount of \$1,425,474 and Monitoring budget increases in the total amount of \$317,018 for the following projects:
 - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39)
Incremental Funding Request: \$93,664.00
 - Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration (CS-29)
Incremental Funding Request: \$44,155.00
 - East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21)
Incremental Funding Request: \$135,529.00
Budget Increase Request: \$199,293.00
 - Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49)
Incremental Funding Request: \$33,427.00
 - Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54)
Incremental Funding Request: \$99,655.00
 - Cameron Meadows Marsh Creation and Terracing (CS-66)

- Incremental Funding Request: \$85,102.00
- Cole's Bayou Marsh Creation (TV-63)
Incremental Funding Request: \$23,170.00
- South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation (ME-20)
Incremental Funding Request: \$126,812.00
- Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18)
Incremental Funding Request: \$84,674.00
- Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation (BA-125)
Incremental Funding Request: \$52,520.00
- Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration (TE-72)
Incremental Funding Request: \$10,661.00
- Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Planting in the Lac des Allemands Swamp (BA-34-2)
Incremental Funding Request: \$72,252.00
- Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42)
Incremental Funding Request: \$6,168.00
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48)
Incremental Funding Request: \$3,903.00
- Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery- Marsh Creation and Terracing #3 (BA-164)
Incremental Funding Request: \$19,101
- South Lake Lery Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection (BS-16)
Incremental Funding Request: \$32,007
- Pass Chaland To Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline (BA-35)
Incremental Funding Request: \$137,874.00
- Pelican Island and Pass la Mer to Chaland Pass (BA-0038)
Incremental Funding Request: \$178,343.00
- Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33)
Incremental Funding Request: \$54,829.00
Budget Increase Request: \$117,725.00
- Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b)
Incremental Funding Request: \$131,628

Mr. Champagne reminded all in attendance about the two approved monitoring budget requests totaling \$317, 018. He then proceeded to present supplementary background information on TV-21, which requires additional data collection, analysis, and reporting, as does ME-20. Both BA-35 and BA-38 require O&M reporting and administrative costs, while LA-03b needs monitoring surveys.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. No more were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve FY27 Monitoring incremental funding in the amount of \$1,425,474 and Monitoring budget increases in the amount of \$317,018 for PPL 9+ Projects as outlined above.

Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Paul; the motion carried without opposition.

b. PPL1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY27 Monitoring incremental funding in the total amount of \$260,379 for the following projects

- Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a)
Incremental Funding Request: \$202,705.00
- Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23)
Incremental Funding Request: \$48,243.00
- Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09)
Incremental Funding Request: \$9,431.00

Mr. Champagne presented supplementary background information on CS-04a as it requires data analysis and reporting.

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. No more were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve FY26 Monitoring incremental funding in the total amount of \$260,379 for PPL 1-8 Projects as outlined above.

Decision: Mr. Roy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams; the motion carried without opposition.

c. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) requesting approval for FY27 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,000,000

- Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (LA-30)
Incremental Funding Request: \$10,000,000

Mr. Elzey opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. No more were proffered.

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to approve FY27 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,000,000 CRMS as outlined above.

Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. McCormick; the motion carried without opposition.

13. Agenda Item 13. Additional Agenda Items (Jennifer Vititoe, USACE)

No additional agenda items were proffered.

14. Agenda Item 14. Request for Public Comments (Jennifer Vititoe, USACE)

Mr. Russell Caffrey inquired if the SOUP agenda item was for decision, or report. Ms. Vititoe stated SOUP is a report of critical watch projects. No additional public comments were proffered.

15. Agenda Item 15 and 16. Announcement: Dates of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Jennifer Vititoe, USACE)

Ms. Vititoe announced the following:

The Task Force meeting will be held October 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the USACE District Assembly Room, New Orleans

October 3, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 12, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
January 23, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD

Dates/ locations are subject to change; those updates will be posted on lacoast.gov or CWPPRA Newsflash.

17. Agenda Item 17. Decision: Adjourn

Mr. Elzey called for a motion to adjourn this meeting.

Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Williams seconded; the motion carried without dissent, and the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.