

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 10 September 2015 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. Mr. Brad Inman opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Rick Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Mr. Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chairman, sitting in for Mr. Mark Wingate

Mr. Bren Haase, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

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. Mr. Inman introduced himself and announced that he was chairing the Technical Committee meeting in the place of Mr. Mark Wingate, who is the new Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management for the New Orleans District. He asked the Technical Committee members to introduce themselves and asked for any opening remarks.

Mr. Britt Paul announced that Mr. John Jurgensen (NRCS) has been selected as the lead conservation engineer for the State NRCS Office and will only be working with the CWPPRA Program directly through October. Mr. Inman replied that Mr. Jurgensen brought seasoned perspective to the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee and will be missed. Mr. Darryl Clark congratulated Mr. Jurgensen.

Mr. Inman announced that Ms. Allison Murry, CWPPRA Program Coordinator, has also received a new position and will be missed. She has been replaced by Ms. Kaitlyn Carriere. Mr. Inman welcomed Ms. Carriere, who is a recent graduate from the University of New Orleans.

Mr. Inman reviewed the rules for public participation. He asked that anyone who would like to make a public comment only comment on that agenda item, use the microphone, introduce themselves, and state their affiliation if they are representing any type of organization. He also reminded new attendees to sign in.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee regarding the agenda.

Mr. Haase proposed to change Agenda Item #11. The North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44) project incremental funding request was originally listed under the third bullet in Agenda Item #11A requesting a total of \$1,679,144. The requested amount for the North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration project was reduced to \$400,000; thus, the total amount requested in Agenda Item #11A was reduced to \$5,959,556.

**DECISION: Mr. Bren Haase made a motion to approve the change to Agenda Item #11 by reducing the requested incremental funding for the North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration Project to \$400,000. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Karen McCormick seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

3. Agenda Item 2. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Susan Mabry, USACE). Ms. Susan Mabry provided an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding in the Planning and Construction Programs.

Ms. Susan Mabry, USACE, presented an overview of CWPPRA funds. The total Program estimate for the fully funded costs, including approved and unapproved funding, for Project Priority List (PPL) 1-25 projects is \$2.257 billion. The total estimate for the Construction Program is \$1.988 billion, including federal and state funding. The total for currently approved phases is \$1.675 billion, of which \$1.537 billion is currently funded. The currently approved projects include those in Phases 1 and 2. The total for currently funded projects in Phase 1 and Phase 2 includes only incremental funding for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and Monitoring.

There are several budget increase requests on the agenda, including \$119,713 in Phase 1 budget increases, \$3,562,438 in O&M budget increases, and \$2,055,655 for monitoring budget increases, totaling \$5,737,806. There is also a request for an increase of \$171,410 for Construction Program Technical Services. If approved, these budget increases will increase the total Program estimate to \$2.263 billion.

The CWPPRA Program has \$9,805,256 from the May meeting. NMFS has returned funding from seven projects totaling \$15,652,977, and EPA has returned funding from two projects totaling \$1,575,232.

Ms. Mabry announced that the CWPPRA Program has received an estimate of funding of \$69,547,851 from the Department of the Interior. The estimate may fluctuate; however, if received, the Program is anticipated to have total funding of \$96,681,616 including Department of the Interior funding, funds returned from completed projects, and monies carried forward from PPL 25. The funding requests listed on the agenda include \$119,713 for Phase 1, \$9,801,370 for O&M, and \$11,552,250 in incremental Monitoring. The requested amounts total \$21,473,333, leaving remaining available funds of \$75,208,283.

CWPPRA has 204 projects. The 149 active projects include 101 constructed, 22 in Phase 1, and 21 in Phase 2. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 47 projects, transferred four, and placed four in the inactive category. There are five projects classified as technical support to CWPPRA Projects.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark asked for clarity on what is considered a project currently under construction. Ms. Mabry confirmed that projects listed as under construction are those that have received construction funding.

Mr. Clark reported that USFWS will also be returning funds to the Program for two projects as soon as final bills have been paid. The CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) includes a statement encouraging agencies to check for and return surplus funds, including both Phase 1 & Phase 2 funds, annually.

Mr. Inman echoed Mr. Clark: each agency should be looking for excess funds every year. Mr. Inman stated that the funds returned by EPA and NMFS will be significant regarding the number of projects able to receive construction funds in January.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

4. Agenda Item 3. Report: Status of Unconstructed Projects (Brad Inman, USACE). The P&E Subcommittee reported on the status of unconstructed CWPPRA projects as well as projects recommended for deauthorization, inactivation, or transfer.

Mr. Inman reported on the status of unconstructed CWPPRA projects, as well as projects recommended for de-authorization, inactivation, or transfer. The Federal sponsor for each project provided project details. These projects are presented below.

- a. Critical-watch unconstructed project status and milestone update:
  - North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management (TE-32a), PPL 6, USFWS
- b. Unconstructed project recommended by the project team to deauthorize:
  - Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-53), PPL 20, NRCS
- c. Unconstructed project requested by the project team to inactivate:
  - Madison Bay Marsh Creation & Terracing (TE-51), PPL 16, NMFS

Mr. Stuart Brown, CPRA, reported that several regulatory issues remain with the North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management (TE-32a) Project. Mr. Ronny Paille, USFWS, is the Project Manager for the TE-32a project. Mr. Paille described the ongoing land rights issue. A land rights agreement was originally executed in 2010; however, the document did not adequately capture the federal requirements and therefore must be executed again. Mr. Paille stated that CPRA has contracted with Terrebonne Parish to execute an agreement. The recommendation to move forward is contingent upon completing the agreement by May 2016.

Mr. Inman reported that the P&E Subcommittee recommended that the Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-53) Project be submitted for deauthorization. Mr. Paul commented that proceeding with the project would be cost prohibitive due to opposition from the land owners. The Chenier Plain Authority has expressed interest in a transfer of the project. Mr. Paul recommended

postponing the deauthorization of the CS-53 project to potentially allow for a transfer of the project to the Chenier Plain Authority in the future.

Mr. Inman reported that the P&E Subcommittee recommended that the Madison Bay Marsh Creation & Terracing (TE-51) Project be inactivated. The requirement for inactivation is a completed 95% design, so that the project will be ready to move forward if future conditions allow.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman asked for clarification on the deadline for an executed land rights agreement for the TE-32a project. Mr. Paille responded that the deadline is currently set for May 2016; however, if there is significant resistance, it may be clear that the project will not move forward prior to then. Mr. Hartman asked if the project will be rendered inactive if there is only one hold-out from land owners. Mr. Paille reiterated that if there is a hold-out on a critical property, the project may not be able to move forward.

Mr. Clark asked how much funding will likely be returned to the CWPPRA Program from the CS-53 project. Mr. Paul responded that the amount is \$1,187,288.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. James Miller, Terrebonne Parish, speaking on behalf of Parish Manager Mr. Al Levron, announced that Terrebonne Parish has a meeting scheduled with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) to work on executing a land rights agreement. Mr. Clark clarified that Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron, BTNEP, has volunteered to help with the project.

Ms. Nedra Davis, Chenier Plain Authority, reported that the Chenier Plain Authority is interested in a transfer of the CS-53 project. The Chenier Plain Authority has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, September 15, 2015 to discuss a transfer of the project, and they hope to submit a resolution for transfer of the project as soon as possible.

5. Agenda Item 4. Report/Decision: State of the 2015 Report to Congress (Darryl Clark, USFWS). Mr. Clark provided a status update on the 2015 Report to Congress. The Report to Congress Work Group presented the semi-final edited draft 2015 Report to Congress to the CWPPRA Technical Committee for approval.

Mr. Clark reported that the semi-final edited draft of the Report to Congress has been completed and sent to the agencies for review. Copies of the semi-final edited draft are available in the CWPPRA Meeting Binder. The format of the draft is similar to the 2012 Report to Congress with the addition of new sections.

Mr. Clark reported that printing will take 60 to 70 days from Task Force approval. The Report to Congress Work Group would like to have printed versions of the final draft by January 2016. Mr. Clark thanked everyone who has contributed to the Report to Congress and each agency that has reviewed the initial drafts.

Mr. Inman reminded the audience that as part of the CWPPRA Program's authorization, the Program is required to submit a Report to Congress every three years. Mr. Inman thanked all who have worked on the Report to Congress.

Mr. Clark proposed approving the semi-final edited draft after final editing and formatting. The final formatted draft, including tables, figures, and photos, should be submitted to the Task Force for approval at the October 15, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman clarified that final editing and formatting will continue pending agency comments until October 1, 2015.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Technical Committee approve the semi-final edited draft of the 2015 Report to Congress after editing and formatting is complete. Mr. Haase seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

6. Agenda Item 5. Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 18 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects (Susan Mabry, USACE). The USACE requested funding approval in the amount of \$24,641 for administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment 1. The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force on the request for funds.

Mr. Inman explained that this Agenda Item is an annual request for incremental funding for administrative costs for cash flow projects.

Ms. Mabry reported that USACE has requested \$24,641 for administrative costs for projects on the list today.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the request for incremental funding for FY18 administrative costs for cash flow projects in the amount of \$24,641. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

7. Agenda Item 6. Report/Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program's Technical Services (Michelle Fischer, USGS). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and CPRA requested funding for technical services for the CWPPRA Program in the amount of \$171,410. The

Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force on the request for funds.

Ms. Sarah Piazza, USGS, requested \$171,410 in funding for FY16 technical services on behalf of Ms. Michelle Fischer, USGS. These funds are used for database and website maintenance, GIS support, and end of project life evaluations.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman stated this is the same amount requested and received at the September 11, 2014 Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

8. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for a Phase 1 Budget Increase for the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction Project (CS-49) (Garvin Pittman, CPRA). CPRA overspent administration funds by \$4,572. CPRA requested a budget increase and incremental funding for Phase 1 CPRA Administration by \$64,572 to cover an existing over-expenditure and to allow CPRA to complete administrative duties through Phase 1 of the project.

Mr. Garvin Pittman, CPRA, apologized on behalf of CPRA for over spending without notifying the CWPPRA Program beforehand. To date, CPRA has spent \$166,816, which is \$4,562 over the budgeted amount. CPRA requested \$64,572, which will cover the existing overage and will allow an additional \$60,000 for CPRA to complete the construction bid process including a review of the 95% design and the solicitation package.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee.

Ms. McCormick stated that she appreciates CPRA taking ownership of the overage and asked what changes CPRA has made to avoid future over-spending. Mr. Pittman responded that CPRA has adopted a new accounting system. The new CPRA accounting system will be used to review projects quarterly to will prevent future unexpected overages.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Haase made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the request for a Phase 1 budget increase for the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project in the amount of \$64,572. Ms. McCormick seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

9. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Request for a Phase 1 Budget Increase for the Non-Rock Alternatives Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project (LA-16) (Garvin Pittman, CPRA). CPRA requested a budget increase of \$55,140.28 to cover an existing over-expenditure and to allow CPRA's Lafayette Regional Office staff to perform construction administration duties through Phase 1 of the project.

Mr. Pittman again apologized on behalf of CPRA for running over budget without notifying the CWPPRA Program beforehand. To date, CPRA has overspent by \$49,799.12, including a \$15,989.64 over expenditure of CPRA Easements and Land Rights funds and a \$33,809.48 over expenditure of CPRA Supervision and Administration funds. CPRA has requested \$55,140.28 to cover the existing overages of \$49,799.12 and an additional \$5,341.16 for CPRA's Lafayette Regional Office staff to compete construction administration duties through Phase 1 of the project.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman asked when each of the LA-16 project areas will be under construction. Mr. Pittman responded that the last demonstration project area will be under construction on October 5, 2015. There were legal issues with the remaining project area but the project will now be proceeding forward. Mr. Hartman asked how long the other project areas have been completed. Mr. Loland Broussard, NRCS, responded that the third project area was completed in May 2014.

Mr. Inman asked if the LA-16 demonstration project will last for five years. Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, responded that the LA-16 project includes three years of monitoring.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Haase made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the request for a Phase 1 budget increase for the Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16) Project in the amount of \$55,140.28. Ms. McCormick seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

10. Agenda Item 9. Decision: Request for Transfer of Funds from PPL 6 Delta-wide Crevasses (MR-09) O&M to Monitoring and Long-term Supervision and Administration (S&A). (Stuart Brown, CPRA). CPRA and NMFS proposed to repurpose \$241,500 of the authorized funding from O&M to Monitoring and \$40,000 from O&M to NOAA Long-term S&A via Memorandum of Agreement between the two agencies.

Mr. Brown reported that the MR-09 project has excess funds in the O&M budget, but does not have enough funding in Monitoring budget for a final monitoring event. Mr. Brown reported that CPRA has requested to transfer \$241,500 from O&M to Monitoring. CPRA has also requested to transfer \$40,000 from O&M to Long-term S&A. In total, \$281,500 was requested to be transferred from the O&M budget.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a transfer of \$241,500 from PPL 6 Delta-wide Crevasses (MR-09) O&M to Monitoring and**

**\$40,000 from O&M to Long-term S&A. Mr. Clark seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

11. Agenda Item 10. Decision: Request for Transfer of Funds from PPL 2 Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22) O&M to Monitoring (Brad Inman, USACE and Stuart Brown, CPRA). CPRA proposed to repurpose the authorized funding from O&M to Monitoring in the amount of \$47,100.

Mr. Inman reported that the Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22) Project has a surplus of O&M funding. In addition to completing the remaining O&M inspections, this funding can be used to fund the monitoring tasks through the end of the project.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman asked if the request includes the cost of completing a closeout report. Ms. Mabry responded affirmatively. Mr. Inman added that project closeout is anticipated in 2017, and a closeout report will be a part of that process for this highly successful project.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a transfer of funds from PPL 2 Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22) O&M to Monitoring in the amount of \$47,100. Ms. McCormick seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

12. Agenda Item 11. Decision: Request for O&M Incremental Funding and Budget Increases (Stuart Brown, CPRA). The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve requests for FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$10,718,356 and O&M budget increases totaling \$3,048,600.

Mr. Brown presented the requests for O&M incremental funding and budget increases. Mr. Brown noted that Agenda Item #11A was originally listed for \$7,609,452. However, due to the approved agenda change to decrease the North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44) Project request to \$400,000, the total amount for Section A is reduced to \$5,959,556.

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$5,959,556:
  - GIWW - Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30), PPL 9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,539
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL 9, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$120,478
  - North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration, (TE-44), PPL 10, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$400,000
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection/ Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake, (BA-37), PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$600,000

- West Lake Boudreaux Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (TE-46), PPL 11, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,489,805
- Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL 11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$2,086,556
- Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System - Bayou Dupont (BA-39), PPL 12, EPA  
Incremental Funding amount: \$7,200
- White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL 12, COE  
Incremental funding amount: \$8,315
- West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, (TE-52), PPL 16, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$423,335
- Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,188,080

Mr. Brown provided a brief overview of the largest requests within 11A. There has been significant damage behind the rock feature of the Little Lake Shoreline Protection/Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake (BA-37) Project. The rock feature is no longer helping control the shoreline and is a navigation hazard. The funding request of \$600,000 is to adjust the rock structure portion of the project to make it safe.

Mr. Brown reported that other large projects in 11A include the Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39) and Coastwide Nutria Control (LA-03b) projects. These are ongoing projects that have funding requests every year. The request for the LA-03b project will fund incentives paid to hunters and trappers for nutria control.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman stated that it was decided after the 2008 storm season to repair the BA-37 project by completing only what was necessary to make it safe. Mr. Brown added that \$7 million was previously allocated for this project.

Mr. Hartman asked how many years are remaining in the Coastwide Vegetative Plantings project lifecycle. Mr. Paul responded that the program is a ten year project, and Mr. Broussard added that the project is currently in its fifth year.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Randy Moertle, Little Lake Land Company, asked about reusing the rock that will be degraded from the BA-37 project. He added that the BA-2 project is in need of rock, which will otherwise be barged in at a high expense. The BA-37 and BA-2 projects are within half of a mile of each other. Mr. Brown responded that there is currently not a specific disposal or reuse plan for the rock. Mr. Hartman responded that expenses are likely to increase if the CWPPRA Program tries to dictate to the contractor how the rock should be disposed and if it is removed rather than degraded. The goal is to make the project safe at the lowest cost to the CWPPRA Program. Mr. Moertle added that it would be a waste to simply degrade this project while the

nearby BA-2 project is in need of rock. There was a large loss of land after the hurricane. Mr. Moertle stated that the CWPPRA Program should leverage funding as much as possible. Mr. Paul suggested that Mr. Haase request that the project engineers investigate if there is a way to connect the BA-37 and BA-2 projects.

- b. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY17 incremental funding in the total amount of \$585,859:
- Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21), PPL 2, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$23,867
  - Point au Fer Canal Plugs (TE-22), PPL 2, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 34,781
  - Sabine Refuge Structures (CS-23), PPL 3, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: 43,709
  - Lake Chapeau Sediment Input and Hydrologic Restoration, Point Au Fer Island (TE-26), PPL 3, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 28,654
  - Brady Canal Hydrologic Rest, (TE-28), PPL 3, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 103,716
  - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration (CS-27), PPL 6, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$8,267

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- c. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$1,067,094 and FY17 incremental funding in the amount of \$729,428:
- Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation, (TE-48), PPL 11, NRCS  
Budget increase amount: \$3,048,600  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,812,518

Mr. Brown reported that this Agenda Item is for a budget increase in the amount of \$3,048,600 and an incremental funding request for \$2,812,518. This request will fund refurbishing the breakwaters along the shoreline to the original design elevation, removing approximately 9,000 feet of geotextile fabric on the north side of the island, removing 400 feet of geotubes, and planting marsh vegetation on approximately 58 acres of marsh platform. Mr. Brown added that at the September 11, 2014 meeting, the Technical Committee approved combining the Raccoon Island Breakwaters (TE-29) Demonstration Project and the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (TE-48) Project so that O&M events for the demonstration project could be facilitated with the TE-48 budget. Therefore, this request is for the associated O&M under TE-48.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark stated that the marsh creation component was completed two to three years ago. Mr. Clark asked for confirmation that the marsh creation component is not vegetating as well as the sponsors would like. Mr. Brown responded affirmatively.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a FY18 incremental funding increase for PPL 9+ Projects in the total amount of \$5,959,556. Mr. Paul seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a FY18 incremental funding increase for PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$271,745. Mr. Paul seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve an O&M budget increase in the amount of \$3,048,600 and FY18 incremental funding increase in the amount of \$2,812,518 for the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (TE-48) Project. Mr. Clark seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

13. Agenda Item 12. Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding and Budget Increases (Stuart Brown, CPRA). The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve requests for monitoring budget increases totaling \$1,783,381 and for FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$11,454,315.

Mr. Brown presented the requests for Monitoring incremental funding and budget increases.

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$337,671:
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection (BA27c), PPL 9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$4,689
  - Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11), PPL 10, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$55,201
  - Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (TE-48), PPL 11, NRCS.  
Incremental funding amount: \$44,353
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b) PPL 11 NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$ 96,695
  - West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52), PPL 16, NMFS  
Incremental funding Request: \$57,262
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 79,471

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- b. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$153,898:
- Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Increment 3 (CS-28-3), PPL 8 USACE/USFWS  
Incremental funding request: \$90,000
  - Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22), PPL 2, USACE  
Incremental funding request: \$47,100
  - Naomi Outfall Project (BA-03c), PPL 5, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 16,798

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- c. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,197,109.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman stated that CPRA has contributed to funding CRMS in the past. He asked if the amount listed is the total cost of CRMS, or if there is additional funding being contributed beyond this amount. Ms. Dona Weifenbach, CPRA, responded that the amount listed is for the CWPPRA Program portion of CRMS. The CRMS cost share agreement requires the program to be funded 15% by the State and 85% by federal dollars through the CWPPRA Program. The State also contributes \$1.25 million annually in addition to their required 15% cost share. In 2016, CRMS will also be receiving a total of \$800,000 in National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funding.

Mr. Inman stated that CRMS is a great program and should be continued in the future even in the event that the CWPPRA Program is not reauthorized. He asked if the State has a way to fund the CRMS program if the CWPPRA Program is not reauthorized. Ms. Weifenbach responded that the program will be moving forward even if the CWPPRA Program is not reauthorized. CRMS is considering other funding options such as Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Early Restoration, NFWF, and other funding streams. She added that CRMS is being incorporated into the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Mr. Inman added that CRMS is a critical database.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- d. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$1,246,966 and FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$592,219:

- Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (TE-40), PPL 9, EPA  
Budget increase amount: \$55,889  
Incremental Funding amount: \$41,250
- Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42), PPL 15, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$240,354  
Incremental Funding amount: \$120,418
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48), PPL 17, NMFS  
Budget increase amount: \$445,577  
Incremental Funding amount: \$73,326
- South Lake Leary Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16), PPL 17, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$ 196,816  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 48,265
- Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16), PPL 18, NRCS  
Budget increase amount: \$ 308,960  
Incremental Funding amount: \$ 308,960

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark stated that the factsheet for the Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (TE-40) Project displays a total cost estimate of \$70,555. However, the requested amount is listed as \$55,889. He asked if there is confirmation that this request is correct. Mr. Brown responded that there is approximately \$20,000 in the existing budget.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- e. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for budget increases in the total amount of \$536,418 and FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$173,418:
  - Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Increments 4 and 5 (CS-28), PPL 8, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$455,015  
Incremental Funding amount: \$48,458
  - Channel Armor Gap Crevasse (MR-06), PPL 3, USACE  
Budget increase amount: \$81,400  
Incremental Funding amount: \$124,960

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION:** Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve FY18 incremental funding for PPL 9+ projects in the total amount of \$337,671. Ms. McCormick seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.

**DECISION:** Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve FY18 incremental funding for PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$153,898. Mr. Paul seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.

**DECISION:** Ms. McCormick made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve FY18 incremental funding for CRMS in the total amount of \$10,197,109. Mr. Clark seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.

**DECISION:** Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a budget increase in the amount of \$1,246,966 and FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$592,219 for PPL 9+ projects. Mr. Hartman seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.

**DECISION:** Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a budget increase in the amount of \$536,418 and FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$173,418 for PPL 1-8 projects. Ms. McCormick seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.

14. Agenda Item 13. Decision: Request to Increase Operation and Maintenance and Monitoring Budgets for PPL 14 – East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21) (Darrell Pontiff, CPRA). CPRA and NRCS reported that \$288,020.58 of Phase 1 funds are being returned to the CWPPRA Program. Construction is complete and there will be a potential return of \$1,780,980.31 to the CWPPRA Program. However, CPRA and NRCS proposed to increase the O&M budget by \$515,342, increase the Monitoring budget by \$272,274, and decrease the USACE Administration budget by \$1,504, with incremental increases of \$605,884 (O&M); \$92,804 (Monitoring), and \$5,131 (USACE Admin). If approved, \$994,868.31 of Phase 2 funds would be returned to the Program.

Mr. Darrell Pontiff, CPRA, reported that the original project was completed in January 2015. The first phase of the project was sponsored by EPA and was successful. The cost of the project was \$905,585, resulting in a return to the CWPPRA Program of \$288,030.58.

The second phase of the project was sponsored by NRCS. Two confined areas totaling 362 acres of marsh were created and four uncontained or minimal containment areas of marsh were nourished. The project totaled 665 acres of nourishment and over 1,000 acres have benefitted from the project. NRCS is near Phase 2 closeout with a potential return to the CWPPRA Program of \$1,780,980.31.

The containment was completed in December 2010. Shortly after, in March 2011, scalloping was noticed at the containment dike. Over time, the project developed four breaches. Additionally, a nearby rock plug, a component of the USACE TV-14 project, experienced breaching. As a result of several meetings, the federal sponsors determined that a hard structure feature was needed to

properly rebuild the containment dike. USWFS contributed to the project by using their own equipment and supplies to construct a PVC wall on the interior containment dike, and the USACE contributed TV-14 funds for a barge of rock to repair the rock plug and breaches for portions of the project.

Mr. Pontiff reported that expenditures to-date include \$1.17 million in O&M and \$49,944 in Monitoring.

CPRA and NRCS requested a budget increase for O&M in the amount of \$515,342, a budget increase for Monitoring in the amount of \$272,274, and a budget decrease for USACE Administration in the amount of \$1,504. This request results in an additional \$782,112 to account for all expenditures to-date as well as funds for the remainder of the project life. The sponsors also requested incremental funding increases of \$605,884 for O&M, \$92,804 for Monitoring, and \$5,131 for USACE administrative costs.

Mr. Pontiff apologized on behalf of CPRA for overspending. There was significant under-reporting on behalf of CPRA as a result of the financial management tools in place at the time.

Mr. Pontiff reported that, if approved, the Phase 2 total cost will be \$21,831,884, resulting in a return to the Program of \$997,868.31. The project also returned \$288,030.58 from Phase 1, resulting in a total combined return to the program of \$1,282,888.89.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman clarified that ultimately funding is being returned to the Program. He asked when the funding would be returned. Mr. Clark responded that there should not be any pending costs to prevent funds from being returned once approved. Mr. Paul added that there is not any outstanding work to be completed.

Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Pontiff, CPRA, and NRCS for revising the request for O&M budget increases. He appreciates the work that has been completed to make the request reasonable.

Mr. Hartman asked Ms. Mabry to confirm the numbers of this project. Ms. Mabry stated that Mr. Jurgensen did a great job of providing budget tables to confirm the numbers.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a budget increase of \$821,012 and an incremental funding increase of \$703,819, which will result in \$1,282,888.89 returned to the CWPPRA Program. Mr. Clark seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

15. Agenda Item 14. Decision: Request to Combine Budgets and Reports for CWPPRA Projects: Isles Dernieres Restoration Phase 0 East Island (TE-20), Isles Dernieres Restoration Phase 1 Trinity Island (TE-24), and Whiskey Island Restoration (TE-31) (Stuart Brown, CPRA). CPRA and EPA proposed to combine Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Reports as well as

project monitoring funds for the above projects rather than request an increase in funding. The request is for an acknowledgement that the remaining funds from Isles Dernieres Restoration Phase 0 (TE-20) can be utilized to complete monitoring activities and the associated project closeout report for all three projects.

Mr. Brown reported that the three projects are currently monitored in tandem. Two of the projects, TE-24 and TE-31, do not have enough remaining budget to complete a final monitoring event and report. However, TE-20 has enough remaining budget to cover these expenses. Rather than request individual budget increases, CPRA has requested to combine the final monitoring event and reporting for the three projects.

Ms. Mabry added that because of the complexity of each project, the budget increases, and the existing cost share agreements between the federal agencies and CPRA, the CWPPRA Program will combine the projects into one accounting system.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman asked if the proposal is acceptable to all federal sponsors. Ms. McCormick and Mr. Haase agreed that it is an acceptable proposal for all federal sponsors.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

**DECISION: Ms. McCormick made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the request to combine budgets and reports for three CWPPRA Projects: Isles Dernieres Restoration Phase 0 East Island (TE-20), Isles Dernieres Restoration Phase 1 Trinity Island (TE-24), and Whiskey Island Restoration (TE-31). Mr. Haase seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

16. Agenda Item 15. Additional Agenda Items (Brad Inman, USACE). There were no additional agenda items.

17. Agenda Item 16. Request for Public Comments (Brad Inman, USACE). There were no public comments.

18. Agenda Item 17. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Event (Brad Inman, USACE).

A dedication ceremony will be held on October 14, 2015 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CWPPRA Program. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Grand Isle State Park in Grand Isle, Louisiana. More details will be provided via the CWPPRA Newsflash.

Ms. Kelia Bingham, CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator, announced that the start time of the dedication event will be 10:00 a.m. Mr. Inman commented that the Task Force meeting will be the following day in Grand Isle, Louisiana.

18. Agenda Item 17. Announcement: Dates of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Brad Inman, USACE).

The Task Force Meeting will be held October 15, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the Grand Isle Multiplex, Highway 1 at Ludwig Lane, Grand Isle, Louisiana.

16. Agenda Item 15. Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings (Brad Inman, USACE).

October 15	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Grand Isle
December 10	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
January 13	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
January 26	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team	Lafayette
January 27	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team	Gray
January 28	8:00 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team	Lacombe

Mr. Inman noted that PPL 26 will begin at the Regional Planning Team meetings at the end of January 2016.

17. Agenda Item 16. Decision: Adjourn. Ms. McCormick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Haase seconded. Mr. Inman adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.