

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 6 December 2018 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. Mr. Brad Inman opened the meeting at 9:34 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Patrick Williams, NOAA Fisheries

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

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

Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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

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 asked the Technical Committee members to introduce themselves, which they did. Mr. Inman asked for any opening remarks from the Committee; none were forthcoming. Mr. Inman acknowledged that yesterday was designated a National Day of Mourning in remembrance of George H. W. Bush, who historically signed into law the CWPPRA bill.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee regarding the agenda. None were proffered. Mr. Inman reviewed the process for public comment and instructed attendees to sign in on the sheet provided as a matter of public record.

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

Ms. Cheavis presented an overview of CWPPRA funds. The fully funded total Program Estimate since its inception to the present (PPLs 1 – 27) is \$2.808 billion. Total projected funding received since inception through FY 2018 and in addition to projected Department of the Interior (DOI) funds, is \$2.1 billion, leaving a potential gap of \$708 million if the Program were to construct all projects to date. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II, and O&M and Monitoring totals \$2.084 billion. Authorized funding for each agency as requested currently totals \$1.788 billion.

The CWPPRA Program has \$9,033,393 of funding carried from the May Task Force meeting. At the October meeting, the Program had an estimate of DOI funding in the amount of \$80,674,836 (allocated for the FY19 construction program.) Of that total, \$5 million has been earmarked (deducted) for planning activities along with \$13,594,622 million in incremental and O&M funding requests. In November 2018, DOI increased its estimate by \$1,482,088. Thus, the available total for today's voting (PPL-28 Phase I candidate projects and Phase II candidate projects) is \$72,595,695.

CWPPRA has authorized 218 projects. The 141 active projects including 26 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, and 15 in Phase 2 Construction. There are 95 projects, which have been constructed and are now in O&M phase, and 17 projects that have been closed financially. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 46 projects, transferred 8 projects, and placed 6 in the inactive category. There are 5 technical support programs including Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS), monitoring contingency, storm recovery, Construction Program technical support, and the wetland conservation plan.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered.

4. *Agenda Item 3. Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals (Sarah Bradley, USACE) Sarah Bradley presented the report on two electronic votes, which were requested since the last Task Force meeting.*

The first electronic vote was a scope change for the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation Project (PO-169.) Project sponsors requested approval for a scope change in advance of today's phase II funding request, to allow thorough evaluation prior to that request. PO-169 (approved in PPL 24) had a fully funded cost of \$17,549,317. The estimated construction cost was originally \$12,644,045. A revised construction cost estimate of \$18,837,001 (an increase of 49%) is attributed to the addition of articulated concrete mats and a need to reconfigure the marsh creation cells. The change is expected to result in a 28% increase in net acreage established. The Task Force approved this scope change request on November 13.

The second electronic vote was for the expansion of the Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization Project (ME-18). Construction bids for the project came in lower than expected, so an additional 6,000 linear feet extension of breakwaters was proposed to utilize the remaining funds. This change is expected to benefit an additional 155 net acres. Due to the time sensitive nature of the request, it was presented and approved by the Task Force on November 16, 2018.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered.

5. *Agenda Item 4. Report: 20 Year Life Project Impact Analysis (Scott Wandell, USACE) As a result of a motion made at the October 2018 Task Force meeting, the Technical Committee was tasked with conducting a risk assessment on all completed projects and all projects within five years of their 20-year lives.*

Mr. Wandell reported that the P&E Committee held a phone call on November 14, 2018 to discuss the path forward. The P&E Committee has developed a draft of a risk register (modeled on a USACE project matrix), which provides project impact analysis as it pertains to public safety concerns, financial risk, and possible mitigation measures. The register was then presented to agencies for comment; revisions to the matrix are on going, based on agency comments/ recommendations.

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

Mr. Clark stated that the USFWS has submitted recommended changes to the matrix to simplify it and avoid redundancy. He then made a motion that, after further comment from the Technical Committee, the general risk registry concept be presented to the Task Force for approval.

Mr. Williams addressed Mr. Inman (as chairman of the P&E Committee) and asked whether or not the matrix would be populated by each agency prior to submission to the Task Force.

Mr. Inman responded in the affirmative, asserting that thus populated, the matrix can be further evaluated by the Technical Committee and each agency. After general discussion and clarification by most members of the Technical Committee, it was agreed that the draft matrix is to be populated by each agency, subsequently evaluated, and potentially modified again (and improved) prior to Task Force consideration at the January meeting.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to further discussion from the Technical Committee; he called for public comments. None were proffered.

6. Agenda Item 5. *Report: Deauthorization of the Shoreline, Protection, Preservation, and Restoration Panel (SPPR) Project (LA-280) (Sarah Bradley, USACE)*

Ms. Bradley began with a reminder that the Task Force approved initiating the procedure to deauthorize LA-280, the SPPR, at the October 11, 2018 Task Force meeting. As part of this process, written comments from the public and stakeholders have been requested and are being considered before a final decision is made. That public comment period is ongoing; the deadline for all comments is Friday, December 14, 2018. Mr. Inman asserted that letters requesting comments have been sent to the landowners, congressional delegation, federal agencies, state representatives, etc., and that comments from the public at large are also considered. Mr. Williams was asked to comment. He reiterated that this decision began a multi-phase deauthorization process, and that conversation with stakeholders, the product inventor and the public continue. Public comments will be honored and time will allow for government response. A report or decision will be rendered as a result, and presented at the April 2019 Technical Committee meeting.

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

7. Agenda Item 6. *CWPPRA 2018 Report to Congress (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)*

Ms. Carriere presented the request on behalf of the USACE and EPA. She reported that the content of the report has undergone two reviews, and that most recently, the design/layout of the report was submitted to the Technical Committee for comment. Once the comments are received and rectified, Ms. Carriere is hereby asking the Technical Committee to approve sending the finalized draft of the 2018 Report to Congress to the Task Force for approval.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee; Mr. Clark commended Ms. Carriere and all those involved in the report preparation; Mr. Inman concurred.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of the 2018 Report to Congress.

**DECISION: Mr. Clark made the motion, which Ms. McCormick seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

8. Agenda Item 7. Report/Decision: 28<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (Kevin Roy, FWS)

Kevin Roy, FWS, provided an overview of projects, which have been evaluated, and are being considered for PPL 28 Phase I Engineering and Design. The projects are listed in the table below:

Region	Basin	PPL 28 Candidates	Agency
2	BS	East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing	NMFS
2	BS	Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West) River aux Chenes to Grand Lake	NMFS
2	BS	Bayou Terre aux Boeuf Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	BA	Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration	USFWS
3	TE	East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	USFWS
3	TE	Small Bayou LaPointe Marsh Creation	USFWS
3	TV	North Marsh Restoration (North Increment)	NMFS
4	ME	Southeast White Lake Marsh Creation	USFWS
4	CS	Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation	EPA
Coastwide		Coastwide Hydrologic Improvements	NMFS
<b>PPL 28 Demonstration Candidates</b>			<b>Agency</b>
Demonstration		Shoreflex II	NMFS

Mr. Inman thanked the work groups and experts who gathered information and public input, and commended them for their efforts thus far. He then asked for questions or comments from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark concurred, commending the efforts of all involved.

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

Randy Moertle, on behalf of the Rainey Conservation Alliance, spoke in favor of the Southeast White Lake Marsh Creation Project. He issued a cautionary anecdote regarding the annual grasses that have emerged at the site in response to favorable weather conditions, deceptively making the site appear “recovered.” He urged committee members to keep in mind that the vegetation present during recent visits will certainly die back during cold weather, and the area will revert back to open water. Additionally, Mr. Moertle spoke in favor of the Coastwide Hydrologic Restoration Project and the North Marsh Restoration project.

Laurie Cormier of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury spoke in support of the Longpoint Bayou Marsh Creation project. She began with a reminder of the 2017 Master Plan directives for protecting SWLA; she emphasized several reasons why the project is environmentally and economically crucial. On behalf of the Cheniere Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, she also expressed support for the North Marsh Restoration, North Increment project,

and on behalf of Calcasieu Parish she spoke in support of the Coastwide Hydrologic Improvement project.

Ralph Libersat, representing Vermilion Parish Coastal Committee expressed support for the North Marsh Restoration, North Increment project and then the Southeast White Lake Marsh Creation project. He concurred with Mr. Moertle's comments regarding vegetative die-down at the Southeast White Lake project.

John Foret with CH Fenstermaker spoke in support of the Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation project, citing its effectiveness and full support of Stream Companies. In addition, Mr. Foret referred to several projects (North Marsh Restoration, SE White Lake Marsh Creation, Coastwide Hydrologic Improvement project, and the demonstration project), referring to them as strong projects and those which will provide additional tools/ innovation for the future of CWPPRA projects.

Mart Black, coastal restoration direction for Terrebonne Parish spoke in favor of two Terrebonne Basin projects – the East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection project (on behalf of Amanda Voisin), and the Small Bayou La Pointe Marsh Creation project (which would augment other projects in the area.)

Guy McInnis, St. Bernard Parish president, spoke in support of the East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing Project. He began by iterating the on-going public (governmental) investment in the Delacroix area. He asserted that this project (and others like it) would protect the area's industrial, commercial, cultural and environmental assets.

Cody Colvin, representing the ShoreFlex II demo project, approached the committee with the following requests: a) to reevaluate the fully funded costs of the ShoreFlex project as presented today. He reasoned that in an effort to reduce the fully funded costs, the demonstration technology might be appropriate for use in projects in the O&M Phase (like BS-16), which may be struggling with success. He further suggested that the demonstration technology could be considered as an engineering or construction alternate in Phase II projects (for which E&D has been largely done). b) To defer the vote on the ShoreFlex demonstration project until after the Phase II vote, because of funding limitations. And c) an endorsement for the product (pertaining to its technological soundness for coastal restoration) whether or not the project is selected to move forward.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to defer the vote on the demonstration project until after the Phase II Construction vote.

**DECISION: Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Hasse seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Inman offered an assurance that the committee would confer with the workgroups to consider the product endorsement request, a precedent that previously has not been set.

Mr. Inman called for further comments from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered.

Mr. Inman called for a recess at 10:23 a.m. to conduct voting; he reconvened the meeting at 10:40 a.m. to announce results as follows:

CWPPRA PPL 28 Technical Committee VOTE

6-Dec-18

Region	Project	COE	State	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	No. of votes	Sum of Point Score
2	Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West)	4	6	4	4	6	1	6	25
2	East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing	6	5	1	3	5	4	6	24
2	Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration		4	6	6	1		4	17
4	Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation	5	3	5			3	4	16
3	East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing		1		5	4	5	4	15
3	Small Bayou LaPointe Marsh Creation	2	2	2	2			4	8
3	North Marsh Restoration (North Increment)	3			1	3		3	7
CW	Coastwide Hydrologic Improvements	1				2	2	3	5
2	Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation			3			6	2	9
4	Southeast White Lake Marsh Creation							0	0

Ms. McCormick pointed out the close results between the fifth-ranked project and the top four. She proffered a motion to accept the top four, and then consider adding the fifth after Phase II voting results are known. Mr. Williams suggested the motion be amended to prioritize the fifth-ranked project over the demonstration project after Phase II voting.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to consider the fifth-ranked project, and subsequently consider the demonstration project once the Phase II Construction vote is conducted.

**DECISION: Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Clark seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

9. Agenda Item 8. Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding (Sarah Bradley, USACE)

As a result of today's vote, the Technical Committee will recommend a list of projects for Task Force approval within available program construction funding limits. Representatives from the sponsoring agencies provided an overview of details and benefits for each project listed in the following table:

Agency	Project No.	PPL	Project Name	Phase II, Increment 1 Request	Fully-Funded Phase I Cost	Fully-Funded Phase II Cost incl O&M	Total Fully Funded Cost Est.	Net Benefit Acres	Total Cost per Acre
NRCS	PO-75	19	Labranche East Marsh Creation	\$40,084,861	\$2,571,273	\$41,021,398	\$43,592,671	644	\$67,690
FWS	PO-169	24	New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation	\$21,156,376	\$1,942,143	\$23,503,982	\$25,446,125	213	\$119,465
FWS	BS-24	22	Terracing and Marsh Creation South of Big Mar	\$35,182,890	\$2,308,599	\$36,370,548	\$38,679,147	314	\$123,182
FWS	BA-173	23	Bayou Grande Cheniere Marsh and Ridge Restoration	\$35,462,206	\$2,742,302	\$36,838,792	\$39,581,094	237	\$167,009
EPA	BA-193	25	Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment 2	\$21,497,912	\$3,034,310	\$22,793,031	\$25,827,341	214	\$120,689
NMFS	TE-134	24	West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Marsh Nourishment	\$24,628,080	\$3,201,929	\$25,562,819	\$28,764,748	290	\$99,189
NMFS	TE-138	26	Bayou DeCade Ridge and Marsh Creation	\$22,568,723	\$3,282,293	\$23,985,731	\$27,268,024	388	\$70,278

Mr. Inman opened the floor for comments from the Technical Committee. None were proffered.

Mr. Inman then opened the floor for comments from the public.

Lauren Averill, Jefferson Parish Coastal Director, spoke in support the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation project, citing beneficial environmental (and financial) synergy with its adjacent project.

Robert Spears, Plaquemines Parish Government Coastal Zone Management spoke in favor of the Terracing and Marsh Creation South of the Big Mar (BS-24) and the Grand Bayou Cheniere Marsh and Ridge Restoration Project (BA-173).

Jabarie Walker, Director of Federal Relations for the city of New Orleans read a statement from the mayor urging funding for the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation project. The letter cited several project benefits, including protection from storm surges and flooding, improvement of wildlife habitat, safeguarding of infrastructure, and compliance with the Master Plan.

Anne Coglianese, on behalf of the New Orleans City Council, read aloud a resolution (R18513), which was unanimously passed on November 29, 2018. The resolution urges CWPPRA support and priority of the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation project (PO-169) for Phase II funding. The resolution justifies the project citing essential human, wildlife, and infrastructure protection.

Akintunde Hardy, representing New Orleans councilwoman, Cindy Nguyen, and the residents of New Orleans for district E, also voiced support for New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation project (PO-169), citing critical wetland, infrastructure and community protection which the project will provide.

Amanda Phillips, secretary treasurer and land manager of the Edward Wisner Donation endorsed two projects -- the Caminada Backbarrier Marsh Creation Project Increment II, (citing the area's geological significance and environmental sensitivity), and the West Fourchon Marsh Creation Project. Ms. Phillips provided justification for both projects, citing the Donation's significant resource investment, and oil and gas industry protection as rationale for project funding.

Zach Monroe, representing the federal government relations team with the City of New Orleans, spoke in support of the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation project, viewing it as protection for the city and its neighbors in each direction. He concurred with the mayoral comments, ultimately pointing out that the federal government made a ten billion dollar commitment to protect the greater New Orleans region. He urged the Technical Committee to help honor that commitment.

Erik Johnson, with Audubon Society in Louisiana, verbalized support for the Caminada Backbarrier Marsh Restoration Project; he cited previously expressed synergistic effects, which essentially leverages the dollars invested in the region. He also emphasized the essential habitat (roosting and foraging) that the project will provide for an endangered bird species. Mr. Johnson then spoke on behalf of the Mississippi River Delta Coalition (comprised of five nonprofit organizations including the Audubon Society), expressing support for the Caminada project and the New Orleans Landbridge project.

Stacy Ortego, representing Louisiana Wildlife Federation, voiced full support for construction of the Caminada Backbarrier Marsh Creation Project, Increment II, reiterating wildlife benefits, adjacent project synergy, protection of industry and infrastructure, especially LA-1, which is the sole evacuation route for Grand Isle residents.

Carol Giardina with the Lake Catherine Civic Association spoke in favor of the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation Project; she referred to multiple ecological and economical reasons previously stated, and added reactional and commercial activity, and public visibility as reasons to fund the project.

Mart Black with Terrebonne Parish iterated his support for the Bayou DeCade Ridge and Marsh Creation Project (TE-138). He referred to the project as cost-effective, asserting that since its Phase I approval, it is has rapidly progressed to the 95 percent design level. He also emphasized its critical importance in preventing the consolidation of Racourcci Bay and Lake DeCade into one large body of water.

Mr. Inman called for a recess at 11:33 a.m. to conduct voting; he reconvened the meeting at 12:13 p.m. to announce results as follows:

PPL	Project No.	Project	COE	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	STATE	No. of Agency Votes	Sum of Weighted Score
24	PO-169	New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation	4	3	3	2	2	1	6	15
26	TE-138	Bayou Decade Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	3	2		4	3	2	5	14
25	BA-193	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment 2	2	4	2			4	4	12
24	TE-134	West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Marsh Nourishment		1	4	3			3	8
19	PO-75	LaBranche East Marsh Creation	1				4		2	5
23	BA-173	Bayou Grande Cheniere Marsh and Ridge Restoration			1			3	2	4
22	BS-24	Terracing and Marsh Creation South of Big Mar				1	1		2	2

Mr. Inman asked Ms. Cheavis to iterate funding details if the top-ranked projects are approved. Ms. Cheavis began with the beginning balance of available funding – \$72,595,695. She subtracted the total for the four projects approved today for Phase I (\$13,239,163) and the 2 projects just voted upon for Phase II (\$43,725,099). Thus the balance of available funding for the future would be \$15,631,433.

Mr. Inman called for a motion (in light of funding limitations) to accept and present to the Task Force the top two projects for Phase II funding approval.

**DECISION: Mr. Williams made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Inman called for discussion regarding the inclusion of the previously deferred fifth-ranked project for Phase I consideration.

Mr. Clark iterated his support for the East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation project. After discussion and clarification it was determined that, if funded, the remaining balance would be approximately \$125 million. After comments from Ms. McCormick, Mr. Hasse, Mr. Williams and Mr. Paul, it was generally agreed that the Catfish Lake project would not proceed to Phase I; rather available balance would remain for incidental funding requests and for carry over into subsequent years.

Mr. Inman called for a down-the-line vote regarding the demonstration project (also previously deferred). Agencies in dissent were EPA, CPRA, USFWS and USACE; Agencies consenting were NOAA and NRCS. Thus the demonstration project will not move forward at this time.

Mr. Inman called for discussion regarding either of the two previous items; none was proffered.

10. Agenda Item 9 and 10. *Additional Agenda Items (Brad Inman, USACE)*

Mr. Inman called for any additional agenda items or further public comments; none were proffered.

11. Agenda Item 11. *Announcement: Priority Project List 29 Regional Planning Team Meetings (Brad Inman, USACE)*

January 29, 2019	TBD	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Lake Charles
January 30, 2019	9:30 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Morgan City
January 31, 2019	10:00 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
February 22, 2019	10:30 a.m.	Coastwide Electronic Voting	<i>(via email, no meeting)</i>

12. Agenda Item 12. *Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Brad Inman, USACE)*

Mr. Inman stated that the next Task Force meeting would be held January 24, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana in the District Assembly Room (DARM). Today's recommendations are expected to be finalized at that time.

13. Agenda Item 14. *Adjournment*

Mr. Inman called for a motion to adjourn.

**Decision: Mr. Paul made the motion to adjourn, which Mr. Williams seconded; the motion carried without dissent. He meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.**