

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 12 September 2019 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. Mr. Brad Inman opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Mr. Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Acting Chairman  
Mr. Brian Lezina, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)  
Mr. Patrick Williams, NOAA Fisheries  
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 as acting chairman, and asked the Technical Committee members to introduce themselves. He acknowledged the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorists attacks (18 years ago yesterday), expressing appreciation of the U.S. Armed Forces and first responders. Mr. Clark mentioned the passing of David Fruge, former Task Force member and long-time FWS supervisor; a memorial service will be announced.

Mr. Inman called for public comments regarding the Guidelines for Environmental Banking, recently published and disseminated to Louisiana Congressional Districts for review and comment. The guidelines are available in print today, and on the USACE News Orleans District webpage. Public comments will be accepted for thirty days starting September 16, 2019.

Mr. Inman called for public comments regarding the technical guidelines for Environmental Banking. None were proffered.

Mr. Inman requested other opening comments from the Technical Committee; none were proffered.

Mr. Inman asked the Technical Committee for any recommended changes to the agenda for today's proceedings, none were forthcoming.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

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

Mr. Inman iterated the protocol for public comment, and reminded all attendees to sign in.

3. Agenda Item 2. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (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 – 28) is \$2.951 billion. The total funded estimate (received since inception, and anticipated through

FY2021) is \$2.097 billion, leaving a potential gap of \$854 million if the Program were to construct all projects to date. This gap will likely be reduced as future federal funding is appropriated for CWPPRA beyond 2021. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II, and O&M and Monitoring totals \$2.165 billion (again in anticipation of future funding.) Authorized funding for each agency as requested currently totals \$1.860 billion, clearly not an over-commitment of the existing funded estimate.

As previously mentioned the Program Estimate is currently \$2,950,588,932 for PPL's 1 – 28. A request will be made today for the Technical Committee to approve additional funding for the Coastwide Nutria Control Program, which would potentially increase the total Program Estimate by \$55,548,313. Additionally, the annual request for funding for Construction Program Technical Services would result in an increase of \$214,546. If both are approved, these budget increases bring the total program estimate to \$3,006,351,791.

The CWPPRA Program has \$11,328,246 of funding carried from the May Task Force meeting. The Program anticipates an estimate of DOI funding in the amount of \$77,181,566 (which will be allocated for the FY20 construction program.) Thus, the total available funds for requests presented at today's proceedings are \$88,509,812. The total of anticipated funding requests (which will be presented individually at this meeting) is \$12,863,893. If all funding requests are approved, the Program will move forward into 2020 with available funds totaling \$75,645,919.

CWPPRA has authorized 222 projects. The 157 active projects including 30 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 15 in Phase 2 Construction and 5 support projects. 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 support projects. The technical support programs include 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. Mr. Clark mentioned that the DOI funding estimate is updated in November or December each year, and explained the source of revenue for the trust fund from which the funding is obtained. No other comments or questions were proffered.

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

#### 4. Agenda Item 3. Report: Status of Unconstructed Projects (Sarah Bradley, USACE)

On behalf of the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee, Ms. Bradley reported on the status of unconstructed CWPPRA projects. She began with a reminder that the subcommittee meets annually to assess Phase I projects, which were approved for funding more than three years ago. The assessment serves to inform, evaluate, and assist efforts, and place projects in various categories for further consideration. Ms. Bradley began by reporting that eight (8) projects are on schedule, two (2) projects are waiting for Phase II funding approval, one (1) project has been delayed, one (1) project is being recommended for transfer, four (4) have been placed on the "critical watch" category. Ms. Bradley provided details for the latter category as follows:

- North Catfish Lake Marsh Creation (TE-112) is a PPL-22 project for which the engineering services agreement was delayed. Now progressing, a notice to proceed for data collection has been issued; reports are expected by the end of this year. A 95% Design Review, and the Phase II funding requests (and approvals) are expected in 2020.
- Island Road Marsh Creation and Nourishment (TE-117) is a PPL 23 project. The 30% Design Review is expected to occur this fall. The potential for a change in scope exists (due to cost/benefit adjustments); any actions deemed necessary will be presented to the Technical Committee for consideration.
- South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation (ME-20) is a PPL 11 project. Construction bids received in August 2018 were over budget, so the project has been re-advertised.
- South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation – Baker Tract (ME- 32) is a PPL 23 project currently on hold pending landrights.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public regarding the projects mentioned. None were proffered.

As an addition, Ms. Bradley mentioned a possible project transfer. Mr. Clark, on behalf of CPRA and FWS, raised discussion of the Bayou Grand Chenier Ridge and Marsh Creation (BA-173). He deferred to Mr. Lezina, who began by asserting that this CWPPRA project has been nominated for funding several times. With a desire to see the project expedited, he hereby proposed its transfer to the state for funding. Mr. Williams offered clarification that the transfer process is multi-staged, requiring approval of the Task Force, congressional committees, local entities and pertinent agencies. He also cautioned there is no certainty of funding if pursuant to the LATIG process. Mr. Lezina concurred, stating that the transfer process allows for exploration of funding sources; the process may be halted and the project reverted back to CWPPRA if other funding sources are not viable. Ms. McCormick reminded attendees that the Shell Beach project is currently undergoing the transfer process, and commended the state for accepting responsibility thereof.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to initiate transfer of the Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Creation (BA-173) project from CWPPRA to the state of Louisiana for funding.

**Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion as stated above, which Mr. Clark seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

Mr. Inman pointed out that more opportunities for comment would be available throughout the transfer process.

A status report of all other unconstructed projects (as categorized above) was provided in writing to the Technical committee.

5. Agenda Item 4. Decision: CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Update/Revisions (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)

Ms. Carriere presented changes and revisions to the CWPPRA SOP pertaining to Coastwide projects (Appendix F) for Technical Committee consideration. She read the proposed language aloud and provided a written version. Mr. Paul asked if the P&E subcommittee was recommending these proposed changes for Technical Committee approval; Ms. Carriere responded affirmatively. Ms. McCormick asserted EPA's support of the changes, as they clarify protocol for Coastwide

projects, while allowing room for innovation. Mr. Clark also concurred with language that provides clarification, especially in Guideline #1.

Mr. Inman opened the floor for public comments; none were proffered.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to accept the proposed changes in Appendix F applicable to Coastwide projects, and recommend them to the Task Force.

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

6. Agenda item 5. Decision: Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP/LA-03b) Project Life Extension (Quin Kinler, NRCS)

Mr. Kinler began with a brief history of the CNCP, justification for incentive increases during the past 17 years, and a cost-per-acre comparison to other approved CWPPRA projects. He detailed the 20-year decision matrix with rationale for potential project life extension, and he provided a formal assessment of projected costs and benefits. Today's funding request for a 20-year project extension totals \$79,629,292; anticipated remaining funds, however, reduce the net request to \$55,548,313.

Mr. Inman called for comments from the Technical Committee. Mr. Clark expressed concern about trapper participation, a suggested that a ten-year project extension may be more reasonable. Mr. Kinler responded that the CNCP must provide an annual report, and an annual budget request. This allows the Task Force the option of obligating funds based on an annual evaluation of program success. Ms. McCormick spoke in favor of the 20-year extension.

Mr. Inman opened the floor for public comment; none was forthcoming.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force a 20-year extension for the CNCP (LA-03b) at a total cost of \$79,639,292, with a net request of \$55,548,313.

**Decision: Mr. Paul made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams; the motion carried with one dissenting vote by Mr. Clark.**

7. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Request of a Transfer of O&M to Monitoring for New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (TE-37)

Todd Folsie presented the request on behalf of EPA and CPRA, requesting Technical Committee approval to transfer \$20,000 from the New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (TE-37) O&M budget to the Monitoring budget. Currently, efforts are underway to compose the final monitoring report, and these funds will support that effort.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to transfer the funds as requested above.

**Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

8. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for Transfer from Operations and Maintenance Funds to Monitoring Funds for the Point Au Fer Island Hydrologic Restoration (TE-22) Project, the Lake Chapeau Hydrologic Restoration and Marsh Creation (TE-26) Project, and the Little Vermilion Bay Sediment Trapping (TV-12)

On behalf of NMFS and CPRA, Mr. Folsie presented requests for approval of transfer from the Operations and Maintenance funding allocation to the Monitoring funding allocation for three projects in the process of final closeout. This is an administrative request as all project specific Operations and Maintenance and Monitoring activities have been completed. The projects were presented separately as follows, but voted on in a single decision.

- a. Point Au Fer Island Hydrologic Restoration (TE-22) Project requested a \$20,000 transfer in available O&M funds to Monitoring funds, thus raising the approved monitoring budget for this PPL 3 project to \$132,833.
- b. Lake Chapeau Hydrologic Restoration and Marsh Creation (TE-26) Project requested a \$160,500 transfer in available O&M funds to Monitoring funds, thus raising the approved monitoring budget for this PPL 5 project to \$908,612.
- c. Little Vermilion Bay Sediment Trapping (TV-12) Project requested a \$2,000 transfer in available O&M funds to Monitoring funds, thus raising the approved monitoring budget for this PPL 5 project to \$145,476.

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

**Decision: Mr. Inman called for a motion to transfer funds as requested above. Mr. Williams made the motion, which Ms. McCormick seconded; the motion carried without dissent.**

All formal transfer requests were provided in writing to the Technical Committee.

9. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY22 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects

Ms. Cheavis presented the request on behalf of The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Technical Committee was provided a list of individual projects for which funding approval is being sought. A total amount of \$38,540 was hereby requested to cover administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment 1.

Mr. Inman called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee; none were proffered.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve the funding request as presented.

**Decision: Mr. Clark made the motion, which Ms. McCormick seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

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

Ms. Fischer presented the request on behalf of The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and CPRA. She explained that technical services include maintenance of the project information database, CWPPRA outreach and website content, LACoast.gov website maintenance and IT checks, and dual spatial support for end-phase projects. FY20 funding in the amount of \$214,546 is hereby requested.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$214,546 for FY20 Technical Services.

**Decision: The motion was made by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Clark; the motion carried without dissent.**

11. Agenda Item 10. Decision: Request for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)

Mr. Bollfrass presented the Technical Committee with the umbrella request for total FY22 O&M incremental funding in the amount of \$1,660,162. He began with PPL 9+ projects and highlighted projects requesting incremental finding above \$100,000\*.

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY22 O&M incremental funding in the amount of \$1,434,945 for the following projects:
  - New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (TE-37), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$1,426
  - Black Bayou Culvert Hydrologic Restoration (CS-29), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$36,239
  - GIWW-Perry Island Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$7,446
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$15,664
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection (BA-37), PPL 11-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$1,938
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL 11-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$1,275,981 \*First annual request for the newly approved extension to cover administrative functions and incentives.
  - Barataria Barrier Island Complex (BA-38), PPL 11-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$5,197
  - South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL 12-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$9,000
  - Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System (BA-39), PPL 12-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$14,410
  - Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TE-50), PPL 13-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$7,464

- East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21), PPL 14-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$21,920
- Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42), PPL 15-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$7,743
- West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52), PPL 16-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$6,139
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48), PPL 17-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$10,687
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68), PPL 18-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$7,025
- Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$6,666

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY22 O&M incremental funding totaling \$1,434,945 for the projects listed above.

**Decision: Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bolfrass continued the request with PPL 1-8 projects, highlighted those requesting incremental funding above \$100,000\*.

- b. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for FY22 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$225,217 for the following projects:
  - Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04), PPL 2-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$13,501
  - Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a), PPL 3-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$106,293 \*Typical annual request for inspections and structure operations contract
  - Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures (CS-23), PPL 3-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$52,885
  - Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13), PPL 5-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$12,357
  - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration (CS-27), PPL 6-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$20,181
  - Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 and 5 (CS-28-4-5), PPL 8-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$20,000

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY22 O&M incremental funding totaling \$225,217 for the projects listed above.

**Decision: Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Clark seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

12. Agenda Item 11. Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)

Mr. Bolfrass presented the Technical Committee with the umbrella request for total FY22 incremental funding for Monitoring in the amount of \$10,950,645, highlighting those requesting incremental finding above \$100,000\*.

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY22 incremental funding in the amount of \$707,362 for the following projects:
  - New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (TE-37), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding Request: \$20,000
  - Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration (CS-29), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$78,142
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$66,210
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, 3 (BA-27c), PPL 9-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$5,339
  - East Sabine Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-32), PPL 10-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$53,168
  - Grand-White Lakes Landbridge Protection (ME-19), PPL 10-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$46,254
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL 11-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$119,103 \*Typical request for  
monitoring of this project
  - Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System (BA-39), PPL 12-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$13,745
  - Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TE-50), PPL 13-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$30,000
  - Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42), PPL 15-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$32,245
  - Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48), PPL 17-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$34,020
  - South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16), PPL 17-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$40,081
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$53,922
  - Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation (PO-104), PPL 20-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$95,343
  - Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery, 3 (BA-164), PPL 22-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$19,790

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY22 Monitoring incremental funding totaling \$707,362 for the projects listed above.

**Decision: Ms. McCormick made the motion, which Mr. Williams seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**



Mr. Bolfrass continued the request with PPL 1-8 projects, highlighted those requesting incremental finding above \$100,000\*.

- b. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for FY22 incremental funding for Monitoring in the amount of \$243,283 for the following projects:
- Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04), PPL 2-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$4,577
  - Point Au Fer Canal Plugs (TE-22), PPL 2-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$20,000
  - Lake Chapeau Sediment Input & Hydrologic Restoration (TE-26), PPL 3-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$160,500 \*Transfer from O&M funds as approved earlier today
  - Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a), PPL 3-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$39,592
  - Naomi Outfall Management (BA-03c), PPL 5-  
Incremental Funding amount: \$18,614

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY22 Monitoring incremental funding totaling \$243,283 for the projects listed above.

**Decision: Mr. Clark made the motion, which Ms. McCormick seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

Finally, Mr. Bolfrass presented the request for CRMS, explaining that this is the first year of the capped dollar amount.

- c. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) requesting approval for FY22 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,000,000

Mr. Inman opened the floor for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public; none were proffered. Mr. Inman explained that this total represents CWPPRA's annual obligatory cap approved in 2017.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY22 incremental funding totaling \$10,000,000 for the CRMS program.

**Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Clark seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

13. Agenda Item 12. Additional Agenda Items (Brad Inman, USACE)

None were proffered.

14. Agenda Item 13. Request for Public Comments (Brad Inman, USACE)

None were proffered.

15. Agenda Item 14. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Dedication Event (Brad Inman, USACE)

A dedication ceremony will be held on October 9, 2019. Ms. Jennifer Guidry, CWPPRA Outreach coordinator, approached the microphone and provided the following details: The event is to be held at the Jules Nunez pavilion in the town of Jean Lafitte. A field trip is planned to visit (BA-125) Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Project. Volunteers are needed to provide boat transportation and musical entertainment. Additionally, she announced that project posters are available.

16. Agenda Item 15. Announcement: Dates of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Brad Inman, USACE)

The Task Force meeting will be held October 10, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.

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

October 10, 2019	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 5, 2019	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
January 2020	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD

\*Dates are subject to change. Please check back with [lacoast.gov](http://lacoast.gov) for the latest calendar.

18. Agenda Item 17. Decision: Adjourn

Mr. Inman called for a motion to adjourn today's proceedings.

**Decision: Mr. Clark made the motion, which Mr. Williams seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.**