

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 1 September 22 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

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

Mr. Kevin Roy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Ms. Patty Taylor, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sitting for Karen McCormick  
Ms. 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. Agenda Item 1. Meeting Initiation

The meeting was conducted via WebEx virtual meeting platform, due to ongoing COVID 19 precautions and public gathering restrictions. Mr. Brad Inman, USACE, introduced himself as acting chairman on behalf of Mr. Mark Wingate. He called the meeting to order and asked Technical Committee members to introduce themselves. Mr. Inman invited opening comments from the Technical Committee. He commented on the (thus far) calm hurricane season. Mr. Inman asked the Technical Committee for any recommended changes to the agenda for today's proceedings; none were proffered.

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

**Decision: Mr. Williams made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion passed without opposition.**

Mr. Inman iterated the protocol for Technical Committee participation and public comment in this virtual meeting format, instructions which were previously provided via email to prospective attendees.

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 – 31) is \$3.258 billion. The total funded estimate (received since inception, and anticipated through FY2023) is \$2.602 billion, leaving a potential gap of \$656 million if the Program were to construct, operate and maintain all projects to date. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II, and O&M and Monitoring totals \$2.414 billion. Authorized funding for each agency as allocated currently totals \$2.079 billion.

As previously mentioned, the Program Estimate is currently \$3,257,812,643 for PPL's 1 – 31. A request will be made today for the Technical Committee to the annual request for funding for

Construction Program Technical Services in the amount of \$218,386. Additional budget requests and incremental funding requests will be presented for several projects, totaling \$20,371,256. If all are approved, these budget increases bring the total program estimate to \$3,278,402,285.

The CWPPRA Program has \$3,618,294 of funding carried from the May 2022 Task Force meeting. The Program anticipates an estimate of FY23DOI funding in the amount of \$84,161,724 (which will be allocated for the FY23 construction program.) Thus, the total available funds for requests presented at today's proceedings are \$87,780,018. The total of anticipated funding requests (which will be presented individually at this meeting) is \$20,371,256. If the funding requests are approved, the Program will move forward into December proceedings with available funds totaling \$67,408,762.

CWPPRA has authorized 234 projects. The 130 active projects including 28 in Phase I Engineering and Design, 21 in Phase II Construction and 6 support projects. There are 75 projects that have been constructed and are now in O&M phase, and 40 projects that have been closed financially. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 49 projects, transferred 10 projects, and placed 5 in the inactive category. The 6 technical support programs include Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS), Monitoring Contingency Fund, Storm Recovery Procedures, Construction Program Technical Services, the Wetland Conservation Plan, and Programmatic Signage.

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

4. Agenda Item 3. Report: Status of Unconstructed Projects (Kaitlyn Richard, USACE)

Ms. Richard explained that the P&E subcommittee met in August 2022 (as it does annually) to assess unconstructed projects that are at least five years old. The goal is to identify projects with issues that should be addressed, especially those with issues critical enough to impede project progress. Ms. Richard provided a list of unconstructed CWPPRA projects, pointing out the following: 10 projects are on schedule for construction, 8 are awaiting Phase II funding; 2 are subject to PDT Issue delays; and 1 which will (in these proceedings) be recommended for final de-activation. None were identified for "critical watch."

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

5. Agenda Item 4. Decision: Request to Incorporate Bio-Engineered Oyster Reef Demonstration (LA-08) into Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18) Projects and a Budget Increase (Jennifer Smith, NMFS)

Ms. Smith reviewed the location, features and history of construction for the two projects, which are immediately adjacent to each other, and in effect, are synergistic. There is no budget, however, to maintain the navigational signage erected for the LA-08 (demonstration) project. This two-fold request is to a) incorporate the LA-08 demo project into ME-18, and b) increase the O&M budget of ME-18 in order to maintain navigational signage as required by the US Coast Guard. LDWF will assume responsibility for the signage at the end of project life.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to incorporate the LA-08 into the ME-18 Project.

**Decision: Mr. Williams made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion passed without dissent.**

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve a budget increase of \$211,169.00 for ME-18.

**Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Roy seconded; the motion passed without dissent.**

6. Agenda Item 5. Decision: Final Inactivation of East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment (BA-194) Project (Patrick Williams, NMFS)

Mr. Williams began with a review of project location, scope and features. In comparison with other project funding requests from 2016-2020, this project was simply not as cost-effective on a net-acre basis. Optional designs to reduce costs are essentially nullified by the deterioration of site conditions (as a result of 2020 and 2021 storm events) and economic inflation. Therefore, Mr. Williams requested approval of a recommendation to the Task Force to finalize inactivation of the East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project (BA-194) citing prohibitive site conditions and a backlog of more cost-effective projects as justification. He noted that there is still opportunity for public and stakeholder comment.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task force approval of Final Inactivation of East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment (BA-194) Project.

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

7. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Six Month Time Extension Request for Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection (PO-22) Project (Barry Richard, CPRA)

Mr. Richard asserted that the final maintenance event for this project is nearly complete; the project's end of life is December 2022. A 6-month time extension is hereby requested to allow for the completion of close-out activities.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve a Six-Month Time Extension Request for Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection (PO-22) Project.

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

8. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for a Monitoring Budget Increase for Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16) Project (Kevin Roy, FWS or Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA)

Mr. Roy stated simply that the project is about 3 years away from its end-of-life. A Monitoring Budget increase is needed to complete monitoring and close-out activities, due to an unexpected monitoring budget shortfall. Mr. Roy denies the availability of project O&M funds which could possibly be transferred. Ms. Sharp concurred. Therefore, Mr. Roy requested a \$39,776 Monitoring budget increase to complete monitoring activities, prepare a final report, and complete an end-of-project life assessment.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve a Monitoring Budget Increase for Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16) Project.

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

9. Agenda item 8. Decision: Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09) Project Life Extension (Dawn Davis, NMFS)

Ms. Davis provided an in-depth history of the project, including its location, features, construction timeline, total costs, and net acreage realized. Simple and cost-effective to build, this project was constructed in four phases (since 1999) and consists of a total of 14 constructed crevasses, one plug constructed in an existing crevasse, and maintenance dredging of new and/or existing crevasses. Maintenance is simply periodic dredging to promote and/or expand crevasse splays. Ms. Davis explained the matrix with which formal assessment and rationale for project extension was reached, citing specific project synergies, net acreage gained, cost-effectiveness and simplicity of design and construction. With maintenance logically required beyond the project life, and with no other entity willing to accept transfer of responsibility for the project, NMFS and CPRA hereby propose a 20-year project life extension for MR-09. The net budget increase for the proposed extension is \$13,044,961 (fully funded budget estimate of \$13,507,350 minus \$462,389 which remains in the budget). These calculations are based on three additional phases wherein 20 more crevasses will be constructed from 2025 – 2035. NMFS and CPRA hereby requested the first-year incremental request of \$3,918,457.59.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee. Mr. Roy commended Ms. Davis for the clarity and thoroughness of her presentation and the project assessment matrix; Mr. Inman concurred.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve a 20-year Project Life Extension for Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09) with the first-year incremental request of \$3,918,457.59.

**Decision: Mr. Lezina made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Roy; the motion carried with one dissenting vote. \***

\*Ms. Taylor (EPA) cast the opposing vote, stating her opinion that this extension and associated budget increase should be considered a new project and compete for Phase 2 funding in the CWPPRA process, as do other new projects.

10. Agenda Item 9. Decision: Transfer of Funding from O&M to Monitoring for Barataria Bay Waterway East Side Shoreline Protection (BA-26) Project (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)

On behalf of CPRA Mr. Bollfrass made the simple request to transfer funding in the amount of \$500 from the O&M budget to reconcile a Monitoring budget shortfall in preparation for project closeout in the next fiscal year.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve a Transfer of Funding from O&M to Monitoring for Barataria Bay Waterway East Side Shoreline Protection (BA-26) Project.

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

11. Agenda Item 10. Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY25 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects (Jernice Cheavis, USACE)

Ms. Cheavis pointed out that project-specific incremental funding requests for administrative services are provided in the Technical Committee binders, and hereby requested recommendation to the Task Force total funding approval in the amount of \$98,451.

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve the Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY25 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects.

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

12. Agenda Item 11. Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program's Technical Services (Michelle Fischer, USGS)

On behalf of USGS and CPRA, Michelle Fischer iterated technical services provided for construction projects within the CWPPRA Program, including lacoast.gov web hosting, database maintenance, and web security, as well as automatic fact sheet creation, social media, and other outreach content development and distribution. The program also assists with geospatial analysis throughout authorized project phases and responds to various geospatial requests from the CWPPRA agencies. Ms. Fischer hereby requested approval of a recommendation to the Task

Force to approve a budget increase and FY23 funding for technical services in the amount of \$218,386.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to 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 a budget increase and FY23 Funding in the amount of \$218,386 for the CWPPRA Program's Technical Services.

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

13. Agenda Item 12. Decision: Request for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)

The request for FY25 O&M incremental funding totals \$4,877,961.62 and O&M budget increase totals \$23,231.00. Mr. Bollfrass presented the request as follows, highlighting specifically those exceeding \$100,000 in incremental funding.

- a. PPL9+ Projects requesting approval for FY25 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$3,678,829.75 for the following projects
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$5,373.00
  - Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$37,419.00
  - Cameron-Creole Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$9,509.00
  - Oyster Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-59) for annual inspection and admin  
Incremental Funding Request: \$129,080.00
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$16,623.00
  - Grand Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-21)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$35,844.00
  - South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$9,552.00
  - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$23,796.00
  - East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$29,447.00
  - Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63) for annual inspection and maintenance events including containment dike gapping  
Incremental Funding Request: \$530,251.00
  - West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$8,140.75

- Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 3 (BA-27c) for annual inspection, reporting and navigation aid maintenance  
Incremental Funding Request: \$208,100.00
- Little Lake Shoreline Protection/ Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake (BA-37)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$2,130.00
- Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration (TE-72) for inspection, admin, reporting and structure operation  
Incremental Funding Request: \$135,177.00
- Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Planting in the Des Allemands Swamp (BA-34-2)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$50,000.00
- Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b) for admin and incentives  
Incremental Funding Request: \$2,273,878.00
- Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery- Marsh Creation and Terracing #3 (BA-164)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$8,411.00
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$36,754.00
- Goose Point Marsh Creation (PO-33)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$86,970.00
- Bayou Bonfuca Marsh Creation (PO-104)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$14,537.00
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-48)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$3,863.00
- Barataria Barrier Island Complex: Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chalant Pass Restoration (BA-38)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$20,942.00
- Pass Chalant to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BA-35)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$3,033.00

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to recommend to the Task Force approval of FY25 O&M Incremental Funding for PPL 9+ Projects totaling \$3,678,829.75 as presented.

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

- b. PPL1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY25 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$1,199,131.87 and budget increases in the total amount of \$23,231.00 for the following projects

- Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a) for CPRA admin, routine maintenance  
Incremental Funding Request: \$269,014.00
- Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23) for CPRA admin, annual inspection, and maintenance events  
Incremental Funding Request: \$525,417.00
- Freshwater Bayou Wetland Project (ME-04)  
Incremental Funding request: \$13,114.00
- Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$79,007.00
- Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$54,474.00
- Brady Canal Hydrologic Restoration (TE-28) for budget reconciliation  
Incremental Funding Request: \$234,874.87
- Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection (PO-22) for the extension referred to in Agenda Item #6, and to complete required navigation aid signage in advance of closeout  
Budget Increase Request: \$23,231.00  
Incremental Funding Request: \$23,231.00

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee and the public. Ms. Richard pointed out that the last bullet item (on the slide) for PO-22 was erroneous and should be ignored. No other comments or questions were proffered.

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve FY25 O&M incremental funding in the total amount of \$1,199,131.87 and a budget increase in the total amount of \$23,231.00 for PPL 1-8 Projects as outline above.

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

14. Agenda Item 13. Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)

The total request for FY25 Monitoring incremental funding is \$11,007,053.80. Mr. Bollfrass presented the requests as follows, highlighting those requests which exceed \$100,000:

- a. PPL9+ Projects requesting approval for FY25 Monitoring incremental funding in the total amount of \$661,303.80 for the following projects
  - Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration (CS-29)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$42,523.00
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39) for the (typical) helicopter survey and report  
Incremental Funding Request: \$24,648.00



- Cole’s Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$18,930.00
- East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$24,808.00
- Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$39,775.80
- Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$37,196.00
- Cameron- Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$48,028.00
- North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$18,836.00
- West Lake Boudreaux Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (TE-46)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$19,326.00
- Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$234,754.00
- Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System (BA-39)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$1,728.00
- Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$42,370.00
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$66,156.00
- Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery- Marsh Creation and Terracing #3 (BA-164)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$40,180.00
- Bayou Bonfuca Marsh Creation (PO-104)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$2,045.00

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve FY25 Monitoring incremental funding in the amount of \$661,303.80 for PPL 9+ Projects as outlined above.

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

- b. PPL1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY25 Monitoring incremental funding in the total amount of \$345,750.00 for the following projects
  - Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a) for structure operations, data analysis and reporting  
Incremental Funding Request: \$110,803.00
  - Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Increments 4 and 5 (CS-28-4)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$45,989.00

- Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$4,857.00
- Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23) for structure operations, data analysis and reporting  
Incremental Funding Request: \$184,101.00

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve FY25 Monitoring incremental funding in the total amount of \$345,750.00 for PPL 1-8 Projects as outlined above.

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

- c. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) requesting approval for FY25 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,000,000
  - Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (LA-30)  
Incremental Funding Request: \$10,000,000

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

Mr. Inman called for a motion to approve FY25 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,000,000 CRMS as outlined above.

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

15. Agenda Item 14. Additional Agenda Items (Kaitlyn Richard, USACE)

No additional agenda items were proffered.

16. Agenda Item 15. Request for Public Comments (Kaitlyn Richard, USACE)

No additional public comments were proffered.

17. Agenda Item 16 and 17. Announcement: Dates of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Kaitlyn Richard, USACE)

Ms. Richard announced the following:

The Task Force meeting will be held October 6, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. possibly at the New Orleans District office.

October 6, 2022	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD
December 8, 2022	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	TBD
January 2023	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD

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

Mr. Inman issued a public invitation to the change of command ceremony for the incoming USACE District Commander on September 16, 2022. He also expressed appreciation for those involved in the implementation of these proceedings, and for those who traveled to be in attendance.

18. Agenda Item 18. Decision: Adjourn

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

**Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Roy seconded; the motion carried without dissent, and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**