

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 12 December 2013 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

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

Mr. Rick Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Bren Haase, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Mr. John Jurgensen, sitting in for Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Mr. Tom Holden, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chairman

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

2. Mr. Tom Holden called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. He introduced himself and asked the members of the Technical Committee to introduce themselves.

Mr. Holden asked if the Technical Committee had any opening remarks.

Ms. McCormick thanked the public for being flexible during the government shutdown. Mr. Clark congratulated CPRA and the State for the success of the Caminada Headlands Project, which was featured in the *Advocate*.

Mr. Jurgensen stated that NRCS has been working on the LA-16 Non-Rock Demonstration Project and wanted to give the CWPPRA community an update about its current status. He asked Mr. Loland Broussard to provide this update. Mr. Broussard explained the background of this demonstration project, which was authorized in Project Priority List (PPL) 18. NRCS prepared a pamphlet, which was passed around to members of the Technical Committee and available for the public, to describe the progress on this project. The information in this pamphlet is the only information that will be released for this project due to confidentiality agreements with the contractors. NRCS is testing four products at one project site, which is Shark Island in Iberia Parish. Of the four products, none have been installed in Louisiana and three have never been installed anywhere. These are very innovative products. The project includes three years of monitoring, which have already been funded. The Notices to Proceed for construction was issued in November. The construction times for the various products vary from 115 to 210 days, so construction will end in mid-June 2014. Mr. Broussard noted that the pamphlets are also available digitally and he could provide a digital copy to anyone who asked for one.

Mr. Holden announced that Mr. Chris Allen is leaving the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee; Mr. Allen has been with the Program since April 2009. On behalf of the

CWPPRA Technical Committee, Mr. Holden wished Mr. Allen the best and thanked him for the work he has done for CWPPRA.

Mr. Holden opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee regarding the agenda. There were no comments regarding the agenda from the Technical Committee.

DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Ms. 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. Mabry provided an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding.

Ms. Susan Mabry reported on the status of CWPPRA Program Funds. The current estimate for PPLs 1-22 is \$2.4 billion. Funding through FY19 is estimated to be \$2.1 billion. The Program will need \$274 million to complete construction on all projects approved through PPL 22. However, Ms. Mabry noted that the currently approved amount is only \$1.5 billion and the projects currently funded (obligated) total \$1.4 billion, leaving about \$100 million not yet obligated.

Today CWPPRA has 196 projects; 151 are active projects, including: 100 completed construction, 33 in Phase I, and 18 in Phase II. One project has been transferred, one project is inactive, and 43 have been deauthorized.

CWPPRA expected \$72.2 million in FY14 construction funding from the Department of Interior. Changes to this funding level included an 11% decrease due to sequestration; the return on \$4.1 million in sequestered FY13 funding; and a decrease of \$16.1 million to account for a negative balance from last April and the results of the Task Force electronic votes on several projects. Overall, \$52.3 million is available for Phase I and II construction funding today.

Mr. Holden opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

4. Agenda Item 3. Report: Electronic Vote Approvals (Brad Inman, USACE). Mr. Inman reported on four electronic votes taken by the Task Force in the absence of an in-person meeting in October.

Mr. Inman reported that the October Task Force meeting was canceled due to the government shutdown. In lieu of the in-person meeting, the Task Force held electronic votes on four issues that the Technical Committee had recommended at the September 11, 2013 meeting. The results of the Task Force electronic votes are shown below:

- a. Incremental Funding for FY16 Administrative Costs. USACE requested funding in the amount of \$26,834 for FY16 administrative costs for CWPPRA cash flow projects beyond Increment 1. This incremental funding was approved by the Task Force.
- b. Funding for CWPPRA Program's Technical Services. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) requested funding in the amount of \$171,410 for technical services for the CWPPRA program. This funding was approved by the Task Force.
- c. FY16 Monitoring Incremental Funding and Budget Increase. CWPPRA total FY16 monitoring incremental funding in the amount of \$10,008,316 and budget increase in the amount of \$24,492 were requested. This incremental funding and budget increase was approved by the Task Force.
- d. FY16 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding. CWPPRA total FY16 O&M incremental funding in the amount of \$4,210,149 was requested. This incremental funding was approved by the Task Force.

The Task Force deferred voting on the BA-02 funding and budget increase until the January Task Force meeting to allow for public comment.

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

Ms. Mabry noted that funding for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) project is included in the budget as placeholder and would not affect the amount of funding available for today's meeting.

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

5. Agenda Item 4. Report: Status of "Consistency with the 2012 Coastal Master Plan: Guidelines for Restoration Projects Receiving State Funding" Document (Bren Haase, CRPA). Mr. Bren Haase reported on the status of the guidance document prepared by the State for determining whether a project is consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan.

Mr. Bren Haase provided an update on the "Consistency with the 2012 Coastal Master Plan: Guidelines for Restoration Projects Receiving State Funding" document developed by the State. The State has a 2012 Master Plan for coastal restoration and is planning to implement projects in the Master Plan through various means. State agencies are required to follow the Master Plan by executive order of the governor. The CWPPRA Task Force has voted to ensure that CWPPRA projects are also consistent with the Master Plan. In order to address confusion about the meaning of "consistency," CPRA has developed a guidance document entitled "Consistency with the 2012 Coastal Master Plan: Guidelines for Restoration Projects Receiving State Funding." This document was introduced at the Technical Committee meeting in September.

The State has received comments on the document and made modifications as necessary to address those comments. One change that was inspired by a comment was the addition of the

Forested Wetland Habitat category of projects. This is consistent with the Master Plan. Mr. Haase emphasized that this is intended to be a living document and asked the public to inform CPRA of any issues that they would like to discuss. He asked the public to speak to CPRA about projects that they plan to propose at the upcoming Regional Planning Team (RPT) meetings prior to the meetings so that the State can review the project's consistency with the Master Plan. Mr. Haase informed the public that the updated document is available on the CPRA website. If anyone has an issue downloading the document they should contact Bren Haase or Stuart Brown.

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

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

6. Agenda Item 5. Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report (Dona Weifenbach, USGS). Ms. Weifenbach provided a report on CRMS.

Ms. Dona Weifenbach provided an update on the CRMS program. Ms. Weifenbach reported that 13 Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M) reports have been delivered to the federal sponsors for 2013; three of these reports are on the CRMS website as final versions and the remaining ten are still being reviewed.

Data collection is scheduled for the Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is working on the land: water analysis from the 2013 aerial photography, and this should be complete by May 2014.

Annual CWPPRA roadshows will be conducted in March and April of 2014. These will be held after some improvements are made to the website.

Ms. Weifenbach reported that she has been working with the CWPPRA Outreach Committee to develop a CRMS educational document, which will be released next year. CRMS has also commenced planning the coastwide elevation survey for all CRMS sites, which will be conducted next year. CRMS has participated in several meetings, workshops, and conferences. She plans to have a CRMS workshop at the upcoming State of the Coast Conference in March 2014 in New Orleans.

The CRMS Analytical Team met in 2012 to plan major activities through 2014. They presented the CRMS Report Card in 2012. In 2013, they focused on fine tuning and developing new tools. In 2014, they plan to publish the land:water analysis, develop a Landscape Index, create larger spatial scale analyses, and make several website improvements. Improvements to the website include the addition of journal articles that use CRMS data, the ability to make charts from maps instead of CRMS sites selected, full user control of project reference station selection, and the addition of a password-protected environment.

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

Mr. Holden thanked Ms. Weifenbach for her contribution to the CWPPRA Program.

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

7. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Future Priority Project List Public Meetings (Brad Inman, USACE). Due to low attendance at the past PPL Public Comment Meetings, the P&E Subcommittee recommended eliminating this annual meeting. The purpose of the PPL Public Meeting is to distribute information on the candidate project evaluations and accept public comments. If the meeting is eliminated, the candidate project evaluation information will be distributed to the public via the website and CWPPRA Newsflash. Additionally, a presentation on the projects will be provided at the annual December Technical Committee meeting. Comments will be accepted orally at the December and January meetings or written via e-mail, fax, or mail. The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force.

Mr. Inman explained that, due to low attendance at the past PPL Public Comment Meetings, the P&E Subcommittee has recommended eliminating this annual meeting. The purpose of the PPL Public Meeting is to distribute information on the candidate project evaluations and accept public comments. CWPPRA tried combining the two meetings into only one meeting, but the attendance remained low. The P&E Subcommittee feels that it would be a better use of scarce CWPPRA and agency resources to eliminate this meeting from the PPL 24 process. If the meeting is eliminated, the candidate project evaluation information will be distributed to the public via the website and CWPPRA Newsflash. Additionally, a presentation on the projects will be provided at the December Technical Committee meeting. Comments will be accepted orally at the December and January meetings or written via e-mail, fax, or mail.

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

Mr. Hartman concurred with this recommendation. The people who comment at this public meeting generally also submit letters of support for projects, rendering the public comment meeting superfluous. Mr. Clark agreed. The letters and the public comments serve the same purpose.

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

Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish Government, stated his understanding of the Technical Committee's reluctance to hold future meetings. He noted that the Technical Committee should maintain the same time frame to allow the public ample opportunity to comment.

Mr. Carl Beier, Lake Catherine Civic Association, expressed concern about the communications about these events. He would like the information to be better accessible via the local news or the CWPPRA website. Mr. Hartman and Mr. Clark suggested that Mr. Beier provide his email address to Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron with the CWPPRA Outreach Committee so that he could receive the CWPPRA Newsflash.

DECISION: Ms. McCormick made a motion to recommend that the Task Force vote to eliminate the November Public Comment Meeting for PPL 24, provided that the Technical Committee makes a presentation to the Task Force with a description of actions that

CWPPRA will take to ensure the information is properly distributed. Mr. Jurgensen seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Funding Increase Scope Change Request for Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 & 5 Project (CS-28-4&5) (Darryl Clark & Robert Dubois, FWS). The FWS, USACE, and CPRA requested Technical Committee approval to increase the current cost of the CS-28-4&5 Project from \$8,111,705 to \$10,328,064, an increase of \$2,216,359 (27.3%). The revised incremental funding amount is \$10,169,154. This funding increase represents the USACEs current construction estimate plus 15% contingency, including the need for some dedicated dredging in the Calcasieu Ship Channel to supplement maintenance material to construct both cycles in one dredging event. USACE, CPRA, and FWS plan to return approximately \$2.1 M to the CWPPRA Program from the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 2 Project, which makes this budget request neutral. The benefits remain unchanged at 230 acres per cycle, totaling 460 acres. The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the funding increase request for CS-28-4&5.

The FWS, USACE, and CPRA requested Technical Committee approval to increase the current cost of the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 & 5 (CS-28-4&5) Project from \$8,111,705 to \$10,328,064, an increase of \$2,216,359 (27.3%). The revised incremental funding amount is \$10,169,154.

Mr. Robert Dubois, FWS Project Manager, provided an overview of this project. The project was approved in January 1999 as part of PPL 8. All five cycles of the project total 1,120 acres of marsh creation in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge and the construction of a permanent pipeline. The Task Force approved the combined Cycles 4 and 5 in January 2011, with a fully funded cost of \$8,111,705. In June 2012, the lead Federal agency for the project was transferred from the USACE to the FWS. Cycles 1, 2, and 3 completed construction between 2002 and 2010.

Cycle 1 restored 200 acres of marsh and was completed in January 2002 for \$3.4 million. Cycle 2 consisted of two parts; 1) the State funded marsh creation of 227 acres for \$6 million, and 2) installation of a 4-mile permanent pipeline for \$14.4 million, both constructed in 2010. Cycle 3 restored 230 acres of marsh in 2007 for \$4.7 million.

The FWS received State Coastal Zone Management consistency for Cycles 4 & 5, and a cost share agreement for the project has been signed by the FWS and State. The Corps Section 404 permit is pending. Both cycles are set for construction during the 2014 Calcasieu Ship Channel maintenance dredging. Fully constructing the planned 420 acres would require 1.8 million cubic yards of material from the Ship Channel. The project is currently fully funded at \$8.1 million. However, Mr. Dubois explained that because the federal standard for the Calcasieu Ship Channel is smaller than usual, the USACE will have less money for maintenance dredging. Therefore, USACE will only maintain the Channel at a 250-foot width, as opposed to the authorized 400-foot width. Under this scenario, the combination of current CWPPRA funding and USACE credit for beneficially using the dredged material would only allow for 343 acres of marsh creation. The requested CWPPRA funding increase would allow for dedicated dredging to supplement the beneficial use so that all 460 acres can be constructed. Without the funding

increase, the project team will likely increase the size of Cycle 5 and not construct Cycle 4. The size of Cycle 5 would be approximately 343 acres. However, Cycle 4 is an important part of this project because it will decrease fetch in the project area. The funding increase will allow for the most cost effective option to be built and will allow CWPPRA to construct all of the 460 acres planned in the original project.

Although the FWS is the lead federal sponsor for CS-28-4&5, the USACE is performing the engineering for the project. This funding increase represents the Corps' current construction estimate plus a 15% contingency. Additionally, USACE, CPRA, and FWS plan to return approximately \$2.2 million to the CWPPRA Program from the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 2 Project, which makes this request budget neutral.

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

Mr. Hartman stated that the upland disposal areas for the Calcasieu Ship Channel are almost full, and the USACE must develop alternatives for dredged material disposal. Once this occurs, the CWPPRA Program will not be seen as the only option for beneficial use of dredged material in this area. Mr. Holden clarified that the USACE has a new Dredged Material Management Plan for the Calcasieu Ship Channel, but it cannot be implemented until the federal government approves funding for construction of the new placement areas. Mr. Holden thanked the FWS for evaluating all of their options and making this recommendation.

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

Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, expressed the Police Jury's full support for CS-28-4&5. She added that Cameron Parish is also in full support. This project will help provide the 500 year level of storm surge protection for Lake Charles that is in the 2012 State Master Plan.

Carolyn Woosley, Chamber of Southwest Louisiana, conveyed the Chamber's full support for this project. This project would use the permanent pipeline, which required a great amount of effort to be constructed. Southwestern Louisiana is rapidly losing land. Repairing the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge involved a large effort after Hurricane Rita. This project will provide a tremendous value to this area. The residents of this area are relying on the piecemeal approach to restoration that CWPPRA has provided. Ms. Woosley noted that this area has a tremendous strategic value to the nation and anticipates \$40 to \$70 billion in economic development over the next five years. She thanked the CWPPRA Technical Committee for their interest in this project.

Mr. Clark added that these types of projects are very cost effective. The USACE dredges the Calcasieu Ship Channel on two-year cycles. The stretch of channel that will provide material for this project will be dredged next year. The next opportunity to use material from the Channel will be three years from now. Ms. McCormick added her support to this project, despite sharing some of Mr. Hartman's concerns.

DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Task Force vote to approve the cost increase for Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 & 5 Project (CS-28-4&5)

from \$8,111,705 to \$10,328,064, an increase of \$2,216,359. Mr. Jurgensen seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

9. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Request for Incremental Funding Increase for the Black Bayou Culverts Project (CS-29) (John Jurgensen, NRCS). NRCS and CPRA requested an incremental funding increase for the Black Bayou Culverts Project (CS-29). This incremental funding request in the amount of \$8,237,204 covers the estimate for the immediate repair of the structure and the next three years of project expenditures. The revised total project cost would be \$16,399,059, which represents a total project budget increase of \$8,021,455. This estimate is currently in draft format pending the results of a test pile being performed as part of the design. The test pile is necessary to confirm the design parameters used and verify the factor of safety used. If the test pile results differ from the design parameters a revised estimate will be provided prior to the Task Force meeting. The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the incremental funding request for CS-29.

Mr. Jurgensen reported that NRCS has completed the design for this project and is requesting a funding increase to construct the repairs and for the next three years of project expenditures. The original cost was approximately \$8 million, and this funding increase would bring the total cost to \$16 million.

Mr. Jurgensen provided background information for the CS-29 Project. The project was intended to allow flow to move through Highway 384 to remove excess water in the Mermentau Lakes Subbasin. The project features benefits of 550 net acres over the 20-year project life. It consists of ten box culverts and flap gates that open when the water level on the Mermentau Lakes Subbasin side is higher to allow water to drain but close otherwise to prevent saltwater intrusion from Calcasieu Lake. There were significant delays during the construction of this project due to an active 2005 hurricane season. The gates were damaged during construction, and a dispute between the contractor and NRCS regarding the source of this damage impeded repairs. Soon after the structure was complete, NRCS received complaints from local rice farmers about increased salinity near Black Bayou Cut. NRCS immediately placed sandbags on the western edge of the structure to restrict salinity. Inspection of the project revealed voids in the roadway adjacent to the structure which allowed water to flow past the closed culverts. NRCS engaged its National Design, Construction, and Soil Mechanics Center to investigate and recommend corrective actions. The project site was dewatered and cofferdams were placed on either side of the culvert structure. The investigative report was completed in January 2012.

NRCS requested and was granted approval by the Technical Committee and Task Force to initiate a contract with a design firm, Lonnie Harper & Associates, to design the proposed corrective actions. This design has been completed and reviewed by CPRA, the NRCS National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). The cost estimate is still in draft format because NRCS is performing test piles on the site to ensure that the factor of safety is correct. Field work is complete for these test piles but the analysis is ongoing. The final version of the design report and the final cost are due on January 10, 2014, prior to the January Task Force meeting. Mr. Jurgensen noted that even with the cost increase the project is still cost effective. The current

costs are being reviewed by the CWPPRA Engineering Work Group. The project is also consistent with the 2012 State Master Plan.

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

Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Jurgensen for the information that he sent to the Technical Committee. He asked about the availability of monitoring information for this project. Mr. Jurgensen replied that the project was never fully functional so the monitoring report is not useful. Mr. Clark also asked whether the design team had reviewed other alternatives. Mr. Jurgensen noted that NRCS presented several alternatives at the fall 2012 Technical Committee meeting. If the structure were removed and replaced with a plug, CWPPRA would face similar expenditures and would lose the benefits of the project. Replacing the structure with a bridge was eliminated due to salinity issues. Finally, NRCS suggested decreasing the loading on the structure, but that would require modifications to the roadway and DOTD was not supportive of that alternative.

Mr. Hartman noted that the USACE is currently evaluating a bypass around the Calcasieu Locks located in the GIWW with a similar structure that would divert water around the lock. If the CWPPRA Program were to restore this project area to preexisting conditions, the USACE project may eventually serve the same purpose. Mr. Holden confirmed that the Calcasieu Lock Bypass is being developed as a study for recommendation for construction, but the project would need to be authorized and funded by Congress and cost-shared by the Inland Waterway Trust Fund. Mr. Jurgensen added that the analysis for the USACE project assumes that the Black Bayou Culverts Project is in place.

In the absence of good monitoring data, Mr. Hartman suggested using Dr. Ehab Maselhe's hydrodynamic model to estimate how much water the project should be able to divert and how the project should affect isohalines in the Mermentau Lakes Subbasin. Mr. Jurgensen responded that CWPPRA used another model to predict benefits prior to constructing the project and the results of that analysis are in the Wetlands Value Assessment (WVA). Mr. Hartman stated that Dr. Maselhe's model is much more comprehensive.

Mr. Clark suggested a delay in approval until the NRCS could provide more technical information to the entire Technical Committee. The rest of the committee indicated that they had sufficient information. Ms. McCormick and Mr. Hartman, the EPA and NMFS representatives, stated they were concerned about project liability at the end of its 20-year life.

The Technical Committee discussed the issue of disposition at the end of the project's life and future liability for this project. Ms. McCormick and Mr. Hartman expressed concern over spending additional funds on this project without knowing its final disposition. The Program may be required to remove the structures if the CWPPRA Program is not continued past 2019.

Mr. Haase corroborated these valid concerns but expressed support for the project.

Mr. Jurgensen noted that the question of which agency will assume liability for this project at the end of its 20-year life is not likely to be answered until the project reaches that point. If some agencies are concerned about future liability, then they need to consider this issue for all projects

with hard structures. Mr. Hartman responded that, because this project affects a hurricane evacuation route, it has a higher liability than some other projects. Mr. Jurgensen noted that the fundamental question is, "What happens to this structure if CWPPRA ceases to exist?" NRCS feels that they will always have at least some liability because they are the engineers of record for the project. Mr. Haase noted that there would still be liability if CWPPRA removed the gates and installed a plug.

Mr. Clark stated that FWS believes that this project is important enough to the Mermentau Lakes Subbasin that the risks are justified. This was a lynchpin project in the Coast 2050 Plan. Mr. Clark expressed confidence that the recommendation had been reviewed by multiple engineering groups.

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

Ms. Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, expressed full support for this funding increase. The tentatively selected plan in the Southwest Coastal Study does not have levees, so residents in this area are relying on marsh creation projects for hurricane protection. Extensive private investment is planned in this area and will bring significant population growth. This project is vitally needed to lower storm surges. She indicated that Lake Charles could experience \$20 billion in storm damages with no protection or restoration action.

Ms. Carolyn Woosley, Chamber Southwest, stated that this is immediately south of the I-10 corridor, which has significant national importance. Deterioration in the marshes in this area has escalated since Hurricanes Rita and Ike, and inland land is rapidly being converted to open water. The GIWW is blending with Grand Lake, and Rockefeller is losing 40 linear feet of shoreline per year. She thanked the Technical Committee for their consideration and urged them to consider the strategic interest of this area to the nation.

DECISION: Mr. Jurgensen made a motion to recommend that the Task Force vote to approve an incremental funding increase in the amount of \$8,237,204 for the Black Bayou Culverts Project (CS-29). Mr. Haase seconded. Mr. Clark, Mr. Jurgensen, Mr. Haase, and Ms. McCormick voted in favor. Mr. Hartman voted against. Mr. Holden abstained. The motion passed.

10. Agenda Item 9. Report/Decision: 23rd Priority Project List (Kevin Roy, USFWS). The Environmental Workgroup Chairman presented an overview of the ten PPL 23 candidate projects. The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force for selecting PPL 23 projects for Phase I Engineering and Design (E&D).

Mr. Kevin Roy presented each of the ten candidate projects, providing the fully funded cost and the net acres of each project.

Region	Basin	PPL 23 Nominees	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization & Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation	EPA
2	Barataria	Wilkinson Canal Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS
2	Barataria	Bayou Grande Cheniere Marsh and Ridge Restoration	FWS
3	Terrebonne	Island Road Marsh Creation and Nourishment	NMFS
3	Terrebonne	Grand Bayou Freshwater Enhancement	FWS
3	Teche/Vermilion	Southwest Pass Shoreline Protection	NRCS
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement	NRCS
4	Mermentau	South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation – Baker Tract	NRCS
4	Calcasieu/Sabine	West Cove Marsh Creation and Nourishment	FWS/USACE

Mr. Holden opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

Ms. Carol Giardina, Lake Catherine Civic Association, expressed support for the New Orleans Landbridge. This area has experienced natural land loss, which was amplified during Hurricane Katrina. The water levels have increased in this area and the water rises frequently. This project would not only benefit the Lake Catherine area but the whole Lake Pontchartrain area.

Mr. Reggie Dupre, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, former Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, and native of Point au Chien, expressed his support for E&D for the Island Road and Grand Bayou Freshwater Introduction projects. He noted the synergy of the multiple projects in this area constructed by various agencies. The State needs multiple lines of defense, and the Island Road Project provides one of those lines for this area. CWPPRA is working to truly create a multiple lines of defense strategy in an area where there is no silver bullet that can solve their problems. The area around Island Road is too far away to benefit from freshwater from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. The Terrebonne Levee District is currently constructing four wetland terracing projects totaling 150 acres. The Island Road Project fits well with this work. Also, the Assistant Secretary of the Army has recently signed the Record of Decision for the Morganza to the Gulf levee project, which is being designed with an opening large enough to be used for the Grand Bayou Project. The main object of coastal restoration projects should be the sustainability of coastal Louisiana, including its people and culture. Somehow, the discussion has changed to focus on the sustainability of individual projects. Without these projects, people in this area would have to move. Mr. Dupre noted that coastal restoration is no different than any other public construction project, and that local levee districts can repair and maintain projects much cheaper than what is being anticipated by CWPPRA.

Mr. Dupre also expressed support for Phase II funding of the Madison Bay Project under Agenda Item 10.

Mr. Carl Beier, Lake Catherine Civic Association, stated that the Lake Catherine area just put in new gas utilities. The New Orleans Landbridge Project would help show that the area is

sustainable. He noted that this project would benefit the whole island, as well as the Hwy 90 hurricane evacuation route.

Mr. Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish Government, expressed support for the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation. This project will add another ecological segment to protect the Parish and Port Fourchon, which is a critical infrastructure hub for the nation. He also supported the Grand Bayou Freshwater Project.

Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish, stated that Island Road is Terrebonne Parish's top priority this year. He stated that traditional marsh creation will be the saving grace for eastern Terrebonne. This project will show what can be accomplished in this area. The project is south of Island Road, which was recently reconstructed by the Parish. Island Road is the only vehicular access to and from Isle de Jean Charles, which is a historic Native American community. There are only two landowners in the project footprint and both have been supportive of coastal restoration projects in the past. Mr. Matherne also supported the Grand Bayou Freshwater Reintroduction Project, which he stated would help sustain future projects in the area. Mr. Matherne noted that Terrebonne Parish is disappearing at a rate of a football field every five hours, and it has been three years since a project in Terrebonne Parish has moved to E&D.

Ms. Lenar Whitney, State Representative, noted that there is rapid land loss in the area around the Island Road Project and expressed her support for this project. She is a native of Isle de Jean Charles and Point au Chien. Multiple agencies have made great efforts to improve this area and those efforts have shown results in the protection and restoration of this area. The community is supportive of this work and has taxed themselves to contribute.

Ms. Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, spoke on behalf of Cameron Parish in support of the South Grand Chenier Baker Tract Project. She also expressed Calcasieu Parish's support for this project. She also urged the Technical Committee to support the West Cove and South Grand Chenier Baker Tract projects.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Ducks Unlimited, coordinates the Ducks Unlimited and ConocoPhillips restoration partnership. She asked for Technical Committee support for the Island Road and Grand Bayou Freshwater Introduction projects. The Island Road Project is largely situated on ConocoPhillips fee lands and they will provide full landowner cooperation. They have supported ongoing efforts in that area. This year, Ducks Unlimited applied for a grant for 60,000 linear feet of terracing in this area, which would complement marsh creation constructed through CWPPRA. The funding is already in place and construction is planned for 2014. The Grand Bayou Freshwater Project would also benefit the ConocoPhillips fee lands, and ConocoPhillips is funding a programmatic soil suitability analysis to investigate the potential of terraces in that area. Any increase in freshwater from the Grand Bayou Project would benefit those terraces. These projects will be constructed in the next 16-18 months. Ms. Suazo added that the Madison Bay Project being considered for Phase II funding in Agenda Item 10 would be an integral part of restoration of this area.

Mr. Al Levron, parish manager with Terrebonne Parish Government, spoke on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish President. Terrebonne Parish supports the Island Road and Madison Bay projects. The Parish has had to rebuild Island Road multiple times due to wave action from hurricanes. This CWPPRA project would reduce wave fetch and hopefully reduce damage to the road. The project will also enhance fisheries in the area. Mr. Levron added that the Island Road and Madison Bay projects would work synergistically to protect the local Native American community. He reminded the Technical Committee that each agency has an obligation to uphold certain environmental justice criteria, and that these projects would sustain the health of the community and their culture.

Ms. Simone Maloz, Executive Director of Restore or Retreat in Terrebonne Parish, supported the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Project. The headland is a beautiful project and the back barrier marsh will help sustain it. She also spoke in support of the Island Road Project.

Mr. Martin Miller, Rellim Surface Management, supported the South Grand Chenier Baker Tract Project. The large bodies of open water have continued to erode and without intervention the Gulf of Mexico will eventually reach the Highway 82 hurricane evacuation corridor. This project is adjacent to several Ducks Unlimited and several private landowner projects.

Mr. M.O. Miller, landowner, expressed support for the South Grand Chenier Baker Tract Project.

The Technical Committee then voted on the projects. The voting results were as follows:

Region	Project	COE	State	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	No. of votes	Sum of Point Score	Phase I Fully Funded Cost	Phase II Fully Funded Cost
3	Island Road Marsh Creation & Nourishment	2	2	5	3	6	3	6	21	\$3,721,447	\$35,463,820
2	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation	1	6	6		5	2	5	20	\$3,354,935	\$27,679,159
2	Bayou Grande Cheniere Marsh & Ridge Restoration	4	4	3	6	1		5	18	\$2,742,302	\$27,195,273
4	South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation - Baker Tract	3	5	1		4	4	5	17	\$2,653,242	\$22,788,591
1	New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization & Marsh Creation	5			4	2	1	4	12	\$1,516,303	\$10,983,680
4	West Cove Marsh Creation & Nourishment	6	1	2	2			4	11	\$2,534,043	\$17,500,429
2	Wilkinson Canal Marsh Creation & Nourishment		3	4		3		3	10	\$3,490,445	\$32,802,261
3	Grand Bayou Freshwater Enhancement				5		5	2	10	\$2,861,725	\$19,757,068
4	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & FW Enhancement				1		6	2	7	\$3,662,682	\$36,172,818
3	Southwest Pass Shoreline Protection							0	0	\$3,045,177	\$35,634,205

DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Task Force vote to approve the following projects moving forward to Phase I E&D: Island Road Marsh Creation and

Nourishment; Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation; Bayou Grande Cheneire Marsh & Ridge Restoration; and South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation – Baker Tract. Mr. Jurgensen seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

11. Agenda Item 10. Report/Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding (Brad Inman, USACE). The Technical Committee considered requests for Phase II authorization and approval of Increment 1 funding for cash flow projects for recommendation to the Task Force. Each project listed in the following table was discussed individually by its sponsoring agency. The Technical Committee ranked all projects to aid in deciding which to recommend to the Task Force for Phase II authorization and funding.

Ms. Mabry stated that the funding available for Phase II is \$31.2 million. Mr. Inman reported that there are four projects nominated for Phase II consideration by their sponsoring agencies. These are shown in the table below.

Agency	Project No.	PPL	Project Name	Construct Start Date	Phase 1 Cost	Phase II Cost	Total Fully Funded Cost Est.	Net Benefit Acres	Total Cost per Acre
FWS	ME-20	11	South Grand Chenier	Dec-14	2,358,421	20,264,925	22,623,346	414	\$54,646
NRCS	PO-34	16	Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration & SP	Sep-13	1,660,984	43,171,632	44,832,616	181	\$247,694
NMFS	TE-51	16	Madison Bay Marsh Creation & Terracing	Sep-14	\$3,002,170	\$35,569,268	\$38,571,438	334	\$115,483
FWS	CS-54	20	Cameron Creole Grand Bayou MC	Jan-14	2,376,789	24,726,187	27,102,976	476	\$56,939

Each agency gave a short presentation about the features of their nominated project.

South Grand Chenier

The South Grand Chenier Project is a collaborative effort of the FWS, the NRCS, and CPRA. The project was approved for Phase I Funding in 2002. Construction funding was approved in January 2010. This funding was returned in January 2012 due to land rights issues, which were subsequently resolved in April 2012. A scope change to remove the freshwater introduction component was approved in December 2012. The project is located in the Mermentau Basin in the western portion of the Hog Bayou Watershed near Grand Chenier, Grand Lake, and Rockefeller Refuge. The area has experienced altered hydrology due to saltwater intrusion through the Mermentau Ship Channel, agricultural impoundment, and subsidence. From 1932 to 1990, the Hog Bayou Watershed lost 38% of its 32,000 acres. A loss rate of -0.13% per year is projected through 2050 for the watershed. The project area has a moderate current loss rate of -0.41% per year. The goals of this project are to restore 453 acres of marsh, reduce marsh loss, and improve marsh productivity. The project features include 176 acres of marsh creation west of Second Lake and 277 acres of marsh east of Second Lake using material from the Gulf of Mexico. Retention levees will be degraded, the marsh will be revegetated with smooth cordgrass, and tidal creeks will be constructed to create a functional ecosystem. The project has net benefits of 414 acres and a total cost of \$22.6 million and ranks first in cost effectiveness at \$54,646/acre.

Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Protection

The Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Protection Project is sponsored by NRCS. It is located in Orleans Parish south of the Rigolets and the City of Slidell. Shoreline protection projects are not as cost effective as other types of projects but are an integral part of the multiple lines of defense strategy. If the Orleans Landbridge is exposed to further erosion and deterioration, the large coastal communities along Lake Pontchartrain will become more susceptible to the effects of erosion. This project will place 44,000 linear feet of shoreline protection in front of the banks of the Orleans Landbridge with vegetative plantings behind approximately half of that length. The dikes would be constructed to a +3 foot elevation. A maintenance lift is included in Year 3 to offset initial subsidence. Fish dips would be included every 1,000 feet to allow for access for fisheries and boaters. The project has net benefits of 181 acres. The fully funded cost is \$43.2 million, but the Increment 1 funding being requested today is only \$29.1 million, which includes initial construction and the first three years of maintenance.

Madison Bay Marsh Creation and Terracing

Madison Bay is located southeast of Montegut in Louisiana's Deltaic Plain. Phase I funding for the Madison Bay Marsh Creation and Terracing Project was approved in October 2006. A scope change was approved in April 2012 to move the project from along Bayou Terrebonne to the Wonder Lake area. This scope change was requested and approved following geotechnical investigations which revealed problems with the original project location. The original borrow site was maintained. The project consists of constructing and maintaining 478 acres of intertidal marsh and earthen terraces that will protect the Montegut Flood Protection Levee and St. Jean

Charles Ridge from wave energy by reducing open water fetch in Wonder Lake/Madison Bay. The project benefits 943 acres of marsh and open water habitats, with 334 net acres at the end of the project life. The fully funded cost estimate is \$38.5 million and NMFS is requesting \$35 million for construction plus the first three years of O&M. NMFS, in conjunction with Terrebonne Parish, constructed a test section to test the soils in the area. Although the monitoring is not complete, initial results indicate that the time between lifts for this project may be able to be reduced, which could lessen the cost of the project.

Cameron Creole Grand Bayou Marsh Creation

The Cameron Creole Grand Bayou Marsh Creation Project is located in the Cameron Creole Watershed mapping unit in the Calcasieu Sabine Basin, east of Calcasieu Lake and north of Grand Bayou. It is sponsored by the FWS and the State, and the State has completed the engineering design. Phase I funding was approved in January 2012 as part of PPL 20. The project consists of two marsh creation cells totaling 616 acres. The northern cell consists of 177 acres of marsh creation and 41 acres of marsh nourishment and is located on Miami Corporation property. The southern cell consists of 376 acres of marsh creation and 22 acres of marsh nourishment and is located on the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The goal of the project is to rebuild marsh that was lost due to Hurricanes Rita and Ike. The areas targeted for marsh creation are very shallow, making them ideal candidates because more marsh can be built per cubic yard of sediment. The project targets open water areas immediately behind the Cameron Creole Watershed Levee to buffer tidal exchange and saltwater intrusion through the Cameron Creole Watershed. The net benefits are 476 acres and the fully funded cost is \$27.1 million.

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

Mr. Hartman addressed the issue of funding a project that has a Phase II cost higher than the amount of funding available. He noted that funds are returned to the Program through various sources. Mr. Clark added that the Program currently has about \$150 million approved but not obligated for project construction. Thus there are funds available for the program to loan to a new project until new funding becomes available.

Mr. Hartman asked if there would be a cost savings on the Madison Bay Project if it could be constructed in one lift rather than two. Dr. John Foret (NMFS) responded that there is that potential, but they will not know until the Task Force meeting.

Mr. Hartman asked if there were any issues with the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries concerning dredging from an oyster seed ground in Calcasieu Lake for the Cameron Creole Grand Bayou project. Ms. Trahan responded that this was a concern but FWS has worked with the LDWF on a project monitoring plan. Their biggest concern is increased turbidity during construction, but LDWF is generally supportive of the project.

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

Mr. Martin Miller, Rellim Surface Management, spoke in support of the South Grand Chenier Project. He noted the synergy between this project and other projects construction by Rellim and

Ducks Unlimited. He added that the Parish is working on another project which would bring some freshwater into this project area. This beach is one of the fastest eroding areas in the State and once this area becomes large body of water protecting Highway 82 will be difficult. The entire Miller family is in support of this project and landrights agreements are in place.

Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish Government, spoke in support of the Madison Bay Project. The eastern part of the Terrebonne Basin has the most desperate need for marsh creation in the Basin. There was no marsh creation in this area in the draft version of the State Master Plan, but the people of the Parish convinced the State to add marsh creation here. Several projects constructed by CPRA, the Parish, and Ducks Unlimited will move freshwater into this area to make the marshes more sustainable. The goal of all restoration work should be the survivability of coastal communities. Eastern Terrebonne is a priority to the Parish because of the communities situated there. Mr. Matherne urged the Technical Committee to use this project to show that marsh creation is sustainable in this area prior to the release of the 2017 Master Plan Update.

Ms. Lenar Whitney, State Representative, spoke in support of the Madison Bay Project.

Ms. Carolyn Woosley, Southwest Chambers, spoke in support of the South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation and Cameron Creole Grand Bayou Marsh Creation projects. The South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation Project will help protect the community of Grand Chenier and both projects will help protect marshes south of the I-10 corridor between Baton Rouge and Lake Charles. The people of the Lake Charles community rely on CWPPRA to protect and restore this area, which is undergoing a tremendous economic boom that will only increase its strategic importance to the nation.

Ms. Simone Maloz, Executive Director of Restore or Retreat in Terrebonne Parish, spoke in support for the Madison Bay Project. This area has largely converted to open water. The project has support from landowners and other agencies like Ducks Unlimited.

The Technical Committee then voted on the projects. The voting results were as follows:

PPL	Project No.	Project	COE	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	State	No. of Agency Votes	Sum of Weighted Score	Phase II, Increment 1 Funding Request	Cumulative Phase II, Increment 1 Funding
11	ME-20	South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation	3	3	2	1	3	2	6	14	\$19,924,519	\$19,924,519
20	CS-54	Cameron Creole Grand Bayou MC	2	1	3	2	1	3	6	12	\$24,147,733	\$44,072,252
16	TE-51	Madison Bay Marsh Creation & Terracing	1	2	1	3		1	5	8	\$35,075,039	\$79,147,291
16	PO-34	Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration & Shoreline Protection					2		1	2	\$29,145,336	\$108,292,627

DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force vote to approve Phase II funding in the amount of \$20,264,925 for the South Grand Chenier Project (ME-20). Ms. McCormick seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

12. Agenda Item 11. Additional Agenda Items (Brad Inman, USACE).

There were no additional agenda items.

13. Agenda Item 12. Request for Public Comments (Brad Inman, USACE).

There were no additional public comments.

14. Agenda Item 13. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Brad Inman, USACE).

January 28, 2014	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Abbeville
January 29, 2014	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Morgan City
January 30, 2014	8:00 a.m.	Region I Planning Team Meeting	New Orleans
January 30, 2014	11:30 a.m.	Region II Planning Team Meeting	New Orleans
February 18, 2014	10:30 a.m.	Coastwide Electronic Voting	<i>via email, no meeting</i>

Mr. Inman announced that the results from today's meeting would be sent out via email.

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

The Task Force meeting will be held January 16, 2014 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). The task force will be voting on these recommendations to make them final.

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

January 16, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
January 28, 2014	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Abbeville
January 29, 2014	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Morgan City
January 30, 2014	8:00 a.m.	Region I Planning Team Meeting	New Orleans
January 30, 2014	11:30 a.m.	Region II Planning Team Meeting	New Orleans
April 15, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
May 22, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
September 11, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 7, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
November 12, 2014	7:00 p.m.	PPL 24 Public Meeting	Baton Rouge
December 11, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

17. Agenda Item 16. Decision: Adjourn. Mr. Hartman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McCormick seconded. Mr. Holden adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.