

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 10 December 03 Technical Committee CWPPRA Meeting

1. Mr. John Saia opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. and all Technical Committee members introduced themselves. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Mr. John Saia, Chairman, COE  
Mr. Wes McQuiddy, EPA (substituting for Mr. Troy Hill)  
Mr. Rick Hartman, NMFS  
Dr. Bill Good, LDNR  
Mr. Darryl Clark, FWS  
Mr. Britt Paul, NRCS

Mr. Darryl Clark recognized Mr. John Heffner from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office.

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. Decision: PPL 13 Candidate Project Evaluation Results (Saia). Mr. John Saia announced that the Technical Committee will recommend projects to the CWPPRA Task Force for selection of the 13<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (PPL). Seventeen projects were nominated during the PPL13 planning process. The CWPPRA Workgroups did detailed studies for eight candidates. Each agency will cast four weighted votes. The Technical Committee will recommend up to four projects to the Task Force. There are five proposed demonstration projects and each agency will cast one vote for demonstration projects.

Mr. Chris Monnerjahn briefly presented each of the candidate projects:

1. Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (Region 1). This project is located in St. Tammany Parish and involves hydraulically dredging material from the bottom of Lake Pontchartrain to restore and create marsh. The project would create approximately 436 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$21.7 million.
2. Caernarvon Outfall Management East (Region 2). This project is located in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes. It consists of the construction of a 1,200 cfs pumping station to pump water from the Caernarvon Outfall Canal via a conveyance canal to the benefit area. The project would create approximately 320 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$44.7 million.
3. Naomi Siphon Outfall Area Marsh Creation/Nourishment (Region 2). This project is located in Plaquemines Parish. It consists of hydraulically dredging

material from the Mississippi River to restore and create marsh. It would create approximate 135 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$9.2 million.

4. Spanish Pass Diversion (Region 2). This project is located in Plaquemines Parish. It consists of the construction of a 7,000 cfs diversion channel. It would create approximately 433 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$13.9 million.
5. Bayou Sale Shoreline Protection (Region 3). This project is located in St. Mary Parish and consists of the construction of approximately 35,775 linear feet of rock dike. It would create approximately 329 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$32.1 million.
6. Shark Island Shoreline Protection (Region 3). This project is located in Iberia Parish. It involves the construction of approximately 21,805 linear feet of concrete sheet panel wall. It would create approximately 178 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$19.2 million.
7. Whiskey Island Backbarrier Marsh Creation (Region 3). This project is located in Terrebonne Parish. It consists of hydraulically dredging material from the Gulf of Mexico to restore and create back barrier marsh. It would create approximately 272 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$21.8 million.
8. Oyster Bayou Terracing (Region 4). This project is located in Cameron Parish and consists of approximately 124,967 linear feet of earthen terraces. The project would create 61 acres of additional marsh after 20 years and cost \$4.2 million.

Mr. Chris Monnerjahn then presented the demonstration projects:

1. Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvements Demonstration Project. The goal of this project would be to reduce the 20 year project life cycle costs of shoreline protection projects. It would use a sand foundation beneath rock dikes in various test sections in order to demonstrate alternative means to achieve bearing capacity and consolidation settlement design tolerances. The fully funded project cost would be \$1.3 million.
2. Flowable Fill Demonstration Project. The goal of this project would be to test a technique whereby rock structures would have increased integral strength and earthen terraces would be protected from erosion on the windward edge of the project. This would be accomplished by injecting a flowable fill material consisting of Portland cement, sand, water, re-cycled fly ash, and a plasticizer unto rock structures and to the erosive face of newly constructed and existing earthen terraces. The fully funded cost of this project would be \$1.7 million.
3. Interior Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project. The goal of this project would be to demonstrate the effectiveness of fiberglass sheet piles to stop erosion

and re-establish lake shoreline in shallow water interior lakes. This would be done by installing approximately 2,640 linear feet of fiberglass sheet pile along the shoreline following the -2.0 ft contour with a top elevation of +3.0 ft. The fully funded cost of this project would be \$1.1 million.

4. Soil Salinity Remediation Demonstration Project. The goal of this project would be to improve survivability of emergent vegetation and to increase marsh stability. This would be done by treating dredge material within the disposal sites with calcium to improve the permeability of soils to air and water by displacement of sodium ion from the rooting zone. The fully funded cost of this project would be \$1.8 million.
5. Hackberry Bay Oyster Reef Demonstration Project. The goal of this project would be to protect shorelines by creating a living, self-sustainable oyster reef. This could be done by constructing oyster reefs that would resemble staggered breakwaters. The fully funded cost of this project would be \$1.7 million.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked about landowner support for the Spanish Pass Diversion Project and asked if the 7,000 cfs discharge would negate the use of the harbor. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn replied that the diversion channel would go through Tidewater Road and use of the harbor would be a concern.

Mr. Darryl Clark pointed out that the scoring of Spanish Pass, Goose Point and Whiskey Island are higher than the others.

Dr. Bill Good asked if the Whiskey Island Backbarrier Marsh Creation Project could be combined with the West Flank project. Mr. Wes McQuiddy said that they hadn't looked at combining but it could be considered.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments from the public.

Mr. Robert Jones, Terrebonne Parish Engineer, spoke in support of the Whiskey Island Backbarrier Marsh Creation project. They are interested in maintaining the Terrebonne Parish barrier island. This project has a high score among the candidate projects as well as approved projects.

Mr. Sidney Fontenot, Director of Planning for St. Tammany Parish, said that the Parish supports the Goose Point Project. It has a high prioritization score, low risk, and high cost effectiveness.

Mr. Brian Fortson, St. Tammany Parish Coastal Management Office, stated that the Parish supports the Goose Point project. He submitted two letters from the Parish President and a Councilman in support of the project.

Mr. Randy Moertle, representing Vermilion Parish Police Jury, recommended the Flowable Fill Demonstration Project over the Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project. He was concerned with sinking of the fill and movement of the rocks and disagreed with the point scores assigned by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups relative to applicability/transferability. He stated that the Flowable Fill Demo is applicable across the coast. He also disagreed with the score for P3, Potential Cost Effectiveness.

Mr. Andrew MacInnes, Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Advisory Committee, spoke in support of the Spanish Pass Diversion Project. Intact spoil banks and sub-aquatic vegetation will help trap sediments and keep them in the project area. It also ranks first for benefit/cost ratio. He also spoke in support of the Naomi Siphon Outfall Project. He said that the project works, but, freshwater alone can't do everything. Sediment diversion is needed as well.

Mr. Benny Rousselle, Plaquemines Parish President, spoke in support of the Spanish Pass Diversion Project. As a landowner in the area, they wholeheartedly support the project. This was a natural pass and if we want to re-create nature this is the best way to do it. He also supported the Naomi Sediment Enhancement project.

Mr. Nat Phillips, Louisiana Fruit Company, a large landowner in the area, spoke in support of the Spanish Pass Diversion Project.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, expressed support for their number one project, the Naomi Siphon Outfall Project. It offers a good opportunity to do marsh creation and sustain it with a freshwater diversion. The location is close to the river and it ranks high in cost effectiveness. She also supports the Spanish Pass Diversion Project.

Mr. Nolan Bergeron, Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management Coastal Restoration Committee Chairman, said that they support the Whiskey Island Project.

Mr. Dan Arceneaux, St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Management Chairman spoke for the Parish President-Elect, Henry Rodriguez, Jr., said that the Caernarvon Outfall Project, when considered with a pump station, is a waste of money. A wide rock dike would do the same thing. He believes that the water will pass through with a diversion rather than a pump station. He asked for support of this alternative.

Mr. Bill Cefalu, St. Mary Parish President, said that the Spanish Pass Diversion Project is very important. Land is disappearing quickly. The Bayou Sale Shoreline Protection Project would be a second priority. He is afraid of losing the ridge. This is one of the oldest oak ridges in the area. The oil industry has dredged many canals. He asked that the urgency of the project be considered.

Mr. Doug Daigle, Mississippi River Basin Alliance, asked about the Bayou Sale Project. He said that there are many canals behind the ridge. He asked if the stability of the canal system had been investigated and whether there are plans for backfilling. Mr. Mike

Carlross replied that there has been deterioration as a result of the canals, but he doesn't know the interior area very well.

Mr. Paul Naquin, St. Mary Parish Councilman, stated that he could answer the concerns. The canals provide drainage so they can't be stopped up. There is a park in St. Mary Parish along Hwy 317. Two parks have already washed out due to shoreline erosion. The state sold oyster reef shells to shell companies. The loss of the reefs contributed to shoreline erosion.

Mr. Glenn Miller, Miller Engineers, showed a map with the area referenced by Mr. Paul Naquin. There was a string of barrier reefs that basically made this an enclosed, protected waterway. This is not just habitat for black bears, black bears live there now.

Mr. Mohan Menon, Shaw Coastal Inc., spoke in support of the Bayou Sale project. Previously, the project had many components including backfilling canals. This is very important. It will protect eroding shoreline and sensitive habitat. The project would also save human habitat (levees, roads, oil and gas infrastructure, and recreation parks.)

Ms. Linda Ditsworth, St. Mary Land & Exploration Co, said that they have worked to plug canals. They are fortunate to get sediment from the Wax Lake Outlet. The hurricane hurt the area. They are working to try to strengthen the area but they strongly need the shoreline protection project.

Mr. Carol Vinning, St. Mary Parish Director of Planning, spoke in support the Bayou Sale Shoreline Protection Project. In the past 4 years, he has seen approximately 45' of the shoreline slip away.

Mr. Julio Mayorga, St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Management, said that they strongly support the Caernarvon Outfall Project. He believes that it can be made viable with some tweaking of design and revisiting the idea of pumps.

Mr. Kenny Alford, St. Mary Parish Councilman, spoke in support of the Bayou Sale Project. This is black bear and oak ridge habitat. There is water within 100 feet of a main traffic artery, Hwy 317.

Ms. Carleen Leonhardt, BP America Production Company, said that they support the Bayou Sale project. They are working to restore some of the canals in the project area. The project will help with oil production.

Mr. George Mikkeal, St. Mary Parish Public Works Director, spoke in favor of the Bayou Sale Project. There is infrastructure and habitats that need protection.

Mr. David Luke, a landowner along Bayou Sale, spoke on behalf of the residents and said that they support the project.

Mr. Kimberly Walden, Chitimacha Tribe Cultural Director, said that the Tribal Council supports the Bayou Sale Project. She provided a copy of a resolution from the Tribal Council. The tribe has cultural sites on the ridge, one ridge produced human remains. They want to protect the cultural resources.

Mr. John Darden, Chitimacha Tribal Council Member, spoke in support of the Bayou Sale Project. He said that the tribe has sites going back 6,000 years and that this project would protect the sites.

Mr. Dan Hildago, Land Manager representing Margaret Wooster Properties, said that he supports the Bayou Sale Project. He said that many oak ridges have deteriorated.

Mr. Danny Luke, owner of Luke Estate, supports the Bayou Sale Shoreline Protection Project. If the ridges are eroded, the sediment deposition won't help. He has seen many black bears there.

Mr. O'Neil Malbrough, Shaw Coastal Inc., representing Jefferson Parish, said that the Parish supports the Naomi Siphon Outfall Project. The project protects wetlands. He also spoke in support of the Hackberry Bay Oyster Reef Demonstration Project. He also said that the Bayou Sale Protection Project is a good project.

Mr. Joe Baucum, Barataria citizen, spoke in support of the Naomi Siphon Project.

Mr. Ray Champagne, Jefferson Parish Citizen Committee, spoke in favor of the Naomi Outfall Project.

Mr. Sherrill Sagera, Vermilion Parish, said that the cost of the Flowable Fill Demonstration Project could be reduced by eliminating the fly ash component (thereby eliminating the monitoring requirement by EPA) and/or by shrinking the footage from a mile to perhaps 3/4 miles. He also supports the Bayou Sale Project.

Ms. Nancy Walters, US Fish and Wildlife Service, said that the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge refuge is the last largest contiguous estuarine area on the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain (16,000 acres). They are in support of the Goose Point Project.

Mr. Charles Broussard, Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory Committee, said that Vermilion Parish wasn't given any consideration. However, he is happy that his neighbors have gotten consideration. He has seen Terrebonne Parish deteriorate. Vermilion Parish is 40% wetlands. The Parish gets the benefit of sediment from Wax Lake Outlet. They are concerned with salt water intrusion. This was huge duck habitat before dredging of the channel and the resulting salt water intrusion. Duck counts were 1.8 - 2.0 million prior to dredging, and are now only 180-200,000. They are also losing their rice crop because the levee is not being maintained. The wetlands are inland and can't get the sediment.

Mr. James Harris, US Fish and Wildlife Service, spoke in support of the Goose Point Project. It is important to St. Tammany Parish. Interior ponding is a problem. If the shoreline breaches, erosion would be accelerated.

Mr. Judge Edwards, Chairman of the Vermilion Parish Coastal Restoration Advisory Committee, supports St. Mary Parish for the Bayou Sale Project. This project is consistent with Coast 2050 because it protects natural features.

Mr. Edwards spoke about the demo projects as well. He asked why demonstrate a sand foundation where there is already a good sand foundation? Most of the western part of the state has good sand foundation. He argued that this demonstration isn't applicable where there already is good soils; therefore, it doesn't warrant a high score for applicability. He would call flowable fill "crusting". If you have an existing rock dike, you could put flowable fill on this. He suggested pouring the flowable fill directly on the earth to create a surface that is resistant to erosion. The application is far and wide.

Mr. Marc Rogers, T. Baker Smith, Terrebonne Parish, spoke in support of the Whiskey Island Project and said that in addition to long term solutions, focus was needed interim solutions that need protection.

Comments from the Workgroup Chairman were interjected into the public comments.

Mr. Kevin Roy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Chairman of the Environmental Workgroup, said that he could answer some of the previous questions about the score for the Flowable Fill Project. It received a low score because the Flowable Fill Demo doesn't address the sinking of the rocks. It received a low score for applicability because of the sinking problem. The score of 7 was proposed by the project sponsor and agreed upon by the Academic Advisory Group and other agencies. He discussed how the score for cost effectiveness was developed by a majority vote from the agencies.

Mr. Chris Monnerjahn, Chairman of the Engineering Workgroup, commended Mr. Roy for having his records handy and reiterated that the numbers weren't pulled out the air, there was a rationale for how the projects were scored.

Public comments continued.

Mr. Sherrill Sagrera, Vermilion Parish, commented on a statement made by Mr. Roy. He said that if one added flowable fill into an rock project it would have less weight because you would have to put less rock.

Mr. Charles Broussard, Vermilion Parish, said that they were in favor of the Cameron Parish project (Oyster Bayou Terracing); however, they won't allow Cameron Parish use water that was intended for them for rice, navigation, and wildlife. Water can be provided for by putting in a pumping plant at Washington and Bayou Cortableau.

Mr. Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation, posed questions to Mr. Kevin Roy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mr. Garrett Broussard, LDNR, about the rate of rock subsidence on Freshwater Bayou. Mr. Broussard said that the biggest problem is rocks washing over and that the foundation is good. Mr. Judge Edwards said that the engineers have not been correctly calculating the power of the waves to wash away rocks. He thinks that the Flowable Fill project is a viable project and would be willing to make it smaller.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, spoke again in support of the Naomi Siphon Outfall Project. The best way to restore the state is to protect barrier islands and get more sediment into the system. Two projects on the list do this: Spanish Pass and Naomi Siphon.

Chris Areas, Plaquemines Parish land owner, spoke in favor of the Caernarvon Outfall Management East. The project is needed immediately.

The agencies then submitted their votes which were announced by Ms. Julie LeBlanc:

- Spanish Pass Diversion - 6 votes, 20 points
- Whiskey Island Backbarrier Marsh Creation - 6 votes, 12 points
- Goose Point/Pointe Platte Marsh Creation - 5 votes, 14 points
- Bayou Sale Shoreline Protection - 4 votes, 8 points
- Naomi Siphon Outfall Area Marsh Creation/Nourishment - 2 votes, 5 points
- Caernarvon Outfall Management East - 1 vote, 1 point
- Shark Island Shoreline Protection - 0 votes, 0 points
- Oyster Bayou Terracing - 0 votes, 0 points

Ms. Julie LeBlanc then presented the results of the scoring for the demonstration projects:

- Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvements Demonstration - 3 votes
- Flowable Fill Demonstration - 2 votes
- Hackberry Bay Oyster Reef Demonstration - 1 vote
- Interior Shoreline Protection Demonstration - 0 votes
- Soil Salinity Remediation Demonstration - 0 votes

**DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to recommend the top four projects to the CWPPRA Task Force for selection on the 13<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List. Mr. Britt Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

A spreadsheet outlining the voting outcome is included as **Encl 3**.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked to make a few comments. He stated that he was disappointed in the level of information they are getting out of the demonstration projects. Since they are running out of money in April, he is reluctant to fund any of them. He would rather

spend \$1 million on the top demonstration project than \$1.5 to \$2 million. Mr. Britt Paul asked if that was possible for the top demo. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn said that it was.

**DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to recommend the Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvements Demonstration project to the CWPPRA Task Force for selection on the 13<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List at a \$1 million cap. Dr. Bill Good seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

3. Report on Funding (Browning).

Ms. Gay Browning discussed the funding situation to give the Technical Committee an idea of the extent that approval could be recommended within available funds. Total funds available, taking into consideration the \$20M potential return to the pot, is adequate to cover all requests for funds on the agenda. This would allow the Technical Committee to approve all requests before it today and there would be enough money to fund them all at 100% if the Task Force approved the Technical Committee's recommendations. Details of the discussion are captured in more detail in the transcribed notes.

4. Agenda Item 2. Decision: Funding Request for O&M, Project Specific Monitoring, and CRMS (Broussard/Raynie). Mr. Garret Broussard and Mr. Rick Raynie, LA Department of Natural Resources, requested the following:

- a. O&M cost increases for projects on PPL 1-8, in the amount of \$954,724.
- b. O&M funding beyond the first 3 years for projects on PPL9-12 in order to maintain a 3-year rolling amount of funds in the amount of \$44,100.
- c. Project specific monitoring funding beyond the first 3-years for projects on PPL 9-12 in order to maintain a 3-year rolling amount of funding in the amount of \$33,922.
- d. CRMS monitoring request in the amount of \$3,101,357.

**DECISION (O&M funding increases for projects on PPL 1-8): Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to approve \$492,000 for this year plus \$4,454 per year for three more years of inspection for a total of \$506,109. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION (O&M funding for projects on PPL 9-12): Mr. Britt Paul made a motion to approve \$44,100 for the GIWW Banks Stabilization (Perry Ridge to Texas) project. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION (Project-specific monitoring cost for projects on PPL 9-12): Mr. Darryl Clark made a motion to approve \$33,922 for the Grand Lake - White Lake Land Bridge project. Mr. Britt Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION (CRMS FY07 request): Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to approve FY07 funding in the amount of \$3,101,357 for CRMS. Mr. Wes McQuiddy seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

5. Agenda Item 3. Request: De-authorization of the West Point a la Hache Outfall Management Project (BA-04c) (Good). Dr. Bill Good asked that this item be removed from the agenda and deferred to the next Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. Britt Paul, representing the Federal sponsor on the project, agreed. This item was removed from the agenda.

6. Agenda Item 4. Decision: Request for Construction Authorization and Funding for the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation (CS-28) Cycles 2 - 5 (Saia). Mr. Chris Monnerjahn presented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the LA Department of Natural Resources' request for construction approval and funding for the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 2 - 5. The remaining cycles of the project will create 920 acres of marsh. He asked the Technical Committee to recommend construction authorization and funding approval in the amount of \$13,862,705 to the Task Force.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Dr. Bill Good said that the State fully supports the project. He wondered if there was a way to commit to the full project but only provide funding for the next two cycles. Mr. Rick Hartman said that it doesn't make sense to tie up money that won't be needed for this cycle when there are other projects that need the money. He noted that the cost has doubled. Mr. Darryl Clark said that they are now coming back to the group for the four cycles. The location of the pipeline will allow marsh creation from the upper and lower dredging cycles of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Mr. Britt Paul asked if there were any cost savings from the Corps' maintenance dredging. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn replied that the only costs being borne by CWPPRA is the cost to pump the extra distance to the refuge. The actual dredging cost is being borne by the Corps of Engineers. The cost increased because mobilization/demobilization were originally underestimated. The cost to secure the pipeline corridor was also underestimated. Mr. Darryl Clark said that this project and most of the cycles are about 15 thousand dollars an acre.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments from the public.

Mr. Roy Walter, USFWS, said that the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge strongly supports the project. This area has drastically improved and is now a tidal marsh.

Mr. Darryl Clark made a motion to fund all cycles of the project at \$13,862,705. Dr. Bill Good offered an amendment to fund Cycles 2 and 3 but commit to funding all four. Mr. Rick Hartman offered that the motion should be to fund the first two cycles only. Dr. Bill Good said that the Corps needs to negotiate land rights and the commitment is made for a certain number of acres to demonstrate benefits. Mr. Darryl Clark mentioned that all five cycles had been approved but funding was only approved for the first cycle. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded Mr. Rick Hartman's amendment. Dr. Bill Good said that they should

recommend funding 2 and 3 but commit to all cycles. Mr. Wes McQuiddy seconded the motion and asked about the price. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn replied that they had \$8.9 million.

**DECISION: Dr. Bill Good made a motion to recommend to the CWPPRA Task Force to fund the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project Cycles 2 and 3 with a clear statement committing to funding all four cycles. Mr. Wes McQuiddy seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

7. Agenda Item 5. Decision: Request for Additional Phase I Funding for a Revised Design for the New Cut Dunes/Marsh Restoration Project (TE-11a) (McQuiddy). This item was removed from the agenda at the request of Mr. Wes McQuiddy, EPA. Mr. McQuiddy stated that there were new circumstances that have come up which has lead EPA to believe that they may be able to construct this spring with existing Phase II funding in hand, using the original borrow site.

8. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization for the Barataria Barrier Island Complex Project, Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chalant (BA-38) (Hartman). Ms. Rachel Sweeney presented the National Marine Fisheries Service and the LA Department of Natural Resources' request for Phase II approval for the Barataria Barrier Island Complex Project, Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chalant. The project will benefit 322 acres over 20 years. The Chalant Headland was breached in 2002. The current size of the breach is 600 feet. The goals of the project are to create barrier island habitat and maintain the integrity of the barrier island subreach. The NEPA document will be available in draft form in December 03. An HTRW assessment showed no problems. Phase II costs for the project are \$58,504,749.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Rick Hartman said that this is an expensive project. Unless something is done quickly, the cost will go way up or the project will be unbuildable. If approved, this project would be constructed this spring. Mr. Darryl Clark said that this is a needed project. This would be the largest funded project to be recommended to the Task Force. They have looked at other funding sources such as the WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) and LCA (Louisiana Coastal Area). Mr. Rick Hartman said that the WRDA couldn't happen quickly enough. Mr. John Saia said that it would be a number of years before LCA is in place. Dr. Bill Good said that the State is in support of this project. If the project is delayed, the cost will increase substantially. The costs are comparable with other barrier island projects. If this were segmented it could ultimately cost more. In response to a question from Ms. Jeanene Peckham concerning splitting the project into 2 segments, Ms. Rachel Sweeney said that they are requesting construction on Phase II approval for the entire project, both sub-reaches, Chalant Headland and Pelican Island.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments from the public.

Mr. Benny Rousselle, Plaquemines Parish President, said that if the project is not implemented soon, it will be too expensive to do. The tidal flux has increased and it is necessary to close the flood gates more often than before. Without this project the benefits behind the island will be lost.

Mr. Bob Jones, Terrebonne Parish, said that although the project is not in his parish, he would like to see it implemented quickly.

Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, said that Jefferson Parish strongly supports the construction of both of the islands.

O'Neil Malbrough, consultant with Jefferson Parish, spoke in support of the project moving forward as soon as possible.

**DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to recommend Phase II approval to the CWPPRA Task Force for \$57,182,368 for construction of the Barataria Barrier Island Complex Project, Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chaland. Mr. Wes McQuiddy seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

9. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization for the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project (northeast only) (BA-27d) Phase 4 - Construction Unit 6 (Paul). Mr. Quin Kinler presented the Natural Resources and Conservation Service and the LA Department of Natural Resources' request for Phase II approval for the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project Phase 4 - Construction Unit 6. The project will benefit 334 acres over 20 years. Phase II costs for the project are \$26,591,834. The project has seven opening for water exchange. The main purpose of the project is to reduce shoreline erosion. A cost sharing agreement was executed in 2002. The 95% design review is schedule for Jan 04. The EA has been drafted and was distributed in Nov 04. The EA should result in a FONSI. The permit process has been initiated.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Dr. Bill Good said that the State is in favor of the project. He recommends approval contingent upon the 95 percent review. The landbridge is a critical feature of Barataria Estuary. The time to act is now. The engineers have not had adequate time to review plans and specs; however, they now have all of the information. LDNR asked that at some point they like a presentation on what's left of the overall project in terms of segments, costs, and total project benefits.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments from the public.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, said that this project was of the highest priority to Jefferson Parish. This project will complete the Jefferson Parish side of the landbridge. It protects people and infrastructure. Ms. Winter read letters of support from Mayor Tim Kerner and Eric Morgan, Lafitte Marsh Club.

Mr. Ray Champagne, Jefferson Parish Citizens Committee and property owner, agreed with Ms. Winter's statements and said that the problem could have been fixed in 1990. Nature doesn't wait while the problems get discussed. He also said that there is a need to protect the peninsula because the community will be threatened.

Mr. Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation, said that the Barataria Land Bridge is a good project. He pointed out that the canal system was artificially flushing nutrients to the Gulf. The land bridge could prevent this.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked if they were ready to begin construction this Spring. Mr. Quin Kinler states that it would likely be late Spring to advertise. The other agencies asked that a presentation be given in the future regarding all of the projects that make up the landbridge.

**DECISION: Mr. Britt Paul made a motion to recommend Phase II approval in the amount of \$22,054,530 for the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project Phase 4 - Construction Unit 6 to the CWPPRA Task Force. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. Dr. Bill Good offered an amendment that it be contingent upon a successful 95% design meeting. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded the amended motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

10. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Revisions to the PPL 14 Planning Process (Saia).

Mr. John Saia said that there were two items on which to vote. The first are the changes in blue on pages 1 through 3, related to Coast 2050, longevity/sustainability, risk/uncertainty as recommended by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups. The second are the changes to the RPT dates in orange on page 4. Mr. Darryl Clark asked that the discussion be limited to the Environmental and Engineering Workgroups' recommendations regarding the application of the Coast 2050 Criteria, longevity/sustainability, and risk/uncertainty; and the recommendation to reduce the number of days for PPL14 RPT meetings. Mr. Kevin Roy said that the intent of the workgroup's recommendations was to streamline the process. There is no intent to remove Coast 2050 as the basis of nomination project review. Mr. Rick Hartman said that the discussions are important, not the scoring. Dr. Bill Good said that this will allow analysis of the offsite benefits such as watershed issues, infrastructure, ecosystem, and productivity. Mr. Kevin Roy reminded everyone that there is no longer a Coast 2050 criteria score developed for the nominees.

**DECISION: Dr. Bill Good made a motion to accept recommendations as presented for pages 1-3. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. After some discussion, Mr. Britt Paul provided another second. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to combine the RPT Meetings for Regions 1 and 2 and keep Regions 3 and 4 separate. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

11. Agenda Item 9. Decision: Clarification of the 30/95% Design Review Requirements (Monnerjahn/Roy). Five proposed items were discussed under this agenda item, related to proposed modifications to the CWPPRA SOP.

a. 30/95% Design Review. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn discussed the results of the 13 Nov 03 meeting between the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups to clarify the expectations for successful 30/95% design reviews. They came up with the following revisions to the SOP (shown in blue) for approval by the Technical Committee. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn reported that the majority agreed that the meeting should be held after the design is approximately 30% complete. This would be the preliminary design. A minority said that the meeting should be held when it's time to agree to project features.

**DECISION: Mr. Darryl Clark made a motion that the changes be accepted. Dr. Bill Good seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

b. Technical Committee approval requirement for getting Phase 2 and construction authorization. Dr. Bill Good stated that the SOP currently does not require Technical Committee approval prior to seeking Task Force approval. This loophole needs to be plugged.

**DECISION: Dr. Bill Good made a motion to require Technical Committee approval for getting Phase 2 and construction authorization. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

c. Requirement to have a successful 95% Design Review prior to the Technical Committee Meeting where approval is sought.

**DECISION: Dr. Bill Good made a motion to require a successful 95% Design Review prior to the Technical Committee Meeting where approval is sought. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

d&e. Include the Demo SOP and the Prioritization Criteria as Appendices to the CWPPRA SOP.

**DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to include the Demo SOP and the Prioritization Criteria as appendices to the SOP. Dr. Bill Good seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

12. Agenda Item 10. Report: Status of the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization Project (TV11b, XTV-27) (Saia). Dr. Bill Good asked to add this project as a “Decision” agenda item because it is urgently needed and the Corps is very close to having all requirement for Phase II request. There are number of successful segments built. He asked the Technical Committee to consider recommending this project to the Task Force, pending 95% design review and the cost sharing agreement.

Mr. Greg Miller, Corps of Engineers, presented the project. The project has an improved hydrologic and engineering design. The rock is better sized and geotechnical fabric has been added. The final plans and specs have been completed. They are completing the fully funded cost estimate. The Corps is working with DNR staff on ecological review. The Corps is still working on a cost sharing agreement; however, approval is out of their hands. The project could be ready to go to construction in March or April. The first cost is between \$11-14 million range. The prioritization score is not expected to change. This project could be executed as soon as approval is granted.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Darryl Clark said that this agenda item turned from a “Report” agenda item to a “Request” agenda item for funding and that it is difficult for the Technical Committee to consider this without advance notice and review. There are lots of other projects that also have a need. Dr. Bill Good said that DNR originally requested a briefing on the status and found that it was further along than anticipated. Mr. Rick Hartman said that at the last Task Force meeting, the protocol was changed to avoid contingent approval. The project has a low prioritization score but has some merit. But the SOP should be followed.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments from the public.

Mr Charles Broussard, Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory Committee, said that there have been five severe salt water intrusions in the Mermentau Basin during his lifetime and this is very detrimental to rice. Sometimes the intrusion went as far as 15 miles upstream.

Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation, said that the project is important to slow the water exchange. Presently the nutrients get sucked quickly to the Gulf. The project is close to the 95% design review. It is important to fund it now.

O’Neil Malbrough, Port of Iberia, said that this project should be moved to construction. The width of the channel has increased considerably. The landowners are losing land.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for additional comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. John Saia asked about the cost of \$15 million. Mr. Greg Miller replied that that was the upper end. A value engineering approach could be done. Mr. Darryl Clark said that they have held back many projects until everything was in order for presentation to the

Technical Committee (for example, there is no financial information at all). There hasn't been much information provided about this project. He had an objection to the procedures. Mr. Wes McQuiddy agreed. Messrs. Rick Hartman, Wes McQuiddy, and Darryl Clark pointed out that this is a good project but that they had procedural problems.

**DECISION: Dr. Bill Good made a motion to take this up as an agenda item. Mr. Britt Paul seconded. Dr. Bill Good and Mr. Britt Paul voted in favor. Messrs. Rick Hartman, Wes McQuiddy, and Darryl Clark were opposed. The motion did not carry; therefore, this item wasn't added to the agenda as a "Decision" item.**

13. The meeting concluded at 3:45 p.m.