

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 9 September 04 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, Corps of Engineers (COE)
Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Mr. Rick Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Mr. Gerry Duszynski, Louisiana Department of Natural Resource (LDNR)
Mr. Wes McQuiddy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), (substituting for Ms. Sharon Parrish)
Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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

2. Agenda Item 1. Decision: FY05 Planning Budget Approval and Presentation of FY05 Outreach Committee Budget (LeBlanc/Wilson). Ms. Julie LeBlanc stated that the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee developed a draft FY05 CWPPRA Planning Budget for consideration by the Technical Committee. The total for PPL 14 tasks is \$226,390, and the total for PPL 15 tasks is \$1,178,941. The total for project and program management tasks is \$2,467,832, with a total "core" budget of \$3,873,163. The supplemental tasks for FY05 total \$864,966. The P&E Subcommittee recommended a FY05 Planning Budget of \$4,738,129. Currently there is a surplus of approximately \$688,000 in the planning program. Taking into account the \$5,000,000 allocation for FY05, there is an available balance of approximately \$5,688,000. Considering the FY05 Outreach Budget (to be approved directly by the Task Force) of \$437,900, the FY05 Planning Budget totals \$5,176,029. If approved by the Task Force, there will be a surplus of \$511,971 in the CWPPRA Planning Program.

Mr. Rick Hartman said that a planning budget of \$5 million has been used since CWPPRA began 14 years ago. Due to inflation, the buying power of that \$5 million is half of what it was at the start of the program. Mr. Gerry Duszynski said that the number of projects has been reduced, and the Technical Committee needs to look at how business is done and streamline the process.

DECISION: Mr. Britt Paul made a motion to accept the recommendation of the P&E Subcommittee for the planning budget. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Scott Wilson said that the Outreach Committee would present their annual budget to the Task Force in October. There was a 2-3 percent increase from the previous year.

3. Agenda Item 2. Decision: Recommendation to Restrict Phase 2 Budget Requests for Projects Already Approved for Phase 2 But Not Yet Under Construction to a Cap of 100% (Including

Contingency) (Saia). This topic was previously discussed at the last Technical Committee meeting, but was tabled until additional project-specific information could be obtained relative to needed amounts on projects. Due to the limited available CWPPRA funds for ongoing Phase I and II CWPPRA projects, it is recommended that the 125% cap be lowered to 100% to avoid developing a negative “un-programmed” balance in the CWPPRA budget and to allow the Corps of Engineers to better estimate available funding in the program. The Task Force previously approved application of this cap to new Phase I and II approvals. If this agenda item were to be approved by the Task Force, requests for these projects which exceed the 100% cap would require additional approval of the Task Force. Ms. Julie LeBlanc said that if the Task Force does not limit funds for Phase II budget requests at 100 percent, then there could potentially be \$20 million requested for these 12 projects (within the 25%).

Mr. John Saia asked if cost-sharing agreements would have to be modified. Mr. Darryl Clark said that the language in the cost-share agreement indicate that cost could go up to 125 percent pending availability of funds. He thinks the cost-share agreements are fine. Mr. Rick Hartman said that he was supportive of not allowing the leeway to go to 125 percent considering the shortage of funds. Mr. Britt Paul added that his agency is fine with the 100 percent cap.

DECISION: Mr. Darryl Clark made a motion to approve the revised budget cap for all 12 projects listed and recommend to the Task Force that the projects approved but not yet gone to construction be capped to the amounts presented in the current estimate column. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

4. Agenda Item 3. Discussion/Decision: Amount of Funding to “Set Aside” for PPL 14 Phase I Efforts (Saia). Before beginning this discussion, Ms. Julie LeBlanc explained the available funding spreadsheet developed for use in the meeting. The un-programmed balance as of 9 Sep 04 is \$1,219,013 (Federal). FY05 Federal funding anticipated into the program is \$57,547,000. This totals \$58,766,013. The spreadsheet can be interactively used during the meeting to subtract available dollars on-the-fly as the Technical Committee approves items for Task Force consideration. This will provide the Technical Committee with an un-programmed balance for use in making decisions relative to Agenda Item #8.

This agenda item provides an opportunity for discussion and decision on the amount of Phase I funding to setaside for PPL14 (to be approved by the Task Force in January 2005). The Phase I fully funded cost for PPL12 and PPL13 was \$8.4 million and \$8.6 million, respectively. The average Phase I cost per project was \$1.9 million for these two PPLs.

DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to approve a placeholder of \$9 million for Phase 1 cost for PPL14. Mr. Britt Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

5. Agenda Item 4. Decision: Request for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Funding Increases on Priority Project Lists (PPL) 1-8 (Burkholder). Mr. Dave Burkholder, LDNR, requested a funding increase for the O&M budget for 2005 through 2007 for two projects on PPL2. He

requested an increase of \$720,000 for the East Mud Lake Hydrologic Restoration project (CS-20) and \$215,000 for the Point au Fer Hydrologic Restoration project (TE-22).

Mr. Darryl Clark asked what items are currently in disrepair for the East Mud Lake project. Mr. Dave Burkholder said that the major maintenance requirement is the replacement of structure #4, which is an existing structure that is over 30 years old and is no longer effective. The structure would be replaced with an automated weir-type structure that would allow for more frequent operation and better fisheries access.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked if there were contractual obligations with the landowner to maintain structure for 20-year life. Mr. Britt Paul said that the agreements for easements are for the life of the project (20 years). There are permit issues to operate the structure in accordance and if the structure is abandoned, then it has to be decommissioned.

DECISION: Mr. Britt Paul made a motion to approve the O&M increase totaling \$935,000. Mr. Rick Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

6. Agenda Item 5. Decision: Request for Administrative Costs for those Projects Beyond Increment 1 funding (Saia). Ms. Gay Browning requested \$21,915 funding approval for administrative costs for projects beyond Increment 1 funding.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked what the administrative costs cover. Ms. Gay Browning said the costs involve answering questions for agencies, obligations, payments, and reconciling cost with the cost-share in escrow. The costs would go to the Corps.

DECISION: Mr. Darryl Clark made a motion to approve the request for administrative costs. Mr. Gerry Duszynski seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

7. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Request for FY08 Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS)-Wetlands Monitoring Funds and Project-Specific Monitoring Funds for Projects on PPLs 9-13 (Raynie). Mr. Rick Raynie presented the status and progress of CRMS over the past year. To date, land rights have been secured for 254 of 612 stations. The cost share agreement between the USGS and the State has been executed. The LDNR has produced a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual. A Request for Proposals was released this summer for construction and service of the CRMS stations for the first three years. Plans for the next fiscal year include continuing land rights acquisitions, begin station construction, initiate data collection, contractor training, and planning for coast-wide aerial photography. Mr. Raynie requested \$532,000 for CRMS FY08 to cover expenses incurred through the first year.

DECISION: Mr. Wes McQuiddy made a motion to approve CRMS FY08 monitoring request in the amount of \$532,000. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Rick Raynie requested \$91,563 in out-year funding for three projects: \$2,712 for GIWW Bank Stabilization – Perry Ridge to Texas (CS-30), \$82,586 for Timbalier Island Dune/Marsh Restoration (TE-40), and \$6,265 for Grand-White Lake Landbridge Protection (ME-19).

Mr. Rick Hartman asked why there was an increase in monitoring cost for Timbalier Islands when it is still under construction. Mr. Rick Raynie replied that construction would be completed before the next Task Force meeting and that this is the first out-year cash flow request for the project. Mr. Darryl Clark added that this request followed the SOP to ask for out-year funding for project-specific funding and CRMS monitoring.

DECISION: Mr. Britt Paul made a motion to approve request for \$91,563 for project specific monitoring funding. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Request for Re-allocation of Funds for Construction Unit 4 for Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phases 1 and 2 (BA-27) (Paul). Mr. Quin Kinler said that Construction Unit 4 includes installation of 21,000 feet of concrete panel wall. About 424 net acres will be created over 20 years. Phases 1 and 2 cost 141 percent of the original cost estimate. The current engineers' estimate has only 9 percent contingency. The NRCS and LDNR request a re-allocation of \$1.5 million.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked what would happen to the \$1.5 million if the request were not approved. Mr. Quin Kinler said that the \$1.5 million would be approved to the Phase 1 and 2 portion of Construction Unit 5, which is the next agenda item.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked if decreased erosion rates had been observed. Mr. Quin Kinler said that LDNR did not monitor behind the segments because they are so short and were put in worst-case locations. Mr. Hartman also asked about the observed results from the shoreline protection portion of Jonathan Davis. Mr. Kinler said that all of the structures built at Jonathon Davis are rock revetment on the edge of the marsh and the rock has not been lost.

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

Ms. Tracy Kuhns, Louisiana Bayou Keeper and the Association of Family Fisherman, expressed support for this project. It is important for hurricane protection, commercial shrimpers fishing in the area, and as a filtration system for pollutants.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, submitted a letter to Technical Committee from Parish President Aaron Broussard. The project is important for Jefferson Parish, especially with the hurricane activity this year.

DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to reallocate funds in the amount of \$1,510,563 for Construction Unit 4 for the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection project. Mr. Darryl Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

9. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Request for Construction Approval and Phase 2 Authorization for Projects on all PPL's (Saia). Ms. Gay Browning announced that with everything that has been approved thus far, there are \$49,772,607 Federal funds available.

Mr. John Saia said that each agency would make presentations on the individual projects. Public comments will be heard and then each agency vote on which of the 11 projects to fund. Mr. Rick Hartman said that the Technical Committee might not be able to match the highest ranked projects with available funds. He is opposed to using money to fund a project that ranks much lower but happens to fit into the available dollars and is supportive of holding onto those funds for next year's list.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for agencies to make presentations on individual projects.

a. Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phases 1 and 2 – CU5 (BA-27). Mr. Quin Kinler said that Construction Unit 5, Phases 1 and 2, involves installation of 13,780 feet of concrete sheet pile wall. The erosion rate is 114 feet per year for 77 percent of the area and 30 feet per year for 23 percent. There are 721 net acres for the project. The prioritization score is 77.25 and is the highest ranking because of its cost effectiveness. A total of \$10 million-plus is needed. Mr. Kinler requested a funding increase of \$7.4 million plus access to the \$2.6 million balance in the existing budget.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked if the \$2.6 million included the \$1.5 million that was approved under Agenda Item 7. Mr. Quin Kinler said that the request assumes that Agenda Item 7 would be approved and also includes an additional amount for future O&M. Mr. Hartman also asked why the funding request increased from \$6.9 to \$7.4 million. Mr. Quin Kinler said that the increase came out of the economic analysis. The \$6.9 million cost estimate did not account for inflation.

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

Mr. O'Neil Malbrough, Jefferson Parish, said that this project started on PPL2 to restore the peninsula but was since de-authorized. This project will alleviate the wave-induced land loss. The bayous are getting bigger and bigger, and this project needs to be approved right away.

Mr. Woody Crews, Chairman of the Wetlands Committee of the Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board, reiterated Mr. O'Neil Malbrough's comments. These areas are near the southern shoreline of the Greater Metro New Orleans Area and serve as a significant storm buffer. Residents in these areas and people along the Lafitte shoreline need to be protected.

Mr. Skip Haller, Madison Land Company, has watched land in this area deteriorate over the last 50 years. Bayou Perot and Rigolettes were once small bayous; soon they will become one gigantic lake. The erosion on the west bank is horrible, and the east bank is equally as bad.

Ms. Tracy Kuhns, Louisiana Bayou Keeper, reiterated her earlier comments and said that this project is important to her community. The west side is washed out and she is concerned that if something is not done soon, then it will wash out to Bayou Barataria.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, referred to a letter from Parish President Aaron Broussard urging the Technical Committee to fund construction of this project. The land bridge is critical to the central basin.

b. Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phase 3 – CU 5 (BA-27c). Mr. Quin Kinler said that the project extends from Bayou Perot to the north shore of Little Lake and includes 22,811 feet of rock shoreline protection. The erosion rate is 30 feet each year for 40 percent of the project area, 15 feet each year for 46 percent of the area, and 5 feet each year for 14 percent of the area. The project would create 180 net acres. The prioritization score is 45.55. The total fully funded cost estimate is \$14.7 million. Phase 2 approval request was \$14.1 million, with the Phase 2 Increment 1 request at \$12.1 million. The Phase 3 current estimate is 130 percent of the original cost estimate.

Mr. Gerry Duszynski asked if there was any preference over which of the two parts of the same project should be picked over the other or if this was a package deal. Mr. Quin Kinler said that the current set of plans and specs has them put together as a whole, but the project does separate into two different construction techniques. Mr. Britt Paul said that if they were separated, then the first one is preferred.

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

Mr. Woody Crews, Wetlands Committee Chair – Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board, said that Little Lake Bayou, which offers flow through the project area, would continue to scour. Both Barataria Basin Landbridge projects should be considered as one massive project as opposed to two different phases. This is crucial to the storm buffer that this area offers to the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area.

Ms. Tracey Kuhns, Louisiana Bayou Keeper, said that the communities of Barataria, Lafitte, and Crown Point sit outside the current hurricane protection levee system. The project is critical to protecting these communities.

Ms. Marnie Winter agreed with Mr. Woody Crews. It makes sense to do the two projects together and could be cost saving. She asked why the project was ranked 8th since the area is critical to help keep the channel restricted.

c. Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization – Belle Isle Bayou to Lock (TV-11b). Mr. Ken Duffy, LDNR, said that 40,000 feet of rock dike would be built to stop shoreline erosion. Wake-induced erosion occurs in the area at a rate of 12.5 feet per year. The length was divided into three reaches, which will be constructed at one time with different cross sections in each reach. The current quantity estimate is approximately 380,000 tons of rock. The first cost requested was \$13.8 million. The fully funded cost is \$15.7 million. The total benefit area is 241 acres, and the prioritization score was 42.50.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked what happened to the hydrologic restoration component of the project. Mr. Ken Duffy replied that it did not give the bang-for-the-buck as originally estimated. Mr. Hartman added that if the Corps' Port of Iberia project goes forward, this project is redundant to

that effort. He does not want to spend \$13.8 million on the project and then have the Port of Iberia come in a few years later and change the project. Mr. John Saia said that the Port of Iberia project is not authorized and should not be considered for planning purposes. It will be a number of years before getting to construction for Port of Iberia.

Mr. Darryl Clark asked that when the Port of Iberia channel is constructed, what would be done with the rock that is there now. Would it be covered with earth or dug up? Mr. John Saia that the plan currently looks at depositing the materials along the banks and creating wildlife areas along the channel but will be dependent on further studies.

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

Mr. Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation, said that the rock dike is very well designed. He is not sure why the structures were dropped but would not be against adding additional structures. Vermillion Parish and the Vermilion Corporation support this projects.

d. Freshwater Introduction South of Hwy 82 (ME-16). Mr. Ralph Libersat, LDNR, said that the project is located in the Mermentau Basin with a goal to introduce freshwater from the Grand Lake and White Lake systems to areas south of Highway 82. There has been increased land loss in the area due to increased salinities caused by reduced freshwater flow. Salinities in the brackish marsh range from 1 to 28 parts per thousand. The average land loss is 1.38 feet year. The project involves installation of 26,000 linear feet of duck-wing vegetated earthen terraces and four water control structures. The project supports the natural Chenier Sub-basin and benefits the Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge. There are 296 net acres protected and restored. The prioritization score is 57.4. The revised cost estimate is \$6 million fully funded, with a Phase II increment 1 of \$4.3 million.

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

Mr. Parke Moore, LDWF, said that the area includes over 24,000 acres of Rockefeller Refuge and adjacent properties. The project will enlarge existing canals, reduce wave-induced erosion and water salinity, as well as enhance wetland diversity.

Ms. Tina Horn, Cameron Parish Administrator, submitted a packet including letters of support for this project to Technical Committee members.

e. South Lake DeCade Freshwater Introduction – CU 1 (TE-39). Mr. Loland Broussard said that the project area is bordered by Lake DeCade, Lapeyrouse Canal, Small Bayou LaPointe ridge, and oilfield canals. Approximately 8,700 feet of shoreline protection is proposed. The prioritization score is second highest on the list at 73.45. Both landowners in the area support the project, which protects and benefits 207 acres. Approximately 1,700 acres have suffered degradation from subsidence, seas level rise, and saltwater intrusion. It is critical to provide a buffering effect between Lake DeCade and the interior area. Several sections of the levee are very thin and in danger of breaching. The Phase II Increment 1 funding request is for \$2.5 million.

Mr. Rick Hartman said that at the 95 percent design meeting, it was indicated that FEMA had provided some funds to landowners to rebuild the levee. Mr. Loland Broussard replied that he was mistaken, and in fact no FEMA funds were available to repair damage done by Hurricane Lili.

Mr. Rick Hartman said that the benefits were driven by the expectation that the lake would breach. Could components related to shoreline protection be split out from the rest of the project? Mr. Loland Broussard said that it could. About 35 percent or \$600,000 of the construction cost is relative to the two southern components. Mr. Hartman asked if it would be more cost effective if just went with the lake shoreline protection components. Mr. Kevin Roy said that it would and that about 80 percent of the benefits are actually from the shoreline protection along the lake. Mr. Britt Paul added that it is still highly cost effective with the structures included.

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

Mr. Tim Allen, Apache Louisiana Minerals, Inc., said that Apache owns about 1,500 acres within the project area and has done a lot of work along the lake levee over the years. Apache cannot afford to maintain the entire 12-mile perimeter around Lake DeCade. The proposed low-level rock dike should reduce salinity encroachment from the south. This project will stabilize the remaining fresh marsh below Bayou DeCade and Lake DeCade.

Mr. Jeff DeBlieux, Louisiana Land and Exploration Company owned by Burlington Resources, submitted a letter to the Technical Committee. His company is the lower landowner in the area and is highly supportive of all CWPPRA projects.

Mr. Al Levron, Public Works Director for Terrebonne Parish and representing Parish President Don Schwab, said that this project has high landowner and political support. The project is economical and is important to maintaining the landbridge.

f. GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne (TE-43). Mr. Andy Tarver, NRCS, said that this project involves constructing 41,000 feet of shoreline protection along the southern bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) between Amelia and Houma to prevent the 15 feet per year erosion rate. The project will benefit 366 acres, protect fragile marsh in the GIWW, and enhance a component of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) near-term restoration plan. The Phase 2 Increment 1 funding request is for \$20.4 million.

Mr. Rick Hartman mentioned, during a later project's comment period, that at the 95 percent design meeting, it was said that dredge material from construction access would be placed further out in the GIWW instead of using it beneficially. It becomes a land rights issue to put dredge material on the banks. Mr. Hartman said that whatever steps necessary should be taken to get past this issue. Mr. George Strain said that there is no issue with a privately owned waterline. Mr. Quin Kinler agreed and said that this is not an issue in the GIWW, just in Hackberry Lake.

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

Mr. George Strain, Continental Land and Fur, said that his company, the majority landowner, is ready to move on this. The width of the GIWW in the 1940's was 125 ft. Now, most areas are over 1,000 feet wide and floating marsh is being lost. The U.S. FWS identified this area as needing bank stabilization 20 years ago. Continental has funded bank line stabilization by depositing dredge material, but breaches are starting to form in these areas. A structural retainer is needed along the banks. This project will compliment the LCA plan conveyance channel. There should not be an issue over spending public money on private lands. Federal dollars should be spent to maintain a federally maintained waterway.

Mr. Charlie Marshall has a hunting lease with Continental Land and Fur on 700 acres near Lake Hackberry and the GIWW. He has seen this area be transformed into open water as the spoil bank along the GIWW has disappeared. This project will help to stop further erosion and gain significant amounts of marsh.

Mr. Dewayne Crawford, Continental Land and Fur, said that it was important for levee to be put up. He has seen 20 by 40 foot sections of floating marsh in the GIWW.

Mr. Ed Landgraf, Vice-Chairman Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management, said that this project is important to Terrebonne Parish because of the variety of pipelines that travel through the area and the protection to exposed and susceptible infrastructure.

Mr. Al Levron, Director Public Works for Terrebonne Parish, said that Terrebonne Parish has few sources of sediment for continued nutrient enrichment. A more efficient conveyance of sediments from the Atchafalaya to the eastern marshes of Terrebonne is needed.

g. North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration– CU 2 (TE-44). Ms. Martha Segura said that this project would create 526 acres of marsh in eight separate cells to maintain the shoreline and Small Bayou LaPointe ridge. This includes seven plugs and replacing an existing weir. Dredged material for construction access will be beneficially used along the shoreline of Raccourci Bay. The Phase 2 Increment 1 request is for \$32.3 million. The prioritization score is 53.10. Oyster leases will be dredged. There are 825 leases within 1,500 feet of project features.

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

Mr. Jeff DeBlieux, Louisiana Land and Exploration Company - Burlington Resources, said that the marsh has been deteriorating. Without any work Lake Mechant will eventually be next to Brady Canal. This project ties in with the Lake DeCade project.

Mr. Tim Allen, Apache Louisiana Minerals, said that Apache owns roughly 1,200 acres that will be directly benefited. The Brady Canal project to the north will indirectly benefit from this project. He will sign the land rights as soon as the Task Force gives the recommendation.

Mr. Ed Landgraf, Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management, supports this project. This project protects the national economy and energy infrastructure, as well as land.

h. Dedicated Dredging on Barataria Basin Landbridge (BA-36). Mr. Kevin Roy, FWS, said that the purpose of this project is to create marsh along the Barataria Basin landbridge. The project consists of a mandatory earthen containment along the southern boundary and shoreline protection features from BA-27 will be used around the perimeter. This project will create 605 net acres of marsh. The fully funded cost estimate is just over \$36 million. Phase 2 Increment 1 funding request is for \$33.7 million. The prioritization score is 61. Project construction is contingent upon Construction Unit 4 of the BA-27 project being built.

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

Ms. Vickie Duffourc, Jefferson Parish Coastal Stakeholders Committee, introduced letters into the record from members of the Sixth Ward Association for Progress in Lafitte. A letter from Mr. Ray Champagne, representing the Sixth Ward Civic Association, noted that the projects introduced are crucial to the community. The danger posed to Lafitte by not addressing the landbridge would be detrimental. A letter from Mr. Ed Perrin supports Mr. Champagne's comments. Mr. Perrin says that projects around Little Temple, Humble Canal, and Little Lake are working. The project should be funded now because waiting will only increase the cost. She added that the area west of Harvey Cut is key to protect whole area from opening up.

Mr. Frank Tessier, Rigolettes L.P., supports this project and will do everything possible to help move this forward. Adding soil to this area will protect the broken marsh.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, referred to a letter from Parish President Aaron Broussard and Mr. Tim Kerner, Mayor of the Town of Lafitte. The landbridge project was originally planned on PPL2. The plan was to spray dredge onto the central peninsula between Bayous Perot and Rigolettes. It was determine not to be feasible and so the focus was placed on shoreline protection. This project is ranked fifth and should be ready to go once the NRCS project is constructed.

Ms. Tracy Kuhns, Louisiana Bayou Keeper, said that this project is critical to protecting community and wetlands marsh area.

Ms. Diana Navaray (spelling?), from Jefferson Parish, said that she remembers when there were natural levees on all of the bayous. She said that there were clamshell dams, which separated the freshwater and saltwater, but were all sold to Florida and that is why there are no marshes.

i. Grand Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-21). Mr. Chris Monnerjahn, COE, said that the project is located in the Mermentau Basin. The area has an average shoreline erosion of 25 feet per year. The project goal is to stop shoreline erosion and promote accretion between the breakwater and shoreline. The project features 37,800 feet of rock dike with gaps for fish access. The project benefits 495 net acres and an additional 45 acres with extension at Tebo Point. The fully funded cost is \$15.2 million with the Tebo Point extension and \$13.8 million without it. Phase 2 Increment 1 funding request is \$12.4 million.

Mr. Darryl Clark asked if it was reasonable for the COE and LDNR to sign a cost-share within six months. Mr. Gerry Duszynski stated that the Corps and LDNR agree on language and he did

not anticipate any problems with Division of Administration review. Mr. Clark added that in regards to permitting for the South White Lake project, the COE did their own Section 404 Clean Water Act clearance in less than a month and received Section 303e approval within three weeks.

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

Ms. Tina Horn, Parish Administrator for Cameron Parish Police Jury, said that Tebo Point has gotten smaller and smaller and the bank of Grand Lake is nearly gone.

j. Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection, Phase A (CU 1) (TE-48). Mr. Mike Carloss, NRCS, said that this project features construction of eight additional breakwaters to the west. Erosion loss rates range from 27 to 60 feet per year. Raccoon Islands has the most species richness of any island along coast of Louisiana; there are roseate spoonbills, nesting brown pelicans, and five species of nesting terns on Raccoon Island. The project will benefit a net 16 acres. Phase 2 Increment 1 funding request is for \$6.4 million, with a fully funded cost of \$6.7 million. The project has the lowest prioritization score at 41.93 because no credit is given for wildlife value. This project is needed now because any storm can come in and wipe this wildlife refuge out.

Mr. Wes McQuiddy asked about the status of the 404 permit and the Environmental Assessment. Mr. Loland Broussard said that it was almost complete. Wildlife and Fisheries will be the permit holder and are ready to sign. Mr. Wes McQuiddy asked about the status of the discussions with the Shoreline Science Restoration Team and the recommendation that they had made on Raccoon Island. Mr. Chris Knotts answered that he spoke with Dr. Shea Penland yesterday and he supports taking out the western groin and building a breakwater and monitoring the system to see the response.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked if the project would be monitored under CRMS. Mr. Loland Broussard replied that there would be project-specific monitoring, and there is \$6,500 in the budget for monitoring over three years.

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

Mr. Parke Moore, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Wildlife at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, said that Raccoon Island is important for nesting water birds in coastal Louisiana. Raccoon Island is unique due to its diverse habitat, remote location, and protection from human disturbance. The department strongly supports approval of Phase II funding for this project.

Mr. Al Levron, Terrebonne Parish, said that Terrebonne Parish has a long tradition of supporting barrier island projects. There is currently no hurricane protection system in Terrebonne Parish. Barrier islands are the first line of defense against storm surges and hurricanes. This project is very important to longevity of the 100,000 people that live within 20 miles of the barrier islands.

k. South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22). Ms. Melanie Goodman, COE Project Manager, said that this project calls for construction of breakwaters (61,500 feet) to stop erosion. The erosion rate is 15 feet per year. This project is critical for protecting the community of Pecan Island. It also protects Highway 82; 1,900 acres of impounded, subsided marsh; 424 acres

shoreline; and creates 157 acres of marsh. The projects ranks third with a prioritization score of 66.4. The fully funded cost estimate is \$19.7 million.

Mr. Rick Hartman asked how many surveys were performed. Ms. Melanie Goodman said that transects and cross-sections were done during Phase 0. Mr. Hartman also asked if cost for the South White Lake and the shoreline protection demo were lumped together. Ms. Julie LeBlanc said that the cost for the demo is not included because construction approval is being requested. The cost for the demo is already set aside.

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

Mr. Randy Moertle, M.O. Miller Estates, said that the land is still drained by pumps. The benefited area is bigger than what is shown. A breach could put the shoreline of White Lake on Highway 82. This project will protect a coastal community. The project was ranked first in PPL 12 and is ranked seventh out of 41 projects in CWPPRA. It has the highest total acres benefited with 840. Over 100 letters of support were sent to Colonel Peter Rowan. Since Vermilion and Cameron Parish people have been left out of the LCA plan; CWPPRA is their only chance.

Mr. Martin Miller, Rellim Surface Management, said that the lake has risen with some of the locks that have been installed. Bear Lake was at one time a closed lake. Pumping started again two years ago because some of the gravity drainage areas are clogged up.

Mr. M.O. Miller, one owner of the M.O. Miller Estate, gave his support for the project.

Mr. Sherrill Segrera, Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory Committee, said that there has been a problem with flooding at Pecan Island over the years and asked the Technical Committee to highly consider authorizing this project.

Mr. Brian Veazey (spelling), Pecan Island landowner, said that the levees could breach and flood overnight if the right conditions occur. This could affect hurricane evacuation routes.

Mr. Judge Edwards, President of Vermilion Corporation, said that this project takes priority to the other project in the area, Freshwater Bayou, considering that the community of Pecan Island, the infrastructure of Highway 82, and certain oil and gas facilities are at stake.

I. Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvements Demonstration (LA-06). Ms. Melanie Goodman said that the purpose of this demonstration is to improve cost effectiveness and feasibility of shoreline protection projects by applying a sand foundation beneath rock dikes to be constructed in coastal Louisiana. The host project is the South White Lake project because of the poor soils in the area and the high wind and strong wave environment. The fully funded cost estimate is \$1.054 million.

Mr. Darryl Clark asked what would happen to the demonstration project if the South White Lake Shoreline Protection project were not approved. Ms. Melanie Goodman said that the options are to either wait until South White Lake gets approved or find another host project. Additional money would be required to redesign the demonstration to fit another project.

Mr. John Saia opened the floor for comments from the public. There were no public comments made.

Prior to voting, Ms. Julie LeBlanc announced an available Federal balance of \$49.8 million. Mr. Rick Hartman said that the two most expensive projects exceed \$49 million. Mr. Hartman stated that the projects that have agency support, those that probably have the support of four or more agencies, will probably get funded. Mr. Hartman added that if we were to select a project that cost \$30 million, he would not object to jumping down 2 or 3 projects to get a project that fits into the budget. However, he would object to reach down to the bottom of the list to fund a project just because we have money still available.

Voting Results

Ms. Julie LeBlanc presented the results from agency voting. Projects were ranked first by consensus of agencies (“yes” vote) and then by weighted score.

1. South White Lake Shoreline Protection and Shoreline Protection Foundation Improvements Demonstration (6 “yes” votes, weighted score of 53)
2. Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phases 1 and 2 – CU 5 (6 “yes” votes, weighted score of 52)
3. Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection (5 “yes” votes, weighted score of 48)
4. Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (5 “yes” votes, weighted score of 42)
5. North Lake Mechant – CU 2 (3 “yes” votes, weighted score of 45)
6. Grand Lake Shoreline Protection (3 “yes” votes, weighted score of 36)
7. GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne (3 “yes” votes, weighted score of 30)
8. South Lake DeCade – CU1 (2 “yes” votes, weighted score of 29)
9. Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization – Belle Isle Bayou to Lock (2 “yes” votes, weighted score of 28)
10. Dedicated Dredging on the Barataria Basin Landbridge (1 “yes” vote, weighted score of 17)
11. Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phase 3 – CU5 (0 “yes” votes, weighted score of 16)

Ms. LeBlanc said that the top four projects, which totals to \$27.5 million Federal, would fit within available funding. If the fifth project were to be recommended, then there will be a negative balance of \$5.2 million Federal. Mr. Darryl Clark said that FWS is willing to reexamine the North Lake Mechant and Highway 82 projects to see if the costs could be reduced. The Technical Committee could also reconsider the \$9 million set-aside for PPL14 Phase I. Ms. Julie LeBlanc noted that the Phase I cost would have to be reduced to \$3 million to be in a position to fund the North Lake Mechant project. Mr. Britt Paul said that it was not wise to do this. Mr. Gerry Duszynski agreed and added that Phase I projects should be sufficiently funded and not limited to 30%.

Mr. Darryl Clark recommended reviewing the North Lake Mechant project to see if the cost could be reduced so that the first five projects come within the funding available. Mr. Britt Paul said that since the 95 percent design review has been completed this may be a difficult task.

Ms. Martha Segura said that the project team could look at reducing the size and cost. The current estimate includes a 15 percent contingency; there is large contingency for unit cost for dredging. She is willing to make changes to the cost estimate over the next few weeks.

Mr. Rick Hartman said that the Technical Committee cannot over-program funds. He wants to recommend the first four projects to the Task Force and let FWS see what they can do to North Lake Mechant or consider the other two that received support of three or more agencies.

Mr. Britt Paul stated that another option includes jumping down to the next project as the committee laid-out prior to voting. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that the committees should let FWS look at their project and see if they can reduce the cost. If they cannot, they the Task Force could probably move down and either fund Grand Lake or re-vote Grand Lake versus GIWW. Mr. John Saia agreed that the Technical Committee could recommend the first four and then leave the other three (North Lake Mechant, Grand Lake, and GIWW) for the Task Force to decide. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that this should only be done if FWS cannot reduce the cost on the North Lake Mechant project to fit within the available funds.

Ms. Cynthia Duet asked if there was problem with leaving money remaining for the next year. Mr. Darryl Clark said that could be done but there are a number of good projects on the list and it would be a crime to leave \$23 million on the table. Mr. Rick Hartman and Mr. Britt Paul agreed. The Task Force can make the decision on whether or not the money is spent or left in reserve.

DECISION: Mr. Rick Hartman made a motion to select the first four projects for construction approval/Phase II funding approval (South White Lake SP/SP Foundation Improvements Demo; Barataria Basin Landbridge, Ph 1&2, CU5; Raccoon Island SP, and Freshwater Introduction South of Hwy 82). Mr. Britt Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

10. Agenda Item 9. Announcement: PPL 14 Public Meetings (LeBlanc). Ms. Julie LeBlanc announced that public meetings would be held in November to present the results of the PPL14 six candidate projects and seven demonstration projects. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- November 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Vermilion Parish Police Jury Courthouse Bldg, Abbeville, LA
- November 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (DARM-A), New Orleans, LA

11. Agenda Item 10. Additional Agenda Items (Saia). There were no additional agenda items.

12. Agenda Item 11. Date of Upcoming Task Force Meeting (Saia). Mr. John Saia announced that the next Task Force meeting would be held October 13, 2004 at the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at 9:30 a.m.

13. Agenda Item 12. Proposed Dates of Future Program Meetings (LeBlanc). Ms. Julie LeBlanc announced several schedule changes for dates of future meetings. Meetings have been rescheduled for June and July next year. September and October meetings in 2005 have been moved to New Orleans.

14. The meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.