

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 16 April 2008 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

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

Mr. Darryl Clark, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Mr. Rick Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Mr. Thomas Holden, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (Corps) Chairman
Ms. Sharon Parrish, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Mr. Kirk Rhinehart, LA Department of Natural Resources (LDNR)

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. Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects (Goodman and Browning). *Ms. Gay Browning and Ms. Melanie Goodman will provide an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding in the Planning and Construction Programs.* Ms. Goodman stated that there is a current surplus of \$1,185,632 in the Planning Budget and \$7,860,765 available in the Construction Program.

3. Agenda Item 2. Report: Status of FEMA Claims (Goodman and Burkholder). *LDNR will provide a status on FEMA claims for damages to CWPPRA projects caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.* Ms. Goodman reported that there are two agenda items that include O&M funding increases for work associated with the 2005 hurricane damage repairs. LDNR has been actively involved in filing FEMA claims for these repairs and other CWPPRA projects. Ms. Goodman asked Mr. David Burkholder, LDNR, to provide an update on the FEMA claims.

Mr. Burkholder stated that LDNR has received about \$158,000 from FEMA to repair damages caused by Hurricane Katrina for two projects. LDNR has also received over \$8 million to make repairs to nine projects damaged by Hurricane Rita. The majority of the damages were in the Cameron-Creole Maintenance Project.

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

Mr. Hartman recommended that the Technical Committee accept the report without requiring individual discussion of each project.

Mr. Paul asked if there were any outstanding claims with FEMA and Mr. Burkholder explained that the Cameron-Creole Maintenance Project levee repair claim is still pending FEMA review.

Mr. Clark complimented LDNR for the progress made and repeated Mr. Paul's question and asked if there were any more outstanding claims with FEMA for Katrina damages. Mr.

Burkholder explained that claims were filed for the Barrier Island Projects from Timbalier to Whiskey Island, but they were rejected by FEMA on the basis of lack of funds for continued maintenance of the projects.

4. Agenda Item 3. Report: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and LDNR Request for Task Force Fax Vote to Increase the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Budget for the PPL 3 - Lake Chapeau Hydrologic Restoration and Marsh Creation Project (TE-26) (Goodman and Sweeney). *The Technical Committee voted by email to recommend Task Force approval of a request by NOAA Fisheries and LDNR to increase the O&M budget for the PPL 3 -Lake Chapeau Hydrologic Restoration and Marsh Creation Project (TE-26) by \$326,764 to repair breaches to a hydrologic structure that resulted from hurricane damage. The Task Force approved the request by Fax vote.* Ms. Goodman stated that the request was approved by Task Force fax vote on April 15, 2008.

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

Mr. Hartman commented that LDNR has secured all permits and the project is ready to start.

5. Agenda Item 4. Decision: Technical Committee Selection of Ten (10) Candidate Projects and up to Three (3) Demonstration Projects to Evaluate for PPL18 (Goodman and Roy). *The Technical Committee will consider preliminary costs & benefits of the Priority Project List 18 (PPL 18) Project and Demonstration Project Nominees. The Technical Committee will select 10 projects and up to 3 demonstration projects as PPL 18 candidates for Phase 0 analysis.* Mr. Holden explained that Ms. Goodman would provide an overview of the voting procedure and Mr. Kevin Roy, FWS, would review the nominee and demonstration projects. The public would have the opportunity for questions and comments before the Technical Committee votes.

Mr. Rhinehart explained the state's strategy in voting and project ranking. Through the development of the State's Master Plan and Annual Plan, many Urgent Early Action Items have been identified as priorities where the state wants to focus its expenditure of funds. The State believes these action items fit in with the Master Plan and the CWPPRA mission. The state will prioritize its vote on projects that best fulfill the combined objectives of all plans providing both restoration and protection.

Ms. Goodman described the voting process. Each agency will cast 10 weighted votes, with a weighted score of 10 assigned to the agency's highest project. Each agency will cast three weighted votes for the demonstration projects, with a weighted score of three given to the agency's highest priority. The projects will be ranked first by the number of agency votes received and then by the weighted score. Ten of the highest ranked nominee projects and three of the highest ranked demonstration projects will be selected.

Mr. Roy presented a summary of the 20 project nominees.

A. Region 1 – Pontchartrain Basin

i. Parish-Line Canal Freshwater and Sediment Delivery Project. Project features include 380 acres of marsh creation, installation of a plug where the canal meets Lake Pontchartrain, and

forced drainage of storm water from the pump station into the wetlands. The project would benefit 436 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is between \$30 and \$35 million.

ii. Bayou Bienvenue Marsh Creation Project. Project features include filling open water areas with sediment from the Mississippi River or Lake Pontchartrain, restoration of a ridge along Old Bayou Bienvenue, and routing treated wastewater into the wetlands to provide marsh nourishment. Bald cypress and tupelo gum trees would be planted in an effort to restore the swamp in this area. The project would benefit 440 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$30 to \$35 million.

B. Region 2 – Mississippi River Delta Basin

i. Pass a Loutre Restoration Project. The main project feature includes dredging a 300 foot wide by 30 foot deep channel in Pass a Loutre to reopen the channel and restore freshwater sediment into the area. Dredged material would be used to create 587 acres of marsh. In addition, 12 crevasses would be built along Southeast Pass. The project would benefit 1,305 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$25 to \$30 million.

C. Region 2 – Breton Sound Basin

i. Bertrandville Siphon Project. The project includes construction of a siphon along the Mississippi River to divert 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into the wetlands and outfall management. The project would benefit 563 net acres. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$15 to \$20 million.

ii. Breton Marsh Restoration Project. Project features include construction of a landbridge from Bayou Terre aux Boeuf to the River au Chien, creation of 669 acres of marsh, and construction of 52,000 linear feet (lf) of terraces. The project would benefit 496 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$35 to \$40 million.

iii. Baptiste Collete Bayou Crevasses Project. Project features include construction of five crevasses to deliver freshwater and sediment into receiving areas. The project would benefit 517 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is less than \$5 million.

D. Region 2 – Barataria Basin

i. Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project. This project includes construction of a beach dune and marsh platform to create 380 acres of barrier headlands. The project would benefit 237 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$35 to \$40 million.

ii. Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project. Project features include three canal closures in the Bayou L'Ours Ridge, 152 acres of marsh creation, and dredging and pumping sediment from Little Lake. The project would benefit 160 net acres over the project's 20-year life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$20 to \$25 million.

iii. Bayou Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration Project. This project would use sediment from the Mississippi River to reconstruct a ridge along Bayou Grand Liard and create a 480 acre marsh platform. The project would benefit 263 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$30 to \$35 million.

E. Region 3 – Terrebonne Basin

i. Terrebonne Bay Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project. This project includes 225 acres of marsh creation and shoreline protection along the northern side of Terrebonne Bay. The project would benefit 251 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$25 to \$30 million.

ii. Lake Boudreaux-Lake Quitman Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. The intent of this project is to prevent the coalescence of Lake Boudreaux and Lake Quitman through 19,600 lf of shoreline protection and 300 acres of marsh creation. The project would benefit 172 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$25 to 30 million.

iii. Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement Project. The primary feature of this project includes the installation of a structure in Grand Pass to restrict the channel from a 300 foot wide by 40 foot deep channel to a 150 foot wide by 15 foot deep opening to moderate salinities in the area. The project also includes replacement of a structure in the canal on the Mauvais Bois Ridge, maintenance dredging at the mouth of Miner's Canal, and marsh creation using dredged material. The project would benefit 507 net acres over the project's 20-year life at a fully-funded cost of \$20 to \$25 million.

F. Region 3 – Atchafalaya Basin

i. Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection Project. This project includes 15,750 lf of shoreline protection to address an erosion rate of 13.5 feet/year along Point Chevreuil. This project would tie-in with the Bayou Salle Shoreline Protection Project and there is an approved Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) project to protect 4,000 lf around the point. The project would benefit 140 net acres over the 20-year project life at a fully-funded cost of \$15 to \$20 million.

G. Region 3 – Teche-Vermilion Basin

i. Northwest Vermilion Bay Vegetative Planting and Maintenance Project. This project would address shoreline erosion rates of 8 feet/year in Little Vermilion Bay and Vermilion Bay. Approximately 30,000 lf of shoreline would be planted with vegetation. The project also includes an intensive monitoring and maintenance program to replant areas that did not survive. The project would benefit 55 net acres over the 20-year project life at a fully-funded cost of less than \$5 million.

ii. Marone Point Shoreline Protection Project. This project addresses a 17.5 feet/year erosion rate through 26,000 lf of shoreline protection. The project completes the shoreline protection that was originally proposed by the Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration Project (TV-04). The project would benefit 209 net acres over the 20-year project life at a fully-funded cost of \$15 to \$20 million.

H. Region 4 – Calcasieu-Sabine Basin

i. Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction Project. This project includes the installation of 48-inch flap-gated culverts at three locations along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) to divert approximately 250 cfs of freshwater from the GIWW into the Cameron-Creole watershed, shoreline protection, terracing, and vegetative plantings. The project would benefit 442 net acres over the 20-year project life at a fully-funded cost of \$15 to \$20 million.

ii. Black Bayou Terraces Project. This project includes approximately 261,000 lf of terraces. The intent is to reduce wave fetch and turbidity in the area. The project would benefit 275 net acres over the 20-year project life at a fully-funded cost of \$15 to \$20 million.

iii. East Cove Marsh Creation Project. This project includes the beneficial use of dredge material from the Calcasieu Ship Channel to create 604 acres of marsh. The project would benefit 509 acres over the 20-year project life at a fully-funded cost of \$15 to \$20 million.

I. Region 4 – Mermentau Basin

i. Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation Project. Project features include 376 acres of marsh creation and beneficial use of dredge material from either Freshwater Bayou Canal or the Gulf. The project would benefit 375 net acres over the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$15 to \$20 million.

ii. Terracing at Dyson's Ditch Project. This project is located south of Pecan Island and includes the construction of approximately 200,000 lf of terraces. The intent is to reduce the turbidity and wave fetch by protecting the existing marsh. The project would benefit 197 net acres over the project's 20-year life. The fully-funded cost estimate is \$10 to \$15 million.

Mr. Roy also presented a summary of the six demonstration project nominees.

A. EcoSystems Wave Attenuator Demo Project. This demonstration project would test the performance of the EcoSystem Wave Attenuator in preventing shoreline erosion.

B. Benefits of Limited Design/Unconfined Beach Fill for Restoration of Louisiana Barrier Islands Demo Project. The intent of this project is to allow better quantification of the benefits associated with using unconfined fill for barrier island construction or beach nourishment. The sediment would be marked with a dye tracer and the fate of the sediment would be monitored over time.

C. Submersible Concrete Barge Breakwater for South Lafourche Parish, LA Demo Project. This demonstration project would test the application of submersible concrete barges as foreshore breakwaters. The barges would be used to reduce wave energy and reduce tidal surge during storms.

D. Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demo Project. The intent of this demonstration project is to test different techniques, such as HESCO baskets and the Viper-Wall system, in shoreline protection.

E. BioRock Reef Demo Project. This demonstration project would serve as an oyster reef and provide shoreline protection. This structure consists of a metal frame. An electric current would be applied to the structure to encourage calcium carbonate attachment in an effort to attract oyster spat to grow a living reef.

F. Bayou Backer Demo Project. This demonstration project would use a bio-degradable corn oil-based plastic product as a substitute for vegetative plantings. This demo would reduce wave energy, capture sediment, and stabilize the shoreline.

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

Mr. Clark asked for more information on Elmer's Island from Mr. Hartman. Mr. Hartman said that discussions between the Corps and agencies with CWPPRA projects also in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) plan are being conducted to determine whether or not WRDA precludes CWPPRA. Attorneys are also looking at the issues. Mr. Hartman's stance on the Elmer's Island project is that while WRDA authorized the project and has approximately \$20 million for engineering and design (E&D), they do not have construction funds. Elmer's Island plays a critical role in Louisiana's coastal zone because of the history of citizen use, and the protection it provides for LA 1. Mr. Hartman expressed a lack of trust in Congress to fund the construction of the project. If Elmer's Island is ranked as a top 10 project, Mr. Hartman would like to have attorneys look at the specific versus general authorizations and determine if the project proceeds through WRDA or CWPPRA. Ideally, the lawyers would provide their opinion by next January before projects are voted for E&D. If the lawyers deem that it is appropriate for the project to go forward to E&D through CWPPRA and construction is not funded under WRDA, then the project could be dropped from CWPPRA.

Mr. Constance stated that the Corps does not have an opinion on this subject. The Corps only asked office of counsel about the specific language that guides the determination of the appropriateness of using CWPPRA and LCA funds for the same project. Legal determination has not been completed. He will report on the details as soon as they become available.

Mr. Paul asked if the Corps was actively designing the project. Mr. Constance replied that the Corps had been working with the State and the Barataria Basin and will submit a report shortly. Elmer's Island is one of the five WRDA priority projects that will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for approval.

Mr. Hartman questioned the CWPPRA Elmer's Island Project being considered the same as or a sub-set to the WRDA project. There has been discussion that it would be inappropriate for CWPPRA to cover the E&D and then pass the project off to LCA for construction. Mr. Hartman believes the project can be designed for less money through CWPPRA than what was authorized under WRDA. The intention is that engineering, design, and construction would be funded through CWPPRA.

Mr. Rhinehart stated that dual authorization would not preclude work under one authority. Other projects such as Hope Canal and Myrtle Grove have set the precedence. The State feels it is perfectly viable to go through CWPPRA for this project.

Ms. Goodman reported that Mr. Ed Creef would like to speak to the Technical Committee regarding the details and implications of the Calcasieu River and Pass Project's Dredge Material Management Plan. Mr. Creef explained that a dredge material placement plan would be developed for the next 20 years. Existing upland confined disposal areas are nearing capacity, so additional disposal areas have been identified, which include new beneficial use marsh restoration disposal areas. The East Cove Project has two disposal sites at the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Once the Dredge Material Management Plan is approved and accepted with the recommended plan, the two sites associated with East Cove will become part of the Federal Standard for the Calcasieu River Project.

Mr. Hartman commended the Corps on redefining the Federal Standards in that area.

Ms. Goodman asked if the increased cost associated with meeting the Federal Standards of beneficial use placement of dredge materials would exceed the O&M budget. Mr. Creef answered that current Federal Standards have upland confined disposal areas adjacent to the channel, whereas the recommended plan is to place the dredged material up to five miles from the navigation channel. This would require an increase in O&M costs, of which the project sponsor is aware. Without the additional beneficial use disposal areas, the channel will not be maintained to its authorized dimensions. The reestablishment of the Federal Standard would require a reformulation of the cost of meeting the Federal Standard for that project.

Mr. Holden redirected the attention of the Technical Committee to the question of dual authority for projects. Mr. Hartman stated that if the CWPPRA agencies think that a project under dual authority has merits, the project should be considered with the other nominee projects and legal issues would be addressed later if the project is selected for the PPL. Mr. Hartman added that a motion would not be needed if the project remains with the 20 projects for consideration today. Mr. Clark agreed that no motion was necessary.

Public Comments

Mr. Holden opened the floor to public comments on the nominee projects for Region One.

Mr. Oneil Malbrough, Shaw Group, representing Jefferson Parish, presented letters from the Town of Grand Isle and Grand Isle Independent Levee District in support of the Elmer's Island Project. This project would address a critical need and needs to be done as quickly as possible.

Mr. Sean Duffy, President and CEO of Gulf States Maritime Association, requested that all projects be examined to consider the impact of induced shoaling on navigation channels. The Maritime Industry will be requesting supplemental funds from Congress to support the cost to maintain the navigability of rivers. The Maritime Industry wants to support coastal restoration and beneficial use, but has grave concerns for projects that induce shoaling in navigation channels. Mr. Duffy expressed frustration because he hears agency members say they understand the Maritime Industry's concerns, yet many of the proposed projects have the potential to induce shoaling. Mr. Duffy would like to see cooperation from the Corps in the protection of these channels. Mr. Clark responded with acknowledgement of his letter and said

that the solution to the situation of induced shoaling would be more funds. Mr. Clark added that he appreciates Mr. Duffy's involvement with the Beneficial Use Committee and that the Maritime Industry is looking for ways to beneficially use dredge material along Southwest Pass. Mr. Clark stated that CWPPRA wants to work together with the Maritime Industry. This year, out of the 20 nominee projects, there is one siphon. The Bertandville Siphon would remove material at a rate of 1,000 cfs, which should not significantly affect a river that flows at a rate of one million cfs. Diversions are needed to restore Louisiana. Mr. Hartman added that there is not much that CWPPRA can do. There are limited funds and it is a policy level decision. CWPPRA needs the Maritime Industry to get involved to help resolve the issues by lobbying Congress. Mr. Holden also acknowledged Mr. Duffy's letter and concerns and will keep his requests under advisement. Mr. Holden confirmed that the Mississippi River Commission is also aware of Mr. Duffy's concerns. Mr. Duffy concluded that he understands the lack of funds needed for all projects, but more money does need to be directed to dredging projects in order to facilitate navigation.

Ms. Elizabeth Mossop, Director of the LSU School of Landscape Architecture, expressed support for the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project. This project has the potential to demonstrate infrastructure and ecological restoration as well as community restoration and urban renewal.

Ms. Pam Dashiell, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association and Lower Ninth Ward Sustainability Center, expressed support for the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project. Ms. Dashiell presented a letter from Ms. Cynthia Willard-Lewis, City Councilman, also in support of the project's importance to the community.

Mr. Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club, stated his belief that the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project is an innovative idea to restore wetlands within the New Orleans' city limits. He would like to create an educational center near the bayou and use it to teach elementary school students about wetland restoration. This project also has ecotourism possibilities.

Reverend Joseph Recasner, representing the Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School for Science and Technology and speaking on behalf of Principal Doris Hicks, supports the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project in relation to restoring community access to the bayou that was breached by the MRGO.

Ms. Beth Galante, Director of Global Green New Orleans, supports the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project. This project is a global educational opportunity. She hopes that the following issues are addressed as the project proceeds: resolution of wetland ownership, right-of-way issues with pipelines, project funding, and lobbying of government officials to make sure the project comes to pass.

Mr. Jacques Morial, Colorado University-Denver Research Facilitator, stated that the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project has technical merit and includes restoration of an urban cypress forest with educational opportunities.

Mr. John Koeferl, resident of the Lower Ninth Ward and President of CAWIC, supports the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project.

Mr. Morgan Elzey, Common Ground Relief, supports the creation of the cypress triangle and redevelopment of Bayou Bienvenue and expressed disappointment for the lack of publicity about the meeting. He asked: why areas in the bayou would be turned into open forest instead of wetlands, what will be done about the salinity from the MRGO, and what will be the sand source. Mr. Elzey added his support for closing the MRGO. Mr. Holden and Ms. Goodman responded and offered assistance for future contacts.

Mr. Rhinehart commented on the concerns about landownership within the area of the Bayou Bienvenue Project. He explained that LDNR is currently working to resolve property ownership issues. Mr. Rhinehart also commented on concerns about upland forest creation by the project. To clarify, Mr. Rhinehart pointed out that the project will create a cypress swamp; it is not intended to be an upland forest but a wetland with emergent marsh.

Mr. Elzey voiced concern about salinity in Bayou Bienvenue and how that would affect vegetative development. Mr. Hartman explained that once a project is selected, it would go to the Environmental and Engineering Workgroups to address all issues.

Ms. Vicki Duffour, speaking on behalf of Jefferson Parish, Mr. Mark Schexnayder, and the East Jefferson Levee District, supports the Parish-Line Canal Freshwater and Sediment Delivery Project. The City of Kenner would be responsible for compliance monitoring of the sewerage diversion and long-term maintenance of the facility and Jefferson Parish would be responsible for storm water distribution.

Ms. Jeanell Holmes, resident of Lower Ninth Ward, supports the Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project. The creation of a cypress urban forest would benefit and uplift the neighborhood.

Mr. Jason Smith, representing the Jefferson Parish Coastal Zone Management Program, supports the Parish-Line Canal Freshwater and Sediment Delivery Project for conservation merits and protection of the west side of Jefferson Parish and communities in St. Charles Parish.

Mr. David Grefrath, Common Ground Relief, expressed concern about erosion caused by oil and gas pipelines. He asked what the Corps was doing to partnership with other agencies to reduce the number of canals and stop filling existing canals. Mr. Hartman responded by stating that the Corps regulates new canals and works in cooperation with other agencies to minimize impacts. CWPPRA may look at the possibility of plugging and backfilling canals in the future as oil and gas fields are abandoned. Mr. Holden and Mr. Hartman offered to provide more information on this subject aside from this meeting.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management, supports the Parish-Line Canal Freshwater and Sediment Delivery Project because it is a good project that serves more than one parish.

Mr. Holden opened the floor to public comments on the nominee projects for Region Two.

Mr. James Harris, with the FWS representing Southeast LA Refuges, supports the Pass a Loutre Restoration Project. He stated that the project was on PPL17 and had received a high ranking but did not make the funding list because subjective standards were applied only to this project. It is his understanding that the state does not intend to support projects in the Mississippi River Delta. Also, the project was deemed not to be compatible with the State Master Plan or in the Urgent Early Action Plan. If the state rejects projects they do not intend to cost-share, then the purpose of CWPPRA objectively assessing and ranking projects across the state regardless of personal or agency preference becomes meaningless. Mr. Rhinehart responded that he did not want to address policy questions at this time and disagreed with Mr. Harris' statements. Mr. Rhinehart believes the CWPPRA program is a viable environment for prioritizing projects within the State Master Plan guidelines. Mr. Rhinehart offered to further discuss this with Mr. Harris.

Mr. Randy Moertle, Little Lake Land Company and General Agricultural Services, expressed support for the Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project. Mr. Moertle noted that the project is consistent with the State Master Plan and the Urgent Early Action List, has landowner support, and provides an east-west protection line of defense.

Mr. Nic Matherne, Director of the Department of Coastal Energy and Environment for Lafourche Parish, supports the Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project. This project would close gaps caused by pipeline canals, create marsh, help decrease salinity, and provide additional storm surge protection. The project has basin-wide support, is consistent with the State Master Plan, and is on the State's Urgent Early Action Plan. He presented resolutions from the Lafourche Parish Council and School Board in support of this project.

Ms. Pat Amedee, legal counsel for the Lafourche Parish School Board, the major public landowner within the Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project, addressed the major issues of landowner rights and access. Ms. Amedee reported that the Lafourche Parish School Board is committed to corroborating with neighboring landowners and supports the project.

Mr. Don Guillot, member of the King Family Landowner Group, supports the Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project. He pledged complete cooperation with the Corps. This project will not only benefit the landowners but also benefits Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

Mr. Oneil Malbrough, representing Jefferson Parish, supports the Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project. Mr. Malbrough stated that the project is critical to the protection of wetlands, Highway 1, and the community, all of which require urgent action.

Mr. P.J. Hahn, Director of Coastal Restoration in Plaquemines Parish, spoke in favor of the Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration Project, Baptiste Collete Bayou Crevasses Project, Bertrandville Siphon Project, Breton Marsh Restoration Project, and the Pass a Loutre Restoration Project.

Ms. Vicki Duffour, speaking on behalf of the Bayou Segnette Boaters Association, supports the Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project. She cited an economic study that found that approximately 50,000 people a year would visit the island. Ms. Duffour also referenced a website (www.elmersisland.org) that lists organizations that supports the State buying the island.

Mr. Jason Smith, Jefferson Parish Coastal Management Program, supports the Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project because it is critical as a first line of defense. The barrier islands are the only thing protecting Cheniere Caminada, Grand Isle, and Highway 1.

Ms. Albertine Kimble, Plaquemines Parish Government, supports the Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration, Pass a Loutre Restoration, Bertrandville Siphon, Breton Marsh Restoration, and Baptiste Collette Bayou Crevasses Projects.

Mr. Mel Landry, representing the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), supports all projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. These projects would restore the skeletal framework of the marshes and wetlands.

Mr. Christopher J. Areas, Sr., Jefferson Parish resident, supports the Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project.

Mr. Holden opened the floor to public comments on the nominee projects for Region Three.

Mr. Randy Moertle, representing Avery Island, Inc. and E.A. McIlhenny Co., supports the Northwest Vermilion Bay Vegetative Planting and Maintenance Project. Mr. Moertle stated that the realistic cost should be around \$1 million. This technique has been proven to reduce hurricane damage from storm surge.

Mr. W.P. Edwards III, Vermilion Parish Coastal Restoration Advisory Committee, supports the Northwest Vermilion Bay Vegetative Planting and Maintenance Project. The project would mostly be maintenance, since the majority of plantings are complete.

Mr. Paul Naquin, St. Mary Parish President, supports the Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection Project and Marone Point Shoreline Protection Project.

Ms. Leslie Suazo expressed support from the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee (in order of priority) for the Lake Boudreaux-Lake Quitman Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project, Terrebonne Bay Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project, and Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement Project.

Mr. Mel Landry, representing BTNEP, expressed support for all projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, especially the Lake Boudreaux-Lake Quitman Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project. This project would compliment a number of existing projects, provide protection to communities, and could possibly engage community participation.

Mr. Holden opened the floor to public comments on the nominee projects for Region Four.

Mr. Randy Moertle, representing M.O. Miller Estates, supports the Terracing at Dyson's Ditch Project. This is a synergistic project that completes the puzzle of existing and surrounding CWPPRA Projects.

Mr. Ted Joanen, a wildlife consultant, supports the Black Bayou Terraces Project as a marsh rebuilding effort that would follow the completion of CS-27 that has solved the saltwater intrusion problem from the GIWW. The benefits of this project would be the reestablishment of a functional wetland habitat resulting in an increase in aquatic production, emergent plant production, alligator habitat, fishery potential, and organic matter. The habitat could once again be used for traditional land use, trapping, fishing, and hunting. Mr. Joanen presented the Technical Committee with a letter from Ms. Tina Horn, Parish Administrator for the Cameron Parish Police Jury, in support of this project.

Mr. Elmer Conner, a landowner within the Black Bayou Terraces Project, stated that marsh restoration is needed for the redevelopment of marshland to support fish and wildlife habitats.

Mr. Sherrill Sagrera, representing the Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory, expressed support for the Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation Project and Terracing at Dyson's Ditch Project. Without attention to the dramatic marsh deterioration in this area, the integrity of the Mermentau Basin would be compromised.

Ms. Maura Wood, National Wildlife Federation, works locally with the Environmental Defense Fund and National Audubon Society to support projects with bold, large-scale restoration. She believes the selection process must direct funds to the most urgent and effective projects. Ms. Wood is encouraged by the state referring to the State Master Plan and Urgent Early Action Plan for selection guidance. The selection process needs to include a consideration of how the individual projects fit into the big picture of protection and restoration and how the projects coordinate with past, current, and future CWPPRA projects.

Mr. W.P. Edwards, III represented Vermilion Corporation, a landowner within the Dyson's Ditch Terracing Project. Mr. Edwards expressed support for this synergistic project that coordinates with three associated CWPPRA projects. Vermillion Corporation is also a landowner within the Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation Project, which is a more urgent project.

Mr. Holden opened the floor to public comments on the Demonstration Projects.

Dr. Jenneke Visser, LSU Professor, supports the Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project because of the possibility to evaluate more than one alternative to shoreline protection and the use adaptive management in applications.

Mr. Holden announced the conclusion of the public comment period and reopened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman provided information concerning the Baptiste Collette Bayou Crevasses Project. If the project does not make the top 10 list, there is another NMFS sponsored CWPPRA Project

that has a \$3 million budget that could potentially target the crevasses identified in the Baptiste Collette Bayou Crevasses Project.

Voting Results

Mr. Holden presented the results from the agency voting. The top projects are listed below in order by the number of agency votes with the weighted score shown in parentheses.

The top 10 candidate projects were:

1. Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction Project- 5 agency votes (35)
2. Grand Liard marsh and Ridge Restoration Project- 5 agency votes (31)
3. Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project- 5 agency votes (29)
4. Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project- 5 agency votes (20)
5. Bertrandville Siphon Project- 4 agency votes (37)
6. Terrebonne Bay Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project- 4 agency votes (19)
7. Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement Project- 4 agency votes (14)
8. Pass a Loutre Restoration Project- 3 agency votes (23)
9. Northwest Vermillion Bay Vegetative Planting and Maintenance Project- 3 agency votes (17)
10. Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation Project- 3 agency votes (16)

The top three candidate demonstration projects were:

1. Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demo Project- 5 agency votes (9)
2. EcoSystems Wave Attenuator Demo Project- 4 agency votes (9)
3. Benefits of Limited Design/Unconfined Beach Fill for Restoration of Louisiana Barrier Islands Demo Project- 3 agency votes (9)

DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved to accept the top ten projects as PPL 18 candidate projects (Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction Project, Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration Project, Elmer's Island Headland Restoration Project, Bayou Bienvenue Restoration Project, Bertrandville Siphon Project, Terrebonne Bay Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project, Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement Project, Pass a Loutre Restoration Project, Northwest Vermillion Bay Vegetative Planting and Maintenance Project, Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation Project). Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed. The results of the Technical Committee decision will be reported to the Task Force.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved to accept the top three demonstration projects as PPL 18 candidate demonstration projects (Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demo Project, EcoSystems Wave Attenuator Demo Project, Benefits of Limited Design/Unconfined Beach Fill for Restoration of Louisiana Barrier Islands Demo Project). Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed. The results of the Technical Committee decision will be reported to the Task Force.

Mr. Holden explained that there was a request to move Agenda Item 8 up on the schedule to accommodate the need for the presenter to leave the meeting early. Mr. Holden addressed a request to postpone Agenda Item 11: River Diversions and Induced Shoaling Discussion. In the

interest of time, the Technical Committee agreed to table that item until the next Technical Committee meeting.

6. Agenda Item 8: Vote/Recommendation: NRCS/LDNR Request for Approval to Change Project Scope and Begin Construction of the PPL 6 - Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan, Increment 1 (TE-34) (Goodman and Paul). *The NRCS and LDNR request that the Technical Committee make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve: a.) a change in project scope and b) construction of the PPL 6 - Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan, Increment 1 (TE-34) project.* Ms. Goodman introduced the NRCS/LDNR request for a change in project scope and construction approval for the Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan. Ms. Goodman offered that Mr. Paul may have additional comments.

Mr. Paul suggested that Mr. Quin Kinler was available for to brief the Technical Committee on the project changes. Mr. Hartman stated that he would not need a briefing, but wondered if there was a possibility to include a structure in Liner's Canal as a project feature. Mr. Paul responded that the project is ready to move forward to construction as it is. Mr. Clark commended LDNR and NRCS for moving the project to construction within the original budget.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved to approve the request to change the project scope and the request to advertise for the project construction contract schedule to begin in August 2008. Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

7. Agenda Item 5: Vote/Recommendation: USFWS and LDNR Request for Deauthorization of the Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration Project (TE-10) (Goodman, Clark, and Paille). *The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and LDNR requested to begin the deauthorization process for the PPL 5 - Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration project, in accordance with CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Recent hydrologic modeling results predict that the project would cause salinity increases in the project area relative to no action.* Ms. Goodman reviewed that the original goal of the project was to halt water exchange through Bayou Pointe Au Chein to the west by installing a water control structure. Also water exchange with the Grand Bayou Watershed was to be restored by installing new water control structures through the existing levee along the westside of the Grand Bayou Canal. USFWS and LDNR have indicated that the hydrologic modeling results predict that project implementation would cause salinity increases in the project area, which is the opposite of the project goals. As such, the project sponsors in coordination with the staff of the Pointe Au Chein Wildlife Management Area, have agreed to deauthorize the project and are requesting the Technical Committee to make a recommendation to the Task Force to initiate deauthorization procedures in accordance with the CWPPRA SOP.

DECISION: Mr. Clark moved to approve the request for deauthorization of the Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration Project (TE-10) and Mr. Hartman seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. Agenda Item 6: Vote/Recommendation: NOAA Fisheries and LDNR Request for Task Force Fax Vote to Increase Construction Budget on PPL 11 – Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass

Project (BA-35) (Goodman and Sweeney). The Technical Committee will consider a request by NOAA Fisheries and LDNR for a recommendation to the Task Force for Fax Vote approval of a Phase II, Increment I funding increase for the PPL 11 – Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Project (BA-35) by \$7,462,596 for construction bid overruns. Ms. Goodman reviewed that the NOAA Fisheries sponsored project was approved by the Task Force for Phase II, Increment I funding for \$26.9 million in February 2006. The Increment I cost estimate was based on surveys conducted prior to the 2005 hurricane season. Additional construction funds were requested and approved for \$6.26 million to cover anticipated post-storm construction cost increases. Updated surveys from 2007 indicated that the revised estimate was adequate to begin construction, however recent construction bids contain mobilization and dredging unit costs that exceed the revised cost estimate. The project scope cannot be reduced, so NOAA Fisheries is requesting that the Technical Committee recommends the Task Force approve by fax vote an additional Phase II, Increment I funding increase of \$7,462,596 for construction bid overruns.

Mr. Hartman explained that during bid openings the lowest bidder agreed to a 30-day extension of the bid. If the project were to be re-bid, higher figures would be expected. DNR and NOAA agreed that the best course of action would be to ask for additional funds to authorize the contractor to proceed with the work; otherwise the project would never get constructed.

Mr. Paul asked for the revised per acre cost-effectiveness figure. Ms. Rachel Sweeney, NOAA, responded that the project has not gone back to the Workgroups for an updated cost-effectiveness estimate. Ms. Sweeney stated that with the fully-funded cost of \$44 million, and with the net acres held constant, the revised cost-effectiveness would be \$167,938 per acre, as compared to the original cost effectiveness of \$115,000 per acre. Ms. Sweeney noted that costs have gone up about 146%. Mr. Hartman noted that the shoreline is breached in several places and if another year goes by, it may be gone.

DECISION: Mr. Rhinehart made the motion to approve the request for the Task Force Fax Vote to increase the Phase II, Increment I funding for the PPL 11- Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Project (BA-35), provided that an explanation and correction of the cost-effectiveness is included with the request. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

9. Agenda Item 7: Vote/Recommendation: USACE and LDNR Request for Additional Funding for the Marsh Island Hydrologic Restoration Project (TV-14) (Goodman, Hicks, Burkholder). The Technical Committee will consider a request by the Corps and LDNR for a project budget increase of \$722,179 for the PPL 6 - Marsh Island Hydrologic Restoration Project, including:

a.) \$24,698.48 to cover first costs through construction. Final construction costs exceeded the 125% estimate by \$418,073. After accounting for remaining contingencies and excess funds in the E&D and Lands categories, there is a remaining first cost shortfall of \$24,698.48.

b.) \$697,481 to cover the estimated remaining project life O&M Budget Increase, including current incremental funding request of \$59,771. The additional O&M funding increase is due to the increased costs due to 2005 hurricanes. Although, this is a non-cash flow project, there is an immediate incremental funding request of \$59,771 to fully fund the estimated cost of O&M and hurricane damage repairs. The requested incremental funds would be added

to available remaining O&M budget to fully fund the work during FY 08. These repairs include \$153,176 for Hurricane Rita damages, which are expected to be reimbursed by FEMA on an actual cost basis. The remaining project life O&M budget increase request is \$637,710, which includes a scheduled maintenance event in 2015. Ms. Goodman stated that the request for funds would be combined with O&M remaining funds that were planned to be used for the life of the project through 2021. The \$637,710 balance of the total project budget increase request for the remaining project life of scheduled O&M is not being requested at this time. Rather, the balance is being added to the budget for future use. LDNR has indicated that FEMA will reimburse \$153,176 for the hurricane damage repairs upon completion.

Mr. Bill Hicks, Corps, explained that when reviewing October 25, 2001 meeting minutes, he discovered that an increase in construction costs was approved by the Task Force for \$250,000. As a result, there is a surplus in construction funds of approximately \$167,000. Therefore, no request for additional funds will be submitted for first costs overruns. Item 7A should be removed from the agenda. If Agenda Item 7B is approved, Mr. Hicks asked that those funds be applied to additional funding requests.

Ms. Goodman confirmed that Agenda Item 7 is a two-part request, in which part of the funds are being requested to cover what were thought to be construction overruns. However, those funds were previously approved in 2001, but the Corps was not aware of it until now. Agenda Item 7A can be ignored. Ms. Goodman added that the request is to transfer those surplus funds from the construction category to the O&M category, which would eliminate the need for an incremental increase today.

The Technical Committee members discussed the appropriateness of a non cash flow project transferring excess construction funds to the O&M budget. Mr. Clark recommended the transfer of \$59,771 from excess construction funds to fully fund the estimated cost of O&M, but the return of remaining excess funds to the CWPPRA program. Mr. Hartman contended that under the SOP all additional funds should be returned to the program. Mr. Burkholder replied that his understanding of the SOP is that when PPL 1 through 8 projects run out of O&M money, the project is converted to a cash flow project. The project should then requests for a rolling three-year increment of funding, but also revisit the rest of the project life and provide a figure to Ms. Browning so that she can use as a placeholder for future maintenance. Mr. Clark agreed.

Mr. Clark asked if the FEMA money has been approved and where was that money in the budget? Mr. Burkholder responded that the FEMA money is included in the construction funds for the 3-year period. The \$587,000 from 2008 includes the FEMA repairs of \$153,176. Mr. Clark asked if there were no FEMA funding, would the Corps be requesting more than \$59,771? Mr. Burkholder responded that the FEMA funding has been obligated, but does not need to be added to the O&M budget. Mr. Hicks added that the Corps borrowed money from the 2017 event. When FEMA pays the Corps, the funds will be returned. Mr. Clark confirmed Mr. Burkholder's stance that there is no need to borrow against the 2017 funds; the FEMA funds have already been approved.

Mr. Rhinehart reminded the Technical Committee that the Corps' concern was that routine O&M work and FEMA damage repairs were included in one bid package. Ideally, O&M money could

cover the entire amount to pay the contractor. When LDNR is reimbursed, the money would be returned to CWPPRA. Mr. Hartman asked if CWPPRA or the Corps can accept money from FEMA. Mr. Burkholder explained that FEMA would give money to the State, who reimburses LDNR, and LDNR would make the accounting adjustment with the Corps. Ms. Goodman stated that this process has been done previously.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman motioned to approve the transfer of up to \$59,771 from leftover construction funds to the O&M budget, provided that the remainder of the construction funds is returned to the CWPPRA Program. Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

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

Mr. Hicks reminded the committee of the \$697,481 estimated O&M budget increase for the remainder of the project. Mr. Clark acknowledged that request and explained to Mr. Hicks that it would be designated as an estimate for informational purposes and should be requested in the next 3-year incremental O&M budget request.

Mr. Hartman asked if a motion needs to be made to increase the budget of the project. Mr. Paul responded that no motion is necessary. Mr. Hartman felt that the O&M budget for the entire 20-year life of the project needs to be changed even though more funds are not being requested. Ms. Browning responded that she thought an increase in the budget for non-cash flow projects is set aside as a placeholder. Ms. Goodman stated that she thought the Technical Committee was approving the budget now and will approve incremental funding when that is requested at a later date. Ms. Browning added that in the past total budgets have not been approved. Mr. Clark reminded that the total budget is provided for informational purposes only and can be held in the budget as a placeholder. When additional funds are requested in the future, the Technical Committee will look at the next increment for O&M.

Ms. Parrish asked if the approval of \$59,771 would cover all repair work. Ms. Goodman responded that there are O&M funds for the current O&M event and a 2017 future event. The 2017 funds and the remaining annual inspection funds will be combined into the current O&M event, which includes the FEMA work. The cost of the FEMA work will be reimbursed at a later date. The total budget increase for the life of the project is \$697,000. Mr. Hartman added that after this O&M event the construction dollars will be returned and the O&M budget should be changed. The 3-year cycle amount should be calculated and added as part of the annual request for O&M funds.

Ms. Goodman asked if the budget should be approved for the life of the project. Mr. Clark responded that the budget is not being approved, but can be used as a place-holder. Ms. Goodman agreed that the budget will be added to the books.

Mr. Holden noted that should the Technical Committee run into this issue in the future, the requests need to be simpler.

10. Agenda Item 9:Vote/Recommendation: NOAA/LDNR Request for Design Approval for the Riverine Mining/Scofield Island Project (BA-40) (Goodman and Sweeney). NOAA Fisheries and LDNR have completed a feasibility/ reconnaissance evaluation of the Riverine Mining/Scofield Island (BA-40) project. According to NOAA and LDNR, the report indicates that mining and transporting sand from the Mississippi River to the Plaquemines barrier shoreline is feasible, but that projected construction costs are in excess of that estimated at Phase I approval. The sponsors will brief the Technical Committee on project development to date and request a recommendation to the Task Force to proceed with design based on preliminary total project cost estimates, which exceed the approved estimate by more than 25%. Ms. Goodman reviewed the project request and introduced Ms. Sweeney to provide a presentation on the status of the project.

Prior to Ms. Sweeney's presentation, Mr. Hartman noted that the project was not yet at the 30 percent design level. The project is at a point where either more work needs to be performed to reach the 30 percent design level or the Technical Committee can recommend not continuing with the design. The project can be constructed under LCA or another program. Mr. Hartman would like to avoid spending funds unnecessarily.

Ms. Sweeney reminded the Technical Committee that the Riverine Mining/Scofield Project was authorized for Phase I in 2005 for over \$3 million. The purpose of the project was based on research that has been conducted to identify sand sources to support Barrier Island Restoration along the Barataria-Plaquemine shoreline. As sand sources were not found in the Gulf of Mexico, the project looked for sources of material from the river to specifically restore Scofield Island. A reconnaissance feasibility level assessment has been conducted for potential borrow areas, conveyance corridors, and issues associated with construction feasibility. A hydrodynamic model is being developed in coordination with the Corps and the District.

Ms. Sweeney reported that when this project was authorized for Phase I E&D, the estimated construction costs were between \$30 and \$35 million. The issue with the project is how to transport the sand resource in an efficient, technically feasible and cost effective way. Conveyance corridors, borrow areas, and offshore transportation routes were evaluated. Four conceptual routes have been developed. Land rights, infrastructure issues, technical constraints, and cost estimates were taken into account. Of the four routes, two were selected for the reconnaissance level work, and preliminary surveys were conducted. The preferred approach is to use the Empire Waterway. Ms. Sweeney reported that the conceptual design for the Empire Waterway portion of the route would be a floating pipeline with key holes for booster dredges.

NOAA and LDNR have coordinated with various groups on this project. Land rights are an important issue for this project as the landownership and development patterns in the protected area of the Mississippi River corridor are very intense. Consequently, Plaquemines Parish was consulted to identify a publicly owned property. Coordination with the Corps was needed to determine the requirements of various structures. Accommodating local navigation and use is also important, so NOAA and LDNR have met with Baybrook Fisheries, local crabbers, and oyster fishermen.

Two potential borrow areas were identified as MR-B and MR-E to serve as sand sources. Eight alternatives were developed to link the borrow areas to the corridors using Cutterhead or Hopper Dredge technology. Transport distance, booster pump requirements, and pump out locations were evaluated. Preliminary cost estimates range from \$39 million to over \$50 million, which is more than what the Task Force originally envisioned. While some alternatives are within the 125 percent, the predicted preferred alternative (number 7) is above 125 percent.

Ms. Sweeney added that it would be important to continue the intensive data acquisition and 2-D model development. Also, island designs should be continued. The recommended project might not be a project that fits into the CWPPRA program. There is some benefit in proceeding especially with the borrow area investigations and modeling, which could support any effort that involves dredging from the Mississippi River.

Mr. Clark asked if the preferred alternative was predicted 7. Ms. Sweeney responded that more work needs to be done to refine the alternative selection, but that the Empire Waterway Conveyance route will probably be the preferred alternative.

Mr. Hartman asked what items would need to be completed to get to the 30 percent design level. Ms. Sweeney replied that the 2-D model, detailed data acquisition, and detailed field survey would need to be completed. Almost \$500,000 has been spent and an additional \$1 million would be needed to complete the 30 percent design. That amount is within the current funding authorization.

Mr. Hartman said that the basic question is whether an additional \$1 million should be spent to get to the 30 percent design if the project probably would not be funded under CWPPRA.

Mr. Rhinehart said that the State strongly encourages proceeding the project to the 30 percent design. There is still a possibility that the project could be funded under CWPPRA.

Ms. Parrish asked for an acres benefitted value. Ms. Sweeney reported that 234 net acres would be benefitted, based on the design template of the Barrier Island Restoration Project as evaluated at base zero. The borrow sites have adequate capacity, so materials are not anticipated to be dredged to the 6 million cubic yard mark. Ms. Goodman confirmed that the cost estimate is for dredging the amount that's needed to meet the construction template.

Mr. Clark stated that this project is just about out of the CWPPRA realm. The CWPPRA program cannot sustain the anticipated costs, but he is willing to allow NOAA and LDNR to continue with the 30 percent design.

Ms. Sweeney agreed that there are benefits to continue the project because the issues of river mining and sediment conveyance can be applied to other projects.

Mr. Constance added that LCA was developed with the notion that all the barrier islands within the Barataria basin needed to be restored. While this specific project was deemed to have the potential to be analyzed and constructed under CWPPRA, there was always the possibility that LCA would be involved.

Mr. Paul believes the project should proceed with the 30 percent design and to decide later whether or not to fund the project for construction. Mr. Clark agreed that the project should proceed, but he is very wary about the projected costs.

DECISION: Mr. Clark made the motion to proceed with the 30 percent design for the Riverine Mining/Scofield Island Project (BA-40) provided that the Technical Committee reviews the project before it goes beyond 30 percent design. Mr. Hartman seconded, and the motion was approved by the Technical Committee.

11. Agenda Item 10: Discussion/Vote/Recommendation: Status of Unconstructed Projects (Goodman). The P&E Subcommittee will report on the status of unconstructed CWPPRA projects that have been experiencing project delays. Discussions will include the status on milestones and P&E recommendations to deauthorize or transfer the below listed projects:

- Projects Recommended for Deauthorization:
 1. Periodic Introduction of Sediment & Nutrients at Selected Diversion Sites Demo
 2. Weeks Bay MC/SP/Commercial Canal/FW Redirection
 3. Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration
- Projects to Transfer to the Louisiana Coastal Impact Assistance Program:
 1. East Grand Terre Island Restoration
 2. Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (Demo Sections)
- Projects to Transfer to the Louisiana Coastal Area Program:
 1. Delta Building Diversion at Myrtle Grove

The Technical Committee may discuss and make decisions on whether or not to recommend to the Task Force specific directions to take on the projects recommended by the P&E for deauthorization or transfer, or other delayed projects. Ms. Goodman explained that the unconstructed projects were separated into the following categories and identified on separate data sheets: Projects on Schedule, Projects Delayed by Project Delivery Team Issues, Projects Delayed by Programmatic Issues, and Projects Recommended for Deauthorization or Transfer to Other Programs. Also included was a fact sheet of projects that exceed the \$50 million cost limit. Accompanying fact sheets were reviewed and each item was reviewed with additional comments as provided in the following lists:

Ms Goodman stated there were 34 unconstructed projects on PPL 2 through 13 and the P&E Subcommittee placed four of those projects on the On-Schedule List. The Sabine Marsh Creation Project includes three construction cycles, two that are not funded for construction. The On-Schedule projects are:

- 1) Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 2
- 2) Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 4
- 3) Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 5
- 4) Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System
- 5) Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation
- 6) Bayou Sale Shoreline Protection

Ms Goodman explained there were 11 Projects Delayed by Programmatic Issues, which have three categories of issues including CWPPRA funding limitations (projects eligible for

construction but not approved), issues with induced shoaling (includes diversions and projects that induce shoaling in major federal waterways), and issues with cost-sharing (includes Corps sponsored projects that the State and the Corps have not executed Phase I and II cost-share agreements). The Projects Delayed by Programmatic Issues are:

- 1) Freshwater Bayou Bank Stab-Belle Isle Canal to Lock
- 2) Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (Demo Sections)
- 3) GIWW Bank Restoration of critical Areas in Terrebonne Parish
- 4) Ship Shoal: Whiskey West Flank Restoration
- 5) Lake Borgne and MRGO Shoreline Protection
- 6) East Grand Terre Island Restoration
- 7) Spanish Pass Diversion
- 8) Delta Building Diversion North of Fort St. Philip
- 9) Benney's Bay Diversion
- 10) Castille Pass Sediment Delivery
- 11) Mississippi River Sediment Tap

Ms. Goodman stated that discussion of the four projects delayed by induced shoaling issues (Castille Pass Sediment Delivery, Delta Building Diversion North of Fort St. Philip, Benney's Bay Diversion, and Mississippi River Sediment Tap) has been delayed until the next meeting.

Ms. Goodman read the list of Projects Delayed by Project Delivery Team Issues and comments were made by Technical Committee members and project sponsors as needed.

- 1) Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration – Mr. Paul stated as matter of record “We’re still working – still waiting.” Mr. Rhinehart stated that information provided by NRCS is being evaluated, but no consensus has been reached and a report will be given to the committee in September.
- 2) West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management – Mr. Paul commented that there would be a change of scope in September as noted in the project milestones.
- 3) North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Introduction – Mr. Ronnie Paille explained that delays caused by land rights issues have been resolved. The fully-funded cost estimate should be changed on the fact sheet to \$20.5 million.
- 4) Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan – Mr. Clark commented that the project is on schedule.
- 5) Little Pecan Bayou Hydrologic Restoration – No additional comments were made.
- 6) South Lake Decade Freshwater Introduction – Ms Goodman stated that the shoreline protection component was approved for Phase II in February 2008, but the hydrologic component in freshwater introduction feasibility is still under consideration.
- 7) Small Freshwater Diversion to the Northwestern Barataria Basin – Ms. Parrish stated that there have been delays with landowner rights involving mitigation bank negotiations. Ms. Parrish expects landowner issues to be resolved by March 2009.
- 8) Grand Lake Shoreline Protection, O&M Only (CIAP) – Ms. Goodman explained that CIAP fund delays have caused O&M push-backs.
- 9) Grand Lake Shoreline Protection, Tebo Point – Ms. Goodman explained delays are caused by an inconsistency with cost estimates for the work segments divided between the Corps and the State. Progress is being made on the cost share agreements.

- 10) River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp – Ms. Goodman explained that the project is on schedule with 30 percent design review scheduled in July 2008 and is projected to move to LCA upon design completion.
- 11) South Grand Chenier Hydrologic Restoration – Mr. Clark stated that the project is moving forward as anticipated due to resolved land rights issues, completed surveys, and the commencement of the geotechnical investigation. Phase II approval will be requested in January 2010.
- 12) Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline Restoration – Ms. Goodman explained that this project was discussed in Agenda Item 6. The Technical Committee approved the request for the Task Force fax vote to increase the Phase II, Increment I funding for the Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Project. The project was put on the Projects Delayed by Project Delivery Team Issues list because of bid overruns, but will be taken off the list when the Task Force fax vote is processed.
- 13) Barataria Barrier Shoreline, Pelican Island to Chaland Pass – Ms. Sweeney added that the project will not be out for bid in April as anticipated. Delays with outstanding land rights issues are estimated to require a couple of months to resolve. Oyster evaluation, clearance, and construction surveys are complete.
- 14) Avoca Island Diversion and Land Building – Ms. Goodman stated that the 30 percent design was scheduled to be announced in December and there were some issues with the quality of dredge materials and beneficial placement.
- 15) Fort Jackson Sediment Diversion (Complex Project) – Ms. Goodman explained that the project is in Phase Zero with Corps and LDNR agreeing to move it forward for Phase I consideration with the PPL 18 candidate projects.
- 16) Central and Eastern Terrebonne Freshwater Delivery (Complex Project) – Mr. Paille reported the project is moving forward on task with the first modeling scenario expected near the end of April.

Ms. Goodman proceeded with an explanation of the administrative recommendation to move projects off the CWPPRA books in the form of a “Recommended Deauthorization” or “Transfer to Other Programs.” There are three projects that are Recommended for Deauthorization:

- 1) Periodic Introduction of Sediments & Nutrients at Select Diversions Sites Demo – Ms. Goodman stated that the feasibility report has not been completed, but wants to advance the project to deauthorization because it is out of the scope of normal demonstration projects.

DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion that the Technical Committee recommend to the Task Force to deauthorize the Periodic Introduction of Sediments & Nutrients at Select Diversions Sites Demo. Mr. Rhinehart seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

- 2) Weeks Bay MC and SP/Commercial Canal/Freshwater Redirection – Mr. Randy Moertle provided a status report on the project. He explained the failure of the original tests with the HESCO baskets. Mr. Moertle requested the extension on a no-cost basis because Iberia and Vermilion Parishes have infused funds of \$100,000 each and the project will rely on local involvement to proceed. Should the project fail, CWPPRA has still been

successful based on community involvement. Ms. Sweeney asked what other project features were involved other than shoreline protection. Mr. Moertle explained that after the shoreline component was completed, marsh creation would be an imminent.

DECISION: Mr. Rhinehart made a motion that the Technical Committee grant a no-cost extension, provided that progress reports are given to the Technical Committee semi-annually. Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

- 3) Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration – Ms. Goodman stated that the Technical Committee voted to deauthorize this project under Agenda Item 5.

Ms. Goodman stated that the P&E recommended two projects be transferred to the CIAP because they were no longer pursuing CWPPRA funding:

- 1) East Grand Terre Island Restoration

DECISION: Ms. Sweeney made the motion to move the project to CIAP. Ms. Parrish seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

- 2) Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (Demo Sections)

DECISION: Ms. Sweeney made the motion to move the project to CIAP. Ms. Parrish seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Goodman stated that the P&E recommends one project to be transferred to the LCA Program:

- 1) Delta Building Diversion at Myrtle Grove – Ms. Goodman stated that the project is authorized and funded for study under LCA and the Corps had previously requested a transfer to LCA, but the request was tabled and could now be effectively transferred.

DECISION: Mr. Rhinehart made the motion to begin the transfer process. Mr. Holden stated the motion was to recommend deauthorization and ask for it to be transferred to LCA. Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

12. Agenda Item 11: Discussion: River Diversions and Potential Induced Shoaling (Goodman and Powell). The Corps will provide a brief on River Diversions proposed on the Mississippi River and the dynamics of induced shoaling. An update on the West Bay Sediment Diversion Project performance will also be provided. This agenda item was postponed to the next Technical Committee Meeting.

13. Agenda Item 12: Discussion: Initial Discussion of FY09 Planning Budget Development (Process, Size, Funding, etc.) (Goodman). The P&E Subcommittee will request guidance from the Technical Committee on initiating FY09 Planning Program Budget development, and the

PPL 19 Process. The committee members discussed the basic need for a budget increase for the USACE to continue the required support for the CWPPRA program work. Mr. Holden identified salary increases and additional requests for presentations to the Technical Committee and Task Force and other agencies as basis for the request for budget increase. Mr. Clark stated that with a budget surplus of \$1.2 million, an increase in the Corps budget this year could possibly be included.

14. Agenda Item 13: Additional Agenda Items (Goodman). No additional agenda items were discussed.

15. Agenda Item 14: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meetings (Goodman). Ms. Goodman announced that the next Task Force meeting will be held June 4, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center, 646 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana.

16. Agenda Item 15: Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings (Goodman). Dates and locations of future program meetings through January 2009 can be found on the agenda (**Encl 1**).

17. Adjourn (Holden). Mr. Holden adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 p.m.