

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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

1. Ms. Melanie Goodman opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Ms. Melanie Goodman, substituting for Mr. Troy Constance, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Acting Chairman

Mr. Rick Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Ms. Sharon Parrish, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Mr. Kirk Rhinehart, substituting for Mr. Gerry Duszynski, Louisiana 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 (Browning and Goodman). *Ms. Gay Browning and Ms. Goodman will provide an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding in the Planning and Construction Programs.* Ms. Browning, Corps, stated that there is \$74 million in available funding. Ms. Goodman added that the \$74 million is the amount of funds available in the Construction Program for Phase II approval considerations.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman commented that there is no need to spend all of the money. He recommended funding the most cost-effective projects and saving leftover funds for next year.

Mr. Clark said that he did not want to leave large amounts of money in the budget until next year. He added that there are always other cost increases for projects that have already been approved.

Ms. Goodman noted that the Technical Committee made a recommendation last year to set aside funds in anticipation of cost increases.

3. Agenda Item 2. Report: PPL-14 South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project (BA-14) Fax Vote (Goodman). *The NRCS and LDNR requested Task Force Fax Vote approval for a change in project scope and project construction cost for the PPL-14 South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project (BA-14). The Task Force approved the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the requested change, which includes increasing the net wetland benefits from 116 acres to 211 acres and increasing the total fully funded project cost estimate by approximately 69 percent, from \$17.5 million to*

\$29.6 million. Ms. Goodman stated that the Task Force approved the project scope change in November 2007.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor to comments from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman added that although the total fully funded project cost estimate increased by 69 percent, there was an even higher increase in terms of acres created, keeping the project cost-effective.

4. Report: PPL -13 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project (TE-50) Fax Vote (Goodman). The EPA and LDNR requested Task Force Fax Vote approval for a change in project scope and total cost for the PPL 13 - Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project (TE-50). The Task Force approved the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the requested change, which includes a 48 acre dune feature gulfward of the originally approved marsh creation feature. This change in project scope would result in an increase in the net wetland benefits from 300 acres to 316 acres. The fully-funded project cost estimate increased from \$21,786,300 to \$27,914,086, which exceeds the original estimate by 28 percent. Ms. Goodman stated that the Task Force approved this request in December 2007.

5. Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding (Constance). The Technical Committee will consider requests for Phase II authorization and approval of Phase II Increment 1 funding of projects on PPLs 9 through 15 for recommendation to the Task Force. Due to limited funding, the Technical Committee will recommend a list of projects to the Task Force for Phase II authorization and Increment 1 funding within available program construction funding limits. Each project listed in the below table will be discussed individually by its sponsoring agency, Technical Committee members, and the general public in the following format: a. Agency presentation on individual projects (5 minutes max), b. Technical Committee questions and comments on individual projects, c. Public comments on individual projects (Comments should be limited to 1-2 minutes). Following presentations and discussion on individual projects, the Technical Committee will vote to rank all projects to aid in deciding which ones to recommend to the Task Force for Phase II authorization and approval of Increment 1 funding. Ms. Goodman announced that the Technical Committee has ten projects to review for recommendation for Phase II Increment 1 funding. The projects are listed in the table below.

Agency	Project No.	PPL	Project Name	Construction Start Date	Phase II Total Cost	Phase II Incr. 1 Funding Request	Acres Benefitted Over 20 Years	Prioritization Score	30% Design Review Meeting Date	95% Design Review Meeting Date
NMFS	AT-04	9	Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery	Jun 08	\$29,805,573	\$18,478,789	577	55.0	20 Jan 04	30 Nov 05
NRCS	TE-39	9	South Lake DeCade – CU 1	Aug 08	\$4,553,195	\$3,040,013	202	57.6	19 Jul 04	2 Sep 04
NRCS	BA-27c(3)	9	Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phase 3 – CU 7	Aug 08	\$31,178,603	\$25,891,625	180	40.8	20 Aug 03	3 Sep 04
NRCS	TE-43	10	GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne	Aug 08	\$12,801,403	\$10,934,322	79	31.4	21 Jan 03	26 Aug 04
NRCS	TE-48-B	11	Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection – CU 2	Aug 08	\$9,370,020	\$9,182,101	55	47.0	24 Oct 07	19 Dec 07
NRCS	BA-41	14	South Shore of the Pen	Aug 08	\$27,895,603	\$26,106,598	211	50.2	18 Oct 07	12 Dec 07
EPA	BA-39	12	Bayou Dupont Marsh Creation	Apr 08	\$26,150,144	\$25,875,686	326	43.5	11 Jul 07	7 Nov 07
EPA	TE-47	11	Ship Shoal: Whiskey West Flank Rest	May 08	\$48,111,734	\$47,962,959	195	60.0	5 Oct 04	28 Sep 05
EPA	TE-50	13	Whiskey Island Back Marsh Creation	May 08	\$25,159,197	\$24,883,209	272	63.0	28 Aug 07	7 Nov 07
COE	TV-11b	9	Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization-Belle Isle Canal-Lock	Apr 08	\$37,060,994	\$33,411,651	241	42.5	27 Jun 02	22 Jan 04

## **Project Presentations**

A. PPL 9 Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery (AT-04): Dr. John Foret, NMFS, said that the goal of this project is to increase the riverine flow to the eastern part of the Atchafalaya Delta towards Fourleague Bay. Project features include hydraulically dredging 2.1 million cubic yards of material to create 577 acres of marsh over the 20-year project life. The project also includes 21,000 linear feet (lf) of dike to contain the material. The project has a prioritization score of 55.0. The Phase II fully funded total cost is \$31.7 million. The Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$18.5 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark commented that the Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery Project is the second most cost-effective project and has the highest total net acres benefited. Mr. Clark asked Dr. Foret if the budget included money for induced shoaling. Dr. Foret replied that this was correct.

Mr. Rhinehart asked if any of the dredged channels for the Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery Project were the same as the channels created with the Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery Project (AT-02). Dr. Foret replied that Natal Pass was cleaned out with the Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery Project.

Ms. Goodman asked why the net result of created marsh is less than what is anticipated to be constructed with dredge material. Dr. Foret replied that a loss rate is always applied especially

when dealing with finer sediment material. Mr. Hartman added that even though the delta is expanding, there is loss due to storms and subsidence.

B. PPL9 South Lake DeCade – CU 1 (TE-39): Mr. Loland Broussard, NRCS, stated that the goals of this project are to reduce interior marsh loss rates and increase occurrence and abundance of submerged aquatic vegetation. Project features include the construction of an 8,700 lf rock revetment along the south embankment of Lake DeCade. The project will protect 202 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 57.6. The Phase II fully funded total cost is \$5.2 million. The Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$3.0 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

C. PPL9 Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phase 3 – CU 7 (BA-27c(3)): Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, explained that the goal of this project is to reduce shoreline erosion through the installation of 22,800 lf of rock revetment. A total of 180 acres will benefit over the project's 20-year life. The project has a prioritization score of 40.45. The Phase II fully funded total cost is \$31.2 million. The Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$25.9 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

D. PPL10 GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne (TE-43): Mr. Ron Boustany, NRCS, described that the goals of this project are to prevent bankline erosion of fragile floating marshes and maintain freshwater conveyance in the GIWW. Project features consist of installing 8,833 lf of shoreline protection to benefit 79 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 31.4. The Phase II fully funded total cost is \$12.7 million. The Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$10.9 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

E. PPL11 Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection – CU 2 (TE-48-B): Mr. Loland Broussard, NRCS, said that the goals of this project are to reduce the rate of shoreline erosion, protect the critical habitat, and create over 60 acres of new barrier island habitat. Segmented rock breakwaters will be used to reduce the wave energy. Approximately 448,000 cubic yards of dredge material will be used to create an intertidal buffer. The project will benefit 55 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 47.0. The Phase II fully funded total cost is \$10.2 million. The Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$9.1 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman asked about the status of the sand shoal on the western end of Raccoon Island. Mr. Broussard asked Mr. Mike Carloss, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), to respond. Mr. Carloss stated that his agency conducted an aerial survey several months ago and the area appears to be repairing itself.

F. PPL14 South Shore of the Pen (BA-41): Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, said that the goals of this project are to reduce or eliminate erosion for 11,750 feet of shoreline and to create 175 acres and nourish 132 acres of emergent marsh. The project includes an 11,750 lf rock dike and has a prioritization score of 49.9. The project will benefit 211 acres over the 20-year project life. The Phase II fully funded cost is \$27.9 million. The Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$26.1 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Rhinehart stated that the Corps received \$10 million in the fourth supplemental to work in this area. He asked if the Corps was planning to perform a portion of the project with these funds. Mr. Kinler responded that the Corps received \$10.2 million to provide shoreline protection on the Barataria Landbridge, but the location was not specified. Mr. Kinler has been in contact with the Corps and has continued the plan under CWPPRA because the Corps has not yet made a final decision. Ms. Sue Hawes stated that the Corps intends to make a decision by the end of February. Ms. Hawes added that the Corps has \$9 million for construction and has an agreement with NRCS to build shoreline protection.

Mr. Hartman asked about the performance of the lightweight aggregate on previous projects. Mr. Kinler responded that there was a maintenance event on the Barataria Bay Waterway Project over the summer. Subsidence occurred in both the rock and lightweight aggregate sections.

G. PPL12 Bayou Dupont Marsh Creation (BA-39): Mr. Tim Landers, EPA, said that the project goals are to create over 500 acres of brackish marsh using sediment dredged from the Mississippi River via pipeline and vegetative plantings. The project will benefit 326 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 43.5. The Phase II fully funded cost is \$26.1 million, and the Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$25.8 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hartman said that he is supportive of the Bayou Dupont Project. He asked if dredging from the Mississippi River and monitoring of the borrow site is a Corps requirement. Mr. Landers replied that it was not a requirement. The dredging and monitoring activities are included as project-specific construction costs in the Increment 1 cost request.

Mr. Clark asked how the decision was made to place the borrow site to the northeast of the project area. Mr. Landers replied that they were able to take advantage of existing information on the borrow site. The location is consistent with the Corps' requirements for placement of borrow sites.

H. PPL11 Ship Shoal: Whiskey West Flank Restoration (TE-47): Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA, said that the goals of this project are to restore the integrity of the West Flank and to add offshore sediment into the West Flank from Ship Shoal to increase sediment supply and strengthen island formation. Project features include 500 acres of intertidal, supratidal, and dune habitat; 203 acres of subtidal habitat; and the placement of 3.85 million cubic yards of sand. The project will

benefit 195 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 60. The Phase II fully funded cost is \$52 million, and the Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$48 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

I. PPL13 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TE-50): Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA, explained that the goals of this project are to create an intertidal back barrier marsh to establish tidal connectivity and create a dune feature to enhance the existing dune. Project features include the creation of 316 acres of marsh and vegetative plantings. The project will benefit 272 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 63. The Phase II fully funded cost is \$28 million, and the Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$25 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark asked how long the tidal creeks and ponds would be monitored. Mr. Crawford asked Mr. Landers to respond. Mr. Landers said that there are funds to monitor the area with aerial photography to supplement programmatic monitoring efforts.

J. PPL 9 Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization - Belle Isle Canal-Lock (TV-11b): Mr. Travis Creel, Corps, said that project features include a 40,000 lf rock dike to stop shoreline erosion along Freshwater Bayou from Belle Isle Bayou to the Lock. The rock dike will protect and benefit 241 acres over the 20-year project life. The project has a prioritization score of 42.5. The Phase II fully funded cost is \$38 million, and the Phase II Increment 1 cost is \$33 million.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments/discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark asked if the Port of Iberia Project was going to place material on the west side of the channel. Mr. Creel said the material would be placed on the west side of the channel in accordance with the mitigation plan. Mr. Hartman added that the final design still has to go through the NEPA process. Mr. Creel noted that the Port of Iberia study is authorized, but not funded.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery Project.

Mr. Brandt Savoie, Deputy Assistant Secretary for LDWF, supports the Castille Pass Project. It is located on the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, which is one of the premier duck hunting locations in the State. The project ranks second in cost per acre, fourth in prioritization, and benefits the most net acres. The project will help deliver sediments to the east end of the delta more efficiently and will provide more water for habitat and opportunity for recreational hunters and fishers.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the South Lake DeCade - CU 1 Project.

Mr. Timothy Allen, General Manager of Apache Louisiana Minerals, which is the landowner in the vicinity of the proposed South Lake DeCade Project, spoke in favor of the South Lake DeCade Project. He said that it is difficult to petition the company's home office for funds to sponsor projects like Lake DeCade and Lake Boudreaux. The Apache Corporation is not going to be able to do the projects themselves. Mr. Allen gave the Technical Committee a letter stating that the Apache Corporation is committed to funding 15 percent of the construction costs for the South Lake DeCade Project.

Ms. Goodman asked Mr. Allen if it has been determined if the State's cost share could be funded by a private entity or would it be considered a donation toward the total cost of the project. Mr. Allen reported that this process has been done this in the past.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Director of Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish, said that the South Lake DeCade Project is Terrebonne Parish's second priority project.

Mr. James Miller, representing Coastal Zone Management for Terrebonne Parish, reiterated Ms. Leslie Suazo's statement. He feels that the South Lake DeCade Project is needed. If the deterioration continues, it will affect the Lake Mechant Landbridge in the future. He recommends moving ahead with this project.

Mr. Kerry St. Pé, Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), said that the South Lake DeCade Project is his number four priority project. He said that one of the big challenges is the ability to get freshwater to Terrebonne Parish and this project does just that.

Mr. Judge Edwards, Vermilion Parish and Vermilion Corporation, gave his support for the South Lake DeCade Project. This project, coupled with the sediment/freshwater introduction project to the north, will help keep the system intact.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Barataria Basin Landbridge Phase 3 - CU 7 Project.

Mr. Kerry St. Pé, BTNEP, said that the Barataria Basin Landbridge Project is his number two priority project. This is a critical area that needs something done to stop the progression of Little Lake Basin into the upper part of the basin.

Ms. Marnie Winter, representing Jefferson Parish, said that she supports the Barataria Basin Landbridge Project and added that it is important to complete the landbridge.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne Project.

Mr. Greg Linscombe, representing Continental Land and Fur Company, gave his support for the GIWW Bank Restoration Project. He questioned the calculation of the benefited acreage. Mr.

Linscombe believes thousands of acres of floating marsh will be protected. His company uses every mitigation opportunity to close breaches, but the GIWW is beyond the effort they can make. Data continues to show that moving river water does not benefit floating marshes and is actually detrimental to the survival of floating marshes.

Mr. Kerry St. Pé, BTNEP, said that the GIWW Bank Restoration Project is his number three priority project.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Director of Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish, said that the GIWW Bank Restoration Project is Terrebonne Parish's third priority project.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection - CU 2 Project.

Mr. Brandt Savoie, LDWF, said that the Raccoon Island Project is his department's highest priority in the Barrier Islands Refuge. The island is in dire need of marsh building on the back side. The island offers avian nesting diversity; it is the largest Brown Pelican nesting colony in Louisiana, has one of the largest Roseate Spoonbill colonies, and one of the few nesting sites for the Reddish Egret. Raccoon Island is also a popular fishing area in southern Terrebonne Parish and is important to the bird watching community.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Director of Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish, said that the Raccoon Island Project is her parish's top project.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the South Shore of the Pen Project.

Ms. Marnie Winter, representing Jefferson Parish, said that the South Shore of the Pen Project is important to Jefferson Parish. It was on the parish's original CIAP list, but was removed when the parish was told that the Corps' supplemental funds would be used. It is now uncertain whether the project will be constructed with these funds. There is the possibility that supplemental funds will pay for \$9 million and CWPPRA funds will pick up the rest. This project is part of the landbridge and is important to keep the Pen area from becoming more saline.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Bayou Dupont Marsh Creation Project.

Ms. Marnie Winter, representing Jefferson Parish, said that the Bayou Dupont Project is her parish's top priority project because of the sustainability with renewable sediments from the river. It will also put in infrastructure that can be used for future projects.

Ms. Vickie Duffourc, Bayou Segnette Boaters Association and representing the stakeholders of Jefferson Parish, said that the Bayou Dupont Project is most important to the stakeholders. The project will get sediment to the area and put infrastructure in place. This project will put land on the ground.



Mr. Kerry St. Pé, BTNEP, spoke in favor of the Bayou Dupont Project as his number one priority project. He commended the EPA for the design. He likes that the borrow site will be monitored for redeposition. BTNEP views the transport of sediments harvested from river beds as the basic foundation level strategy to restore Louisiana. The practice of designing projects, creating marsh, and then removing the infrastructure needs to stop.

Mr. P.J. Hahn, Coastal Director for Plaquemines Parish, said that the Bayou Dupont Project is of major importance to Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes. He also likes that the infrastructure for this project will be left behind to allow future work in the area. He gave his support for the project.

Ms. Emily Campbell, representing Conoco Phillips, expressed her support of the Bayou Dupont Project. She announced that the land agreement from Conoco Phillips will be signed. Her company is excited about this new process of wetlands restoration and is excited to be able to find better ways to protect the coast.

Ms. Albertine Kimble, Plaquemines Parish Government, said that her parish is in full support of the Bayou Dupont Project. It might be the first of its kind and will make restoration history. It will help two parishes and clear the river for ships.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Ship Shoal: Whiskey Island West Flank Restoration Project.

Mr. Brandt Savoie, LDWF, said that as a landowner of Isle Derniere Barrier Island, his department supports the Ship Shoal Project. Whiskey Island is an important part of the Barrier Islands Refuge and provides a habitat for nesting birds and recreational fishing. Whiskey Island also figures strongly in the future translocation of Brown Pelicans to try to establish additional colonies on the Barrier Islands Refuge.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Director of Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish, said that the Ship Shoal Project is Terrebonne Parrish's fifth priority project.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project.

Mr. Brandt Savoie, LDWF, said that as a landowner of Isle Derniere Barrier Island, his department supports the Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project. His comments on the Ship Shoal Project apply to this project as well.

Ms. Leslie Suazo, Director of Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish, said that the Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project is her parish's fourth priority project.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public on the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization Project.

Mr. Judge Edwards, Vermilion Parish and Vermilion Corporation, spoke in favor of the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization Project. He cautioned that one of the designs may not work because of retreating banklines. He does not believe this project will get funded, but would appreciate this project remaining on the list. Part of the project is funded by CIAP, so hopefully next year the total project costs will be less.

Ms. Goodman announced the conclusion of the comment period.

Ms. Goodman described the voting procedures. Each agency has six votes for their highest priority projects. The votes are assigned weighted point scores of one through six, with a six indicating the agency's top priority project. The projects will be sorted first by the number of agency votes and then by the weighted score.

**Voting Results**

Ms. Goodman presented the results from the agency voting. The projects are listed below in order by the number of agency votes with the weighted score shown in parentheses. The Phase II Increment 1 funding requests for the top three projects totals \$59.9 million out of the \$74 million available for the Construction Program.

**Phase II Approval Results**

CWPPRA Technical Committee Ranking for Phase II Approval, January 2008

PPL	Project No.	Project	DNR	COE	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	No. of Agency Votes	Sum of Weighted Score
12	BA-39	Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System	6	5	6	2	6	4	6	29
11	TE-48-B	Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Phase B	4	3	3	3	1	6	6	20
13	TE-50	Whiskey Island Back barrier Marsh Creation	5	6	5		5		4	21
14	BA-41	South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation	3			6	3	5	4	17
9	AT-04	Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery			2	5	4	1	4	12
9	TE-39	South Lake DeCade Freshwater Introduction - CU1		1		4	2	2	4	9
9	BA-27c(3)	Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phase 3 - CU 7	1	2		1		3	4	7
11	TE-47	Ship Shoal: Whiskey Island West Flank Restoration		4	4				2	8
10	TE-43	GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas In Terrebonne	2		1				2	3
9	TV-11b	Freshwater bayou Bank Stabilization-Belle Isle Canal-Lock							0	0

1. Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System (29)
2. Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Phase B (20)
3. Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (21)
4. South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (17)
5. Castille Pass Channel Sediment Delivery (12)
6. South Lake DeCade Freshwater Introduction - CU 1 (9)
7. Barataria Basin Landbridge, Phase 3 - CU 7 (7)
8. Ship Shoal: Whiskey West Flank Restoration (8)
9. GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne (3)
10. Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization - Belle Isle Canal-Lock (0)

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the Technical Committee on the voting results.

Mr. Paul suggested also funding the South Lake DeCade Project since it received four agency votes and there is \$14 million remaining. Mr. Hartman agreed.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for comments from the public.

Ms. Marnie Winter asked if since the South Shore of the Pen Project was fourth in the voting results, would it be possible to also fund this project if \$9 million were to come from the Corps' Supplemental. Mr. Clark said that the Corps' Supplemental decision would not be made until after the Task Force Meeting. Ms. Sue Hawes added that they could try to move up the decision. Ms. Goodman noted that there would still be a shortfall of \$17 million.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved to accept the top three projects (Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System Project, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Phase B Project, and Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project) for Phase II approval with a recommendation that the Task Force consider funding another project with the remaining \$14 million . Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed. The Technical Committee will recommend Task Force approval of Phase II funding for the top three projects with the recommendation to consider funding another project at the February 13, 2008 Task Force Meeting.**

6. Agenda Item 5: Discussion: 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 the Technical Committee may discuss and recommend to the Task Force potential directions to take on the following projects: a. West Point a la Hache Outfall Management Project (BA-04c), PPL-3, NRCS; b. Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project (CS-09), PPL-2, NRCS; c. Periodic Introduction of Sediment and Nutrients at Selected Diversion Sites; Demonstration Project (MR-11), PPL-9, USACE; d. Mississippi River Sediment Trap Project (MR-12), PPL-12, USACE; and e. Benney's Bay Diversion Project (MR-13), PPL-10, USACE.*

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for a status update on the West Point a la Hache Outfall Management Project.

Mr. Paul said that the Wetland Value Assessment (WVA) has been revised and submitted to LDNR for comments. The finalized WVA will be sent to the Environmental Workgroup. NRCS is continuing to work with LDNR on the revised cost estimate.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for a status update on the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project.

Mr. Paul stated that Environmental Workgroup reviewed the revised WVA. NRCS and LDNR will meet before the next Technical Committee meeting to discuss the future direction of the project. He will report back at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for a status update on the Periodic Introduction of Sediment and Nutrients at Selected Division Sites Demonstration Project.

Ms. Goodman said that the report on the feasibility of implementing this demonstration project with the funds that were approved is relatively complete. It was determined that this project should be done at a larger scale in order to provide useful information about the benefits of this type of demonstration project. The Corps has recently changed project managers. It has not yet been determined what cost is needed to do a meaningful demonstration project. It is anticipated that the cost will be outside of the scope of a typical CWPPRA project.

Mr. Clark requested that the Corps investigate using sediment from the New Orleans Maintenance Project from the New Orleans Harbor in the Caernarvon Project and to include an analysis of the potential cost reduction in their report. Ms. Goodman stated that this would be outlined in the final report.

Mr. Rhinehart asked that the report be finalized by the next Technical Committee meeting so LDNR can make a decision on whether to proceed or move the project to deauthorization. Ms. Goodman said that the Corps would submit the final report to LDNR for final discussion.

**ACTION: The Corps will submit the final report for the Periodic Introduction of Sediment and Nutrients at Selected Division Sites Demonstration Project to LDNR before the next Technical Committee meeting.**

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for a status update on the Mississippi River Sediment Trap and the Benney's Bay Sediment Diversion Projects.

Ms. Goodman stated that both of these projects have come to a halt because of the induced shoaling issue. It was discussed at the last Task Force meeting that projects that induce shoaling would have to bear the burden of incremental costs for dredging in navigation channels. Colonel Alvin Lee and Ms. Sidney Coffee agreed to work together on the issue. The Corps is in the process of preparing a list of recommendations to make sure that the Corps, State, and other Federal agencies are working together to better partition the cost of induced shoaling resulting from diversion projects.

Mr. Rhinehart said that the two projects have similar but separate issues. There is definitely an induced shoaling issue with the Benney's Bay Project. However, the issue with the Mississippi River Sediment Trap Project is with the location of the trap. LDNR does not like where the trap is located and is ready to move the Sediment Trap Project towards deauthorization.

Ms. Sue Hawes, Corps, asked Mr. Rhinehart if the sediment trap were moved up river, would the State still want to deauthorize the project. Mr. Rhinehart replied: no; the State would like to see the evaluation area moved further up river. Mr. Hartman added that he would fully support moving the trap location up river, at least in the vicinity of Empire.

**ACTION: The Corps will provide a summary of the funds expended and the cost of further evaluation on the Mississippi River Sediment Trap Project at the next Technical Committee Meeting, as requested by Mr. Hartman.**

Ms. Goodman opened the floor for public comments on the unconstructed CWPPRA projects.

Mr. Kerry St. Pé, BTNEP, said that his understanding was that redeposition rates would be higher in the river than at Head of Passes. He does not want the Mississippi River Sediment Trap Project to be deauthorized if the sediments could be harvested from further up river. It is critical to know how the Mississippi River sediments will be used for the future of the Louisiana coast. He said that there are upstream tributaries in the Mississippi River watershed with sediment build-up problems. It would be wonderful if these sediments could be transported and deposited to the south and if there were infrastructure in place to use the sediment once it has been delivered. He agrees with Mr. Rhinehart and Mr. Hartman that the sediment trap should be placed further up river. Mr. St. Pé does not believe there would be any support for a project with the sediment trap in the current proposed location.

Mr. Clark added that he would like to see LDNR and the Corps continue their discussions on the sediment trap and consider moving the location further north than at Head of Passes.

Mr. Judge Edwards commented on the Mississippi River Sediment Trap Project. He recommends that the Corps abandons their policy that the project has to share in the maintenance of the navigation channel if induced shoaling occurs. If the government tries to reimburse other sectors of the government for their share, it might set a precedent for the oil companies, oystermen, and fishermen to do the same. The Corps should not be looking to restoration projects to dredge navigation channels.

Ms. Goodman responded that the policy is handed down to the Corps, and policy changes have to be made at levels higher than those represented on the Technical Committee. It becomes an issue when the Operations Program is limited on funding and there is a problem with maintaining the river for navigation. Navigation has to be taken into account. In order for the policy to change, there has to be an open debate between the navigation industry, restoration stakeholders, and Congress. The Corps and Federal agencies cannot lobby Congress on this issue.

Mr. Edwards added that if we are going to look at cause and effect with regards to sediment diversion projects, what about all Federal projects that have caused properties to wash away when the levees were built and the channels were dug.

Mr. Rhinehart commented that the State's position is that the restoration program will not bear the cost for perceived shoaling. This was stated in Ms. Sidney Coffee's letter concerning Colonel Wagenaar's policy statement. The State will pursue this at the highest levels through the Congressional delegation and new administration.

7. Agenda Item 6: Additional Agenda Items (Constance). Dr. Jenneke Visser, LSU, announced that she has accepted a job with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She would like to keep her post as the Academic Advisory Group Chairman. Mr. Clark replied that this would be fine.
8. Agenda Item 7: Request for Public Comments (Constance). Ms. Leslie Suazo asked when the North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Diversion Project, which is on the Watch List, would be discussed. Ms. Goodman replied that it would be on the agenda for the next Technical Committee meeting in April 2008.
9. Agenda Item 8: Priority Project List 18 Regional Planning Team Meetings (Goodman). Ms. Goodman announced that the Regional Planning Team Meetings will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Rockefeller Refuge, February 20<sup>th</sup> in Morgan City, and February 21<sup>st</sup> in New Orleans.
10. Agenda Item 9: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meetings (Goodman). Ms. Goodman announced that the next Task Force meeting would be held February 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in Baton Rouge.
11. Agenda Item 10: 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**).
12. Adjourn: Ms. Goodman adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.