

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 9 October 2008 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. Mr. Thomas Holden opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

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

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

2. Mr. Thomas Holden introduced all Technical Committee members and proposed to move Agenda Item 13 after Agenda Item 2. There were no objections to the agenda change.

Mr. Rhinehart introduced Ms. Kelly Templet, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR), to the Technical Committee as a new Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee member replacing Mr. Dan Llewellyn who retired in August 2008.

Ms. Parrish announced that this will be her last Technical Committee meeting as the representative for EPA. Mr. Tim Landers will be succeeding Ms. Parrish as the EPA Representative on the Technical Committee. Mr. Holden presented Ms. Parrish with a certificate of commendation for exemplary service to the CWPPRA Program from June 2004 to October 2008 as the EPA representative on the Technical Committee. Ms. Parrish accepted the certificate and expressed her gratitude to the Technical Committee.

Mr. Holden noted that the Technical Committee will not be able to cover all PPL 18 candidate projects requesting Phase II approval at this meeting. Discussion on these projects will be postponed to the December meeting.

3. Agenda Item 1. Report: Impacts of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike (Holden and Broussard). Mr. Garrett Broussard, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), will discuss the status of impacts of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike on CWPPRA Projects. Mr. Broussard reported that CWPPRA has budgeted \$100,000 to assess storm damages to CWPPRA Projects. Because Hurricanes Gustav and Ike impacted south Louisiana within weeks of each other, additional funds are needed for post-storm assessment. Reassessing CWPPRA projects is necessary and budgeted monies are now inadequate. The proposal for the post-storm assessment for CWPPRA projects is \$266,227. Once the assessment is complete, Mr. Broussard will have a full report of damages with cost estimates, and FEMA's decision to assist in financial aid of the restoration of CWPPRA projects will be announced.

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

Mr. Clark asked about the state only projects under CWPPRA and how they will be handled under the budget. Mr. Broussard explained that when field assessments are made, several sites are visited within one trip. Mr. Clark suggested that the field assessments be completed via air transportation, i.e. helicopter. Mr. Broussard responded by explaining that detailed inspection is difficult with air transportation. Mr. Holden asked if use of the ARC System had been considered to assess damage. Mr. Broussard replied no and added that he was interested in looking into using this technology. Mr. Darren Lee, OCPR, commented that some of this technology is currently being used. Mr. Hartman suggested getting an initial assessment via air transportation and using the initial assessment to determine whether or not field assessment is necessary. Ms. Melanie Goodman, USACE, suggested partnering CWPPRA damage assessment with the Corps damage assessment.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman motioned to approve the budget increase of \$266,227 for post storm assessment of CWPPRA Projects for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Mr. Paul seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

4. Agenda Item 2. Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects (Browning). *Ms. Gay Browning, USACE, will provide an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding in the Planning and Construction Programs.* Ms. Browning informed the Technical Committee that the available funding for CWPPRA Projects for FY09 is \$6.2 million for Planning, \$7.4 million for Construction, \$79 million from Federal funding plus the state match for a total of about \$100 million.

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

Mr. Clark commented on returning to Agenda Item 1 regarding the monitoring contingency fund and proposal to complete ecological reviews of storm assessments. Ms. Goodman explained that she had spoken with Mr. Greg Steyer about tabling the issue until the P&E Committee can develop a proposal to perform post-storm ecological assessments using the monitoring contingency fund. Ms. Goodman said that she would discuss the issue with the P&E Committee members, and if a funding decision is to be made, it can be done so by a Task Force fax vote or at the next Task Force Meeting. Ms. Goodman would then inform the Technical Committee of the decision via e-mail.

Returning to Agenda Item 2, there were no further comments regarding the item either from the Technical Committee or from the public.

5. Agenda Item 13. Status of Unconstructed Projects (Paul and Goodman). *The NRCS and CPRA will report on the status of the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project. The Technical Committee will also consider recommending the Task Force approval to de-authorize or transfer selected projects.* Mr. Paul deferred the agenda item to Mr. Rhinehart. Mr. Rhinehart commented that at a previous Technical Committee meeting, the state requested additional time to discuss the issues surrounding Brown Lake. The state then sent a letter to

NRCS informing them of the state's decision to discontinue support of the project. In response, NRCS provided additional information and there were some requests from elected officials for the state to reconsider. The state is currently reconsidering their position on Brown Lake. A recommendation will be presented at the next Technical Committee Meeting.

Ms. Goodman provided information on the status of unconstructed projects. The following projects are being considered for de-authorization: Periodic Introduction of Sediment and Nutrients at Selected Diversion Sites Demo and Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration. The East Grand Terre Island Restoration Project is being considered for transfer to the Louisiana Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The Delta Building Diversion at Myrtle Grove Project is being considered for transfer to the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Program. Notices were sent to Congressional and other state interests as well as local parishes notifying them of the pending de-authorizations and transfers. No comments were received.

DECISION: Mr. Clark moved that the Technical Committee recommend to the Task Force de-authorization of the Periodic Introduction of Sediment and Nutrients at Selected Diversion Sites Demo and Grand Bayou Hydrologic Restoration Projects. Ms. Parrish seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved to recommend transfer of the East Grand Terre Island Restoration Project to CIAP. Mr. Paul seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved to recommend transfer of the Delta Building Diversion at Myrtle Grove Project to the LCA Program. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

6. Agenda Item 3. Report/Decision: CWPPRA Program Projected Funding Capacity (Goodman). Ms. Goodman will report on projections of the CWPPRA program funding capacity and implications for future priority project lists. The Technical Committee will consider recommendations to the Task Force on: 1) updating all PPL project cost estimates in order to better project the CWPPRA program funding capacity; and 2) options for future PPLs. Ms. Goodman explained that although CWPPRA funds are authorized through 2019, the funds are appropriated only through 2009; this limits future funds on new projects. The P&E Committee estimates that there may be capacity for up to seven more PPLs including PPL 18 if three to four projects are selected for each PPL. The program will receive \$413.8 million for new projects through 2019 which includes new PPL projects, construction and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) cost increases and miscellaneous Construction Program activity increases. However, this estimate does not consider potential de-authorizations/transfers or construction and O&M cost decreases. The estimated future program capacity through 2019 for new projects is approximately \$681.9 million. The Task Force asked the Technical Committee to develop options on how to use the funds. The options are:

1. Continue the annual planning cycle to develop new PPL projects with Engineering and Design (E&D) and construction including approving up to four projects each PPL through 2015, approve fewer projects for each PPL, or skip a year between PPLs.

2. Continue the annual planning cycle according to Option 1 but only approve E&D; construction would not be considered for future projects.

Ms. Goodman explained that refining the cost estimates for existing PPL projects would cost approximately \$166,000. The Technical Committee and Task Force must consider how to address projects that are funded and approved for 20 years beyond the program authority and also assess long-term monitoring obligations.

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

Mr. Hartman advised against making a recommendation to update all PPL project cost estimates. Mr. Clark questioned whether the precision gained by spending \$166,000 to refine project cost estimates would really help and added that cost estimates are revised during Phase II construction approval. Mr. Clark does not feel there is sufficient reason to spend money for these tasks at this time. Mr. Paul agreed.

ACTION ITEM: The Technical Committee will brief the Task Force on the options developed by the P&E Committee regarding the CWPPRA Program projected funding capacity.

7. Agenda Item 4. Report: Task Force Fax Vote Approval on USACE and LACPRA Request to Increase the Construction Budget for the PPL 8 – Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project, Cycle 2 (CS-28-2) (Holden and Goodman). The Technical Committee voted by email to recommend Task Force Fax vote approval of a construction budget increase request by the USACE and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (LACPRA) for the PPL 8 – Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project, Cycle 2 (CS-28-2). The Task Force approved the Technical Committee’s recommendation to increase the project construction budget in the amount of \$5 million, including immediate funding in the amount of \$2,060,351, to construct a permanent sediment delivery pipeline. Bids for the pipeline construction were greater than the government’s maximum awardable amount, and a contract was therefore not awarded. The USACE project manager will provide a status on the construction contract bid opening and proposed path forward for the project. Ms. Fay Lachney, USACE Project Manager, explained that one bid was received and the bid estimate was much greater than projected. Some companies were reluctant to bid due to problems in the steel market, namely the demand is greater than the supply, and the price of steel is steadily increasing. Also, potential bidders were worried they would not be able to meet the project’s time constraints. No bid was awardable under law because it was more than 125 percent of the government estimate. Ms. Lachney proposed three possible options to move forward with this project:

1. Rebid the contract without time constraints because the next time this channel would be bid would be in FY11,
2. Provide government-supplied pipe to a contractor for installation, or
3. Use a lesser grade pipe with a thicker wall, provided it is sufficient for our needs.

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

Mr. Hartman asked Ms. Lachney about the cost breakdown for the pipeline and dredging. Ms. Lachney replied that the government estimate is around \$10 million for the pipeline; dredging is expected to cost around \$2 million. Ms. Lachney added that use of the pipeline could save approximately \$2 million per cycle. Mr. Hartman added that the Corps is in the process of redefining the Federal standard for dredging in the Calcasieu Ship Channel. There is potential cost savings to CWPPRA that a \$2 million dredging component may go to pipelines and the Corps could pay for the dredging.

Mr. Holden commented that an increase in the Federal standard is in no way linked to the amount of money appropriated and signed into law. The buying power of the dollars afforded does not necessarily match the need to get the same dredging in the navigation channel. Mr. Hartman pointed out that CWPPRA should not have to pay for the maintenance dredging of a channel that has caused environmental harm to the Calcasieu Lake area.

Mr. Rhinehart stated that positives from this project include capturing sediment currently being dredged to create marsh and establishing a permanent pipeline. Mr. Rhinehart offered state assistance for this project to pay the incremental cost of Cycle 2 so that we do not lose the opportunity to beneficially use material in FY09. Mr. Clark said that this was a very good offer.

8. Agenda Item 5. Report: Task Force Fax Vote Request for Change in Scope for the PPL 14 – East Marsh Island Marsh Creation Project (TV-21) (Landers). The EPA, NRCS and LACPRA requested Technical Committee recommendation for Task Force fax vote approval for a change in scope for the TV-21 project due to estimated construction cost increases exceeding 25% over those originally authorized in 2005. Project features have also changed from creating approximately 189 acres of marsh and nourishing an additional 189 acres, to creating approximately 165 acres of marsh and nourishing an additional 197 acres. The Task Force approved the requested change in scope by fax vote. Mr. Tim Landers, EPA, reported that the Task Force subsequent to the Technical Committee recommendation did approve the scope change request on September 24th. Work continues to proceed to final design, and EPA will endeavor towards Phase II construction requests later this year.

9. Agenda Item 6. Decision: FY09 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 19 Process and Presentation of FY09 Outreach Budget (Goodman and Wilson). a.) The P&E is recommending that the PPL 19 Planning Process Standard Operating Procedures include selecting three nominees in the Barataria, Terrebonne, and Pontchartrain Basins, and two nominees in all other basins, except Atchafalaya where only one nominee would be selected. If only one project is presented at the Regional Planning Team meeting for the Mississippi River Delta Basin, then an additional nominee would be selected for the Breton Sound Basin. b.) The P&E will recommend the FY09 Planning Budget in the amount of \$4,930,325 (excluding supplemental tasks for evaluating project estimates). The Technical Committee will vote on making a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the FY09 Planning Budget. c.) The CWPPRA Outreach Committee will present the draft FY09 Outreach Committee Budget in the amount of \$516,310 to the Technical Committee for coordination and discussion purposes only. The outreach budget will be recommended to the Task Force on November 5, 2008 by the Outreach Committee. Ms. Goodman reported the recommendation that the PPL 19 include

selection of nominees for various basins based on the results of the PPL 18 process, and then also based on analysis of land loss rates in various basins.

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

Mr. Hartman expressed concern about the precedent setting nature of putting \$18,000 of CWPPRA planning dollars aside to close out a report, and the action of the Technical Committee in this issue does not ensure that future requests for planning dollars in similar situations would be approved.

DECISION: Mr. Paul moved that the Technical Committee make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the P&E's Planning Budget. Ms. Parrish seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed. Mr. Holden clarified that this decision included the recommendation for three nominees for each of the Barataria, Terrebonne and Pontchartrain Basins, two nominees in all other basins except the Atchafalaya which will receive only one nominee.

Mr. Scott Wilson, U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), reported the draft FY09 Outreach Committee Budget to the Technical Committee. The Outreach Committee will request Task Force approval of \$516,310 for the Outreach Budget at the next Task Force meeting.

10. Agenda Item 7. Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects (Browning). The USACE will request funding approval in the amount of \$22,138 for administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment 1. The Technical Committee will vote to make a recommendation to the Task Force on the request for funds. Ms. Browning reported the request for administrative costs for cash flow projects. There are a total of 23 projects. The projects and requested funding for each are listed in the table below. The total cost for all 23 projects is \$22,138.

Project #	Project Name	Agency	PPL	Funding Request
TE-37	New Cut Dune Restoration	EPA	9	\$1,305.00
CS-30	Perry Ridge West	NRCS	9	\$958.00
BA-27c(1)	Barataria Basin Landbridge-Ph 3 CU 3	NRCS	9	\$927.00
LA-03b	Coastwide Nutria	NRCS	11	\$938.00
BS-11	Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip	USFWS	10	\$940.00
ME-19	Grand-White Lake Landbridge Protection	USFWS	10	\$940.00
TV-18	Four-Mile Canal	NMFS	9	\$898.00
TE-40	Timbalier Island Dune/Marsh Restoration	EPA	9	\$898.00
CS-29	Black Bayou Bypass Culverts	NRCS	9	\$869.00
	CRMS	USGS/DNR		\$2,000.00
CS-32(1)	East Sabine Lake Hydrologic Rest-CU 1	USFWS/NRCS	10	\$970.00
BA-37	Little Lake	NMFS	11	\$999.00
BA-38	Barataria Barrier Island	NMFS	11	\$747.00
BA-27d	Barataria Basin Landbridge-Ph 4 CU 6	NRCS	11	\$968.00
ME-16	Freshwater Intro. South of Hwy 82	USFWS	9	\$805.00
TE-44(2)	North Lake Mechant Landbridge Rest-CU 2	USFWS	10	\$805.00
TE-48(1)	Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection-CU 1	NRCS	11	\$805.00
ME-22	South White Lake	COE	12	\$1,211.00
PO-30	Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection	EPA	10	\$809.00
BA-35	Pass Chalant to Grand Pass	NMFS	11	\$853.00
TE-46	West Lake Boudreaux SP & MC	USFWS	11	\$871.00
BA-36	Dedicated Dredging on Barataria Basin LB	USFWS	11	\$811.00
PO-33	Goose Point	USFWS	13	\$811.00

\$22,138.00

DECISION: Mr. Clark moved that the Technical Committee recommend that the Task Force approve the incremental funding request of \$22,138 for administrative costs for cash flow projects. Mr. Rhinehart seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

11. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Request for O&M Incremental Funding (Burkholder). *The Technical Committee will consider and vote to make a recommendation to the Task Force to approve requests for total O&M funding of \$2,454,194.* Mr. Pat Landry, CPRA, took the place of Mr. David Burkholder to request O&M funding for six projects over a three-year funding period. *Note the funding amounts posted in the agenda are slightly lower than the request. Ms. Browning met with Mr. Burkholder a few days prior and requested that Corps administration funding be added into these projects. The projects and funding increase requests are as follows:

- PPL 1-8 Projects
 - Cameron-Creole Plugs (CS-17), PPL-1, USFWS. Request increase of \$95,380. Funding will also cover making the structure as vandal proof as possible.
 - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration (CS-17), PPL-6, NMFS. Request increase of \$134,223. Funding will also include ongoing maintenance and construction costs.
 - Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04), PPL-2, NRCS. Request increase of \$102,724.

- Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13), PPL-5, NRCS. Request increase of \$38,904. Funding will also cover allowance for three years of Federal and State inspection.
- PPL 9+ Projects for FY12
 - Little Lake Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (BA-37), PPL-11, NMFS. Request increase of \$65,124. Funding will also include conducting two surveys in Years 2 and 4 (currently in Year 1) in addition to three years of O&M inspection.
 - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL-11, NRCS. Request increase of \$2,041,795.

Mr. Landry stated that the total increase for all six projects is \$2,478,150.

DECISION: Mr. Clark moved that the Technical Committee recommend increased O&M funding in the amount of \$2,478,150 for the above mentioned projects to the Task Force. Mr. Rhinehart seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Goodman commented that an updated spreadsheet with the correct funding increases will be provided.

12. Agenda Item 9. Decision: Request for FY12 Project Specific Monitoring Funds for Projects on Cash Flow Projects, and FY12 Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) – Wetlands Monitoring Funds (Steyer). *Following a presentation by USGS on the status/progress of CRMS over the past year, the Technical Committee will vote on project specific FY12 monitoring funds.* Mr. Greg Steyer, USGS, reported that CRMS is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of CWPPRA restoration projects and the cumulative effects of those projects on coastal ecosystems. The data that is derived from CRMS is also being used for project planning, E&D, model development, verification and validation, and post-hurricane impact assessment. Total authorizations for CRMS to date through the year 2007 are \$24,950,000-plus. This year's request is for \$7.6 million with a total anticipated authorization, if approved, of \$32.5 million. Mr. Steyer provided the CRMS website www.lacoast.gov/crms2 for further information. The projects and funding increase requests are as follows:

- Project specific FY12 monitoring funding for projects on PPLs 9+
 - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18), PPL-9, NMFS. Request increase of \$24,511.
 - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL-11, NRCS. Request increase of \$121,732.
- CRMS FY12 monitoring funds in the amount of \$7,600,455.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to approve the CRMS additional funds totaling \$7,746,698. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor. The motion passed.

13. Agenda Item 10. Discussion: River Diversions and Potential Induced Shoaling (Goodman and Henville). *The USACE will provide a brief on potential impacts of 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.* Ms. Amena Henville,

USACE, reported that there were five models completed, four before construction and one after, to identify the impact of shoaling in the Mississippi River and evaluate the effect of diversion angle on sediment diversion. Models done prior to construction were HEC6 (1988), TABS-MD (1994), CH3D-SED (2000) and CH3D-SED (2001). The CH3D-SED (2004) model was done after construction.

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

Mr. Clark questioned shoaling in the anchorage area. Data collection and analysis indicated observed shoaling between 250,000 and 700,000 cubic yards per year, and the next dredging event is predicted to be 1.7 million cubic yards of sediment from the Pilottown Anchorage Area. Mr. Clark asked Ms. Henville to explain. Ms. Henville reported that there has been more shoaling occurring in the channel than what was predicted by the models. Ms. Henville added that the 1.7 million cubic year prediction is over three years. There was some confusion as to whether or not two years of data were being used to infer that CWPPRA was the sole reason for the increase in shoaling. Mr. Troy Constance, Corps, clarified the confusion for the Technical Committee by reporting that the models used have historical accuracy.

Mr. Holden requested to move to the next agenda item, but Mr. Hartman requested further discussion on the induced shoaling issue. Discussion continued until Mr. Paul requested discussion specifically on the West Bay Sediment Diversion Project.

14. Agenda Item 11. Decision: Request for O&M Budget Increase and Incremental Funding for PPL 1 – West Bay Sediment Diversion Project (MR-03) (Miller). *The Corps of Engineers is requesting Technical Committee recommendation for Task Force approval for an O&M budget increase in the amount of \$118,451,908 for the MR-03 project to cover maintenance dredging in the Pilottown Anchorage Area (PAA) through 2023 and to expand the diversion channel to the approved 50,000 cfs capacity. With this, the Corps is requesting incremental funding in the amount of \$10,998,550 for the next three years to conduct maintenance dredging in the PAA.* Mr. Greg Miller, USACE, provided background information, project history, and reviewed the project performance to date. The following summarizes the current funding request:

The remaining project budget is \$5,954,262. Approximately \$16.9 million is needed to complete the dredging component, and \$10.9 million is needed for project completion. There are two options posed to the Technical Committee:

- Option 1: Approve funds for required maintenance cycle to maintain anchorage area depths.
- Option 2: Approve funds to close diversion channel and restore anchorage area depths.

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

Mr. Rhinehart commented that CWPPRA is committed to dredging the anchorage area, but he questioned the 340 percent increase in dredging costs for a 10 percent increase in the predicted volume of dredging. Mr. Miller replied that the original estimate in 2002 was to dredge a million cubic yards every three years. The request today is for dredging 1.75 million cubic yards. There is an increased cost for dredging more material.

Mr. Hartman commented that he supports Option 2. Mr. Rhinehart commented that the state does not support shutting down the project at this time because additional analyses are needed. Mr. Rhinehart added that it is not good for the public to see CWPPRA spending so much money on a project just to shut it down. In three years, the project should show whether or not it's working, and a resolution to dredging issues should present itself.

Mr. Clark agreed with Mr. Rhinehart and suggested the Technical Committee agree to the additional three year \$12 million request at this time, but not to agree to the \$140 million fully funded O&M budget increase due to the other CWPPRA projects that may be affected by the decision.

Mr. Clark asked U.S. Coast Guard Representative Lt. Walker about the Coast Guard's authority with regard to anchorages. Lt. Walker answered that the Coast Guard has the authority to change anchorages, but they are not going to be inclined to do something that would increase the likelihood of collisions, spills, etc., which moving this anchorage would definitely do.

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

Mr. A.J. Gibbs, President of Crescent Pilots, offered comments. He explained that the Pilottown Anchorage Area (PAA) is essential for maritime commerce to continue as our first anchorage on the inbound and the last anchorage on the outbound.

A member of the audience, Mr. Campbell, posed a question to the Technical Committee regarding the use of a cutter head dredge as a more economical option. Mr. Miller responded that a cutter head dredge is used in this area, but this specific contract called for the use of a hopper dredge.

Mr. Miller clarified that the plan is to try to place material in a pattern that will help simulate delta formation.

Further comments were offered by Mr. Sean Duffy, Gulf States Maritime Association and also representing the Board of the Maritime Navigation Safety Association, who read a letter from 1998 to stress the need for the PAA at its current width along with Mr. Dan Arceneaux, Government Coastal Advisor for St. Bernard Parish. Comments were also offered by Mr. George Duffy with NSA Agencies to stress the importance of the anchorage.

Mr. Constance offered further comments of the efforts by the USACE to resolve the issue of induced shoaling by returning to the models mentioned in Ms. Henville's presentation.

Mr. Hartman continued to express his concerns of the cost of this project. Ms. Parrish suggested rewording the decision to be made by the Technical Committee.

DECISION: Mr. Rhinehart motioned for the Technical Committee to recommend the Task Force approve the three-year incremental funding for the West Bay Sediment Diversion Project for \$10,998,550 but not the fully funded cost of \$140 million. Mr.

Rhinehart included that the State and the Corps should jointly provide regular updates and a plan of action on how to address the induced shoaling issue which would include the necessary funding for the West Bay Project and also include updates of the continued status on how the anchorage area performs over the next three years. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Ms. Parrish amended the motion adding that the updates should be presented at each Technical Committee and Task Force Meeting. Three members of the Technical Committee voted in favor of the motion. Two opposed. The motion passed.

15. Agenda Item 12. Decision: Request for Change in Scope and Budget Increase for PPL 3 – West Point a la Hache Outfall Management Project (BA-4c) (Paul). *The U.S. NRCS and LACPRA request Technical Committee recommendation for Task Force approval for a change in project scope and a budget increase in the amount of \$1,101,221 for the BA-4c project. The additional funds are not needed at this time to complete Engineering and Design, and therefore would be requested when project construction approval is requested.*

DECISION: Mr. Hartman moved that the Technical Committee recommend the Task Force approve the change in project scope and budget increase for the West Point a la Hache Outfall Management Project. Ms. Parrish seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

16. Agenda Item 14. Discussion: Status of the Donaldsonville to the Gulf Feasibility Study (Esenwein). *The USACE will provide a brief on the status of the Donaldsonville to the Gulf Feasibility Study and how the study process is considering potential impacts to existing and proposed CWPPRA projects.* Mr. Robert Esenwein, USACE, with assistance from Mr. Ronnie Paille, FWS, discussed the project schedule, status of alignments, and how the study is taking into account the various existing and proposed CWPPRA projects in the Barataria Basin. Mr. Esenwein continued to explain that the plan is to have the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed by the first quarter of 2009. This final EIS should be completed in 2010. Mr. Paille reported that the project alternatives include accounting for wetland losses and sea level rise scenarios.

17. Agenda Item 15. Additional Agenda Items (Holden). Mr. Hartman questioned affirming the recent P&E decision on the estimate from Mr. Steyer on the use of monitoring contingency funds. Ms. Goodman reported that during lunch it was decided to put the decision on hold. Mr. Rhinehart commented that he would like to move that the item be put back on the agenda.

DECISION: Mr. Hartman made the motion to add the use of monitoring contingency funds back on the agenda and resubmit for approval. Mr. Rhinehart seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hartman commented that he plans to move the Castille Pass Project to de-authorization at the next Technical Committee meeting. NMFS has been unable to obtain a permit due to the induced siltation issue. Mr. Clark objected.

There were no other comments offered for additional agenda items from the Technical Committee or the public.

18. Agenda Item 16. Request for Public Comments (Holden). There were no public comments.

19. Agenda Item 17. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Goodman). *The Task Force meeting will be held November 5, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7400 Leake Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana in the District Assembly Room (DARM).*

20. Agenda Item 18. Announcement: 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**).

21. Agenda Item 19. Adjourn. Mr. Holden adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.