

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 16 April 2015 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. Mr. Brad Inman opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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

Mr. Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chairman, sitting in for Mr. Troy Constance

Mr. Bren Haase, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

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

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

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

2. Mr. Inman introduced himself and announced that he was chairing the Technical Committee meeting in the place of Mr. Troy Constance. He asked the Technical Committee members to introduce themselves and asked for any opening remarks. Mr. Inman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the CWPPRA Program. The sizable crowd at the meeting is a testament to all of the hard work from all involved in the Program.

Mr. Inman reviewed the rules for public participation. He asked that anyone who would like to make a public comment only comment on that agenda item, use the microphone, introduce themselves, and state their affiliation if they are representing any type of organization. He also reminded new attendees to sign in.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee regarding the agenda. There was no discussion by members of the Technical Committee.

**DECISION: Ms. McCormick made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Haase seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

3. Agenda Item 2. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Susan Mabry, USACE). Ms. Susan Mabry provided an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding in the Planning and Construction Programs.

Ms. Susan Mabry, USACE, presented an overview of the CWPPRA funds. The total estimate for the fully funded costs for Project Priority List (PPL) 1-24 projects is \$2.335 billion. The total for currently approved phases is \$1.677 billion, with \$1.52 billion funded for Phases I & II. The projected funding through 2019 is \$2.052 billion. An additional \$283 million is needed to construct all currently-approved projects.

The CWPPRA Program has \$17 million from the January meeting. Seven agenda items could impact the budget: six requests for funding increases and one decrease. If these items are approved, the Program will have available funds of \$8 million.

The Planning budget has a carryover from previous years budgets of \$122,000; \$5 million was budgeted for FY16, giving a total available for the Planning budget of \$5.1 million for FY16. The Planning budget includes \$4.5 million for Planning and \$446,000 for Outreach.

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

Mr. Hartman asked if the figures include funding for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery – Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing Project. Ms. Mabry replied that they do not. Mr. Paul added that there has not been a motion to fund the Bayou Dupont Project by the Task Force. Ms. McCormick stated that there are still questions remaining about the Bayou Dupont Project and EPA is not sure whether or not they will move forward with it.

Mr. Clark announced that the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund, the source of CWPPRA funding, is set to expire on May 31, 2015. Discussions are ongoing to continue the Trust Fund, as it has been expired since 2009, but the reauthorization deadline is only one and a half months away.

Mr. Inman announced that this is typically the time of year that CWPPRA receives funding from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The funding total should be available by the Task Force meeting on May 14, 2015. Mr. Haase added that this is also the time of year that project sponsors begin to request incremental funding for the next year. There was a discussion about whether the incremental funding would come out of the \$8 million in remaining FY15 available funds. Mr. Hartman noted that the incremental funding requests would come out of the FY16 funding. Mr. Inman added that any remaining FY15 funding will roll over into FY16; CWPPRA will not lose funding if it is not spent in the fiscal year for which it is budgeted.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

4. Agenda Item 3. Report/Decision: Selection of Ten Candidate Projects and up to Three Demonstration Projects to Evaluate for Project Priority List (PPL) 25 (Kevin Roy, USFWS). The Technical Committee considered preliminary costs and benefits of the 25<sup>th</sup> Project Priority List project and demonstration project nominees. The Technical Committee selected candidate and demonstration projects as PPL 25 candidates to be evaluated for Phase 0 analysis, which will be considered later for final selection of projects for Phase I (Planning and Engineering Design).

Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS, presented the PPL 25 project and demonstration nominees, as chosen by the Regional Planning Team (RPT) votes in February. The projects are listed in the tables below.

Region	Basin	PPL 25 Nominees
1	Pontchartrain	North Shell Beach Marsh Creation
1	Pontchartrain	Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing
1	Pontchartrain	St. Catherine Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation

Region	Basin	PPL 25 Nominees
2	Barataria	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2
2	Barataria	Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation
2	Barataria	East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing
2	Barataria	East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment
3	Terrebonne	Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation
3	Terrebonne	Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation
3	Terrebonne	Bayou Jean Lacroix Marsh Creation & Terracing
3	Terrebonne	South Bayou Pointe aux Chenes Marsh Creation & Terraces
3	Teche-Vermilion	West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation
3	Teche-Vermilion	Lake Sand Complex Shoreline Protection
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	East Holly Beach Gulf Shoreline Protection
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement
4	Mermentau	Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment
	Coastwide	Southwest Louisiana Salvinia Weevil Propagation

PPL 25 Demonstration Project Nominees	
DEMO	Wave Robber (Wave Suppressor Sediment Collection System)
DEMO	Shoreline Protection, Preservation & Restoration (SPPR) Panel

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

Mr. Clark asked for confirmation that one of the demonstration projects does not have a Federal sponsor. Mr. Roy affirmed that the Wave Robber (Wave Suppressor Sediment Collection System) Project does not have a Federal sponsor.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Ms. Carol Giardina, Lake Catherine Civic Association, spoke in support of the St. Catherine Island Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. It is clear since Hurricane Katrina that marsh destruction in this area is accelerating, and subsequent storms have brought increased floodwater intrusions. She emphasized that this project will protect inhabitants, natural resources, and infrastructure along the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline and will help protect Highway 90, which is a hurricane evacuation route.

Ms. Amanda Phillips, Edward Wisner Donation, spoke in support of the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2 Project. This project is on Wisner property, and it will nearly complete the Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Project, including the habitat that it provides. Construction on the Caminada Headlands Beach and Dune Restoration Increment 2 Project will start in May 2015, and this back barrier marsh will protect the beach and dune restoration. Ms. Phillips also spoke in support of the East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project, a portion of which is also on Wisner property. The Donation has a lot of property in the Leeville area. This project would protect oil and gas infrastructure, as well as the town and its residents.

Mr. Ralph Libersat, Vermilion Parish, stated that Vermilion Parish's first priority is the Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation and Freshwater Enhancement Project. This project is vital to Vermilion Parish. It would introduce freshwater below Highway 82. He also spoke in

support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. This project fits into the overall objective of Vermilion Parish to protect the shoreline of Vermilion Bay and create marsh in vulnerable areas. Additionally, many residents of Vermilion Parish recognize the *Salvinia* problem, and they currently travel to Houma to obtain the weevil. Sometimes the existing facility runs out before residents can get any weevils. The Southwest Louisiana *Salvinia* Weevil Propagation Project would provide a nearby facility, which would be beneficial to Vermilion Parish residents.

Ms. Betsy Brien, ConocoPhillips, stated that ConocoPhillips is a landowner for many of the candidate projects. They are supportive of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation; East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation and Terracing; East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment; Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation; Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation; Bayou Jean Lacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing; and South Bayou Pointe aux Chenes Marsh Creation and Terraces Projects.

Mr. Randy Moertle, representing the Rainey Conservation Alliance and Clovelly Farms/McIlhenney Companies, spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. He has worked with two of the Federal agencies on this project and thinks that it is a great project. Additionally, he supports the Southwest Louisiana *Salvinia* Weevil Propagation Project. Clovelly Farms has been using the weevil for almost five years, and it is the only effective method of controlling *Salvinia*. Large patches of *Salvinia* can be picked up with a high water event and deposited over existing marsh. It then smothers the existing emergent grasses, causing the marsh to become a mudflat and then disintegrate. *Salvinia* is a real problem across the state. The Bayou Black facility will be closing soon, and Mr. Moertle highly recommended approval of this project.

Mr. Cassidy Lejeune, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), spoke in support of the Lake Sand Complex Shoreline Protection and West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Projects. Both projects are located on refuges owned and managed by LDWF; the West Vermilion Bay Project is on the State Wildlife Refuge and the Lake Sand Project is on Marsh Island Refuge. It is critically important to keep large interior lakes isolated from Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays. LDWF will accept the ownership of any hard features at the end of the projects' 20-year lives.

Ms. Pam Ricca, Lake Catherine Civic Association, spoke in support of the St. Catherine Island Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. She concurred with everything stated by Ms. Giardina and reinforced that Highway 90 is a hurricane evacuation route.

Ms. Amanda Voisin, Lafourche Parish Government, asserted that Lafourche Parish's priority project is the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2 Project. Lafourche Parish also supports the East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation and Terracing, East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment, and South Bayou Pointe aux Chenes Marsh Creation and Terraces Projects.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, stated that the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation Project would help stabilize the rim of Barataria Bay and will help protect Lafitte, Barataria, and Crown

Point. Additionally, the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2 Project would provide an important buffer to protect LA-1 and Port Fourchon from storms. It makes sense to complete the protection of this area by creating marsh behind the restored beach and dune.

Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish Government, spoke in support of all four projects in the Terrebonne Basin. Terrebonne Parish's top project is the Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project. This project was nominated last year and was almost selected. The project has since been modified to reduce the cost. The second priority is the Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project. This project would use Bayou Terrebonne as a borrow source, which would have the added benefit of dredging the bayou for recreational and commercial fishermen. Both projects are critical to the Parish. The Parish also supports the Bayou Jean Lacroix project.

Mr. Skip Haller, Madison Land Company, spoke as a representative of landowners in Jefferson and Terrebonne Parishes in support of the Southwest Louisiana *Salvinia* Weevil Propagation, Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2, Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation, and Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Projects. *Salvinia* is a growing problem, and the state needs facilities to combat it in both the eastern and western regions. The problems are evident to anyone who travels to these areas.

Mr. David Brunet, St. Tammany Parish Coastal Zone Management, spoke in support of the Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing Project. The gaps shown in the project map are locations where other agencies have projects. The USACE will be creating marsh as part of the mitigation for the south shore hurricane protection system, and St. Tammany Parish is also working on creating marsh in this area. This is such a critical area that the Parish is doing as much as they can themselves, and they would appreciate the support of CWPPRA.

Ms. Albertine Kimble, Plaquemines Parish, spoke in support of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation Project. CWPPRA and various agencies have spent a lot of money on the barrier islands to the south and marsh creation further inland. This project is in the middle of those areas and would make other projects more sustainable. Plaquemines Parish fully supports it.

Mr. Ryan Bourriaque, Cameron Parish, spoke in support of the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment, Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation and Nourishment, and East Holly Beach Gulf Shoreline Protection Projects. East Holly Beach is Cameron Parish's priority, and the Technical Committee should have received letters of support from multiple agencies including Congressman Boustany, Calcasieu Parish, the Cameron Parish Police Jury, and the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority. The Parish has been trying to get this project in place for quite some time, and they would appreciate CWPPRA's support.

Mr. Hartman explained the voting process. Each agency will rank ten of the 18 projects. The projects with the most agency votes will be selected. The combined rankings will be used to break any ties.

Mr. Inman announced that since there are only two demonstration project nominees, the Technical Committee will not need to vote on demonstration projects. Mr. Clark declared that

he did not object to both demonstration projects moving forward, but all of the agencies have reviewed the demonstration projects and no agency has decided to sponsor the Wave Robber Demonstration Project, so it may make sense to stop reviewing it. Mr. Hartman suggested only advancing the Shoreline Protection, Preservation and Restoration Panel Demonstration Project.

The Technical Committee proceeded to vote for the PPL 25 candidate projects.

Ms. Allison Murry announced the voting results. The top ten projects are:

- Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing
- Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment
- East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation and Terracing
- East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment
- Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation and Freshwater Enhancement
- Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation
- West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation
- North Shell Beach Marsh Creation
- Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation
- Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2

The Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2 Project tied with the Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project. Both projects were tied, each receiving the same number of agency votes and scores (17). The TC agreed to include both projects for a total of 11 PPL 25 candidate projects.

**DECISION: Ms. McCormick made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the ten projects listed above, as well as the Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project and the Shoreline Protection, Preservation and Restoration Panel Demonstration Project for Phase 0 analysis. Mr. Haase seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

5. Agenda Item 4. Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects (Brad Inman, USACE). The project sponsors presented recommended paths forward for projects nearing the end of their 20-year lives and the Technical Committee voted on recommendations regarding these projects.

Mr. Inman reminded the audience of the path that CWPPRA takes at the end of each project life. The Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee met and has recommended dispositions for all projects currently at Year 15 or later. These are separated into five groups based on the recommended path forward.

- a. Projects requesting approval for project closeout with no additional cost increase:

CS-22	Clear Marais Bank Protection	USACE	Mar 2017
TE-22	Point au Fer Canal Plugs	NMFS	May 2017
MR-06	Channel Armor Gap Crevasse	USACE	Nov 2017
AT-02	Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery	NMFS	Mar 2018
TE-23	West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration	USACE	Aug 2018

AT-03	Big Island Mining	NMFS	Oct 2018
PO-19	MRGO Disposal Area Marsh Protection	USACE	Jan 2019
TE-26	Lake Chapeau Sediment Input & Hydrologic Restoration	NMFS	May 2019

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Moertle stated that he is currently the manager for Point au Fer, and he is meeting with the Federal sponsors for the Point au Fer Canal Plugs and Lake Chapeau Sediment Input and Hydrologic Restoration Projects soon. He asked if there were structures that may need to be removed from those projects, and if so, how these projects could be closed out with no additional cost. Mr. Hartman agreed that there may be structures that need to be removed, and NMFS will be discussing that issue soon with Mr. Moertle and CPRA.

Mr. Haase clarified that this category is for project close out with no additional cost above what is in the current budget. If structure removal is required, there should be available funds in the existing budget. Mr. Hartman stated that this is the case for Point au Fer, but not for Lake Chapeau, and he recommended tabling the decision for the Lake Chapeau Project until after the upcoming project meeting. Mr. Clark asked for clarification about the type of features in the Lake Chapeau Project, and Mr. Hartman responded that it does contain structures. CWPPRA has already paid to remove one structure because it was a concern, and the disposition of the others has yet to be determined.

Ms. Mabry announced that Point au Fer has \$2.1 million and Lake Chapeau has \$1.1 million remaining. Mr. Inman reminded the Technical Committee that the project does not end until 2019; the current recommendation is to close it out with no additional funding, but that could change if conditions change. Mr. Paul asked about the planned activities between now and 2019. Mr. Hartman responded that NMFS will be meeting with the landowners in a few weeks.

- b. Projects requesting approval to pursue project extension through formal evaluation:

CS-04a	Cameron-Creole Maintenance	NRCS	Sep 2017
CS-17	Cameron Creole Plugs	FWS	Jan 2017

Mr. Troy Mallach, NRCS, presented the request for approval to pursue project extension for the Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04a) Project. The Cameron-Creole Watershed project was constructed by NRCS in 1989. The structures are operated approximately twice a month based on recommendations from the Cameron-Creole Advisory Group. The contract for the operation is administered by CPRA. Several maintenance events have occurred, some of which were funded by CWPPRA with others funded through additional sources. The maintenance events have repaired storm damage and vandalism and provided rock armoring. Operating costs are estimated between \$120,000 and \$135,000 per year for 2015, 2016, and 2017. The project has \$2.4 million remaining. The project area had a high land loss rate prior to construction, and until Hurricane Rita hit, the area was stable with some land gain. After Hurricanes Rita and Ike, the structure was damaged and the land loss resumed. Based on data through 2010, the area was beginning to rebound in 2010 following structure repair. Mr. Mallach stressed that the area is

continuing to improve when the project is in good repair and working. He estimated that the project will protect 997 acres from 1997 to 2017. The CWPPRA cost through 2017 is \$4.6 million, giving a cost per acre through 2017 of \$4,658. The budget to continue this project for the next 20 years, including some maintenance events, is approximately \$3 million, and the project will protect another 997 acres over that time period, resulting in an even lower cost per acre. NRCS and CPRA recommend pursuing project extension.

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

Mr. Hartman stated that since this is just a recommendation to pursue a more formal evaluation, which would be conducted by the Engineering and Environmental Work Groups, he did not object to moving the project forward. He also stated that a formal presentation for each project is unnecessary given that the Technical Committee has all of the information provided in the meeting binders. However, he suggested discussing the Cameron Creole Plugs (CS-17) Project prior to making a decision on the Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04a) Project. Based on the information provided, the Federal sponsors want to extend the Cameron-Creole Plugs project prior to making a decision on the Cameron-Creole Maintenance project. Mr. Hartman suggested that any remaining funding from the Cameron Creole Plugs Project be transferred to the Cameron-Creole Maintenance Project since there is no way to differentiate the benefits of the two projects. Mr. Paul stated that once the evaluation is complete, then the Technical Committee could make a decision about combining the two projects. Mr. Hartman countered that the Environmental Work Group would not be able to review the benefits separately for the two projects. Mr. Paul agreed as long as the funding required for both projects was also evaluated.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

c. Projects requesting approval for no-cost extension:

PO-18	Bayou Sauvage Hydrologic Restoration #2	FWS	May 2017
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Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Clark noted that this is the same recommendation as the motion approved by the Task Force last year for the Bayou Sauvage Hydrologic Restoration Phase 1 (PO-16) Project. Due to the project being inoperable for a period of time following Hurricane Katrina, USFWS is recommending that the project be extended for six years using the existing funds of approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

d. Projects requesting approval for project closeout pending final Operations and Maintenance (O&M) cost increases in the amount of \$1,274,967:

TV-09	Boston Canal/Vermilion Bay Bank Protection	NRCS	Nov 2015	\$630,891
CS-20	East Mud Lake Marsh Management	NRCS	Jun 2016	\$643,986

Boston Canal/Vermilion Bay Bank Protection

Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, presented the request for project closeout pending an O&M cost increase for the Boston Canal/Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09) Project. The 20-year life of this project will end in November 2015. The project is located on the north shore of Vermilion Bay at the mouth of Boston Canal. A no-cost maintenance event occurred to remove sediment fencing behind the dikes because they were inhibiting sediment distribution. The area has recovered and there is emergent vegetation. The project has \$115,000 in funds remaining. NRCS would like to close the project out but leave it in good condition. To do this, they are proposing to tie the sides of the project back into the shoreline, which will prevent the erosion that is cutting around behind the dikes. This proposal would require a cost increase of over \$600,000. The Technical Committee recommended against this additional funding in September of 2014, in part due to questions about the effectiveness of the dikes. The Task Force directed NRCS to present new information about the project to the Technical Committee.

This is a PPL 2 project which was constructed in 1995 at a cost of just over \$1 million. The land behind the dike was all open water when the structure was constructed. Approximately one acre of land has been recently created on each side of the Canal, but it is not well established. This newly created land is being compromised by erosion that is occurring from the backside of the structure. Over the past 20 years, the project has seen a net gain of almost five acres of land. The proposed closeout event is to extend the dike on the west side by 338 feet and the east side by 427 feet. The benefits of the new work, using shoreline erosion rates and land creation, are a net 2.1 acres of land on each side. The cost of the work would be about \$746,000; with the \$115,000 currently in the budget, the project would need an increase of about \$630,000. The cost effectiveness of this project is \$177,000/acre. The original structure and the proposed work would protect an estimated 11.4 acres over 40 years. The cost effectiveness of the project over 40 years is \$135,000/acre, which is within the range of cost effectiveness for projects approved through CWPPRA.

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

Mr. Clark noted that the questions about the effectiveness of the dike were not the primary reason that the Technical Committee did not approve this funding increase in 2014. The proposed actions are not operations and maintenance; they are an addition to the existing project. Also, the cost effectiveness of \$177,000/acre is very high. Mr. Kinler stated that they understand why others may not consider this O&M, but NRCS would like to leave this project in a state of good repair for the Parish, who has helped with navigation aids and will continue to do so into the future. They feel it is somewhat irresponsible to leave the project in a condition that will likely fall into disrepair as the rock becomes stranded due to erosion. Ms. McCormick concurred with Mr. Clark that EPA considers this a new project. Mr. Kinler admitted that it is new work but stated that it is in the project area of the existing project and CWPPRA has had several examples of other projects where rock has been extended due to erosion on the flanks of the structure. Mr. Hartman agreed that CWPPRA has extended projects, but as soon as the project is extended, it will initiate being flanked again. The question is whether it is a good idea to continue to invest in this project. Mr. Paul maintained that it is a good investment for the next 20 years.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Libersat thanked NRCS on behalf of Vermilion Parish for their support for this project. Vermilion Parish agrees with NRCS that the project needs to be in good and fit condition to proceed into closeout. \$600,000 is a good deal to get another 20 years of protection from the project. This is not a unique situation and the Program has extended rock on other projects. It is Vermilion Parish's recommendation to extend the project, and it is in the State Master Plan to add other projects that will extend from the Boston Canal Project. The Parish would be in favor of CWPPRA leaving a good project that will likely be extended by another agency in the future.

East Mud Lake Marsh Management

Mr. Mallach presented the request for project closeout pending an O&M funding increase for the East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20) Project. The 20-year life of this project will end in June 2016. It is located in Cameron Parish just north of Holly Beach. Construction Unit 1 encompasses most of Mud Lake and Construction Unit 2 is located east of Mud Lake. Maintenance events occurred in 2010 and 2011. Prior to closeout, NRCS would like to repair Structures 4 and 13 and replace Structure 17. The cost estimate for this work is slightly above \$700,000; with \$75,000 remaining in the budget, the project needs a funding increase of about \$650,000. This project has reversed land loss and has actually shown a land gain. The project has also kept pace with sea level rise – the elevation goals have been met and have been increasing. While Construction Unit 1 did not have any change in land loss rates, the loss rates in Construction Unit 2 went from losing about 1% per year preconstruction to gaining 0.2% per year now.

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

Mr. Clark agreed that this is an O&M event, and noted that it is very cost effective at approximately \$13,000/acre. Mr. Hartman asked if the landowner is the permittee for the project, and whether CWPPRA has a commitment from the landowner to maintain and operate the project. Mr. Paul responded that it is not in writing, but the landowner has been operating the project and it is providing a benefit for the landowner. Mr. Inman added that he received a letter from Tim Allen of Apache Corporation this week in support of the project, although it does not specifically state that they will continue to operate and maintain it. Mr. Hartman expressed a desire to see a commitment from landowners to operate and maintain projects if CWPPRA is going to invest additional funds in them in the future.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Moertle disagreed with Mr. Hartman. Hurricanes can cause millions of dollars in damage, and landowners cannot guarantee to fix everything destroyed by a storm. The CWPPRA Program does not guarantee to fix every project following a storm.

- e. Projects requesting approval for 20-year extension and cost increases in the amount of \$7,056,150:

ME-04	Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection	NRCS	Mar 2015	\$3,789,112
ME-13	Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization	NRCS	Jun 2018	\$3,267,038

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

Mr. Hartman noted that this information has been reviewed by the Engineering and Environmental Work Groups and has been provided to the Technical Committee at least once. The project sponsors did a good job at presenting the necessary information to the Work Groups, and Mr. Clark agreed.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force close out the projects listed in Agenda Item 4a, with the exception of TE-26, with no additional cost increase. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force combine the Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04a) and Cameron Creole Plugs (CS-17) Projects and that the combined project proceed to formal evaluation for project extension. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Ms. McCormick made a motion to recommend that the Task Force extend The Bayou Sauvage Hydrologic Restoration #2 (PO-18) Project for an additional six years beyond its current life to May 2023 with the remaining O&M balance. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force close out the Boston Canal/Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09) Project pending a cost increase of \$630,891 for a final O&M event. Mr. Haase seconded. Mr. Paul and Mr. Haase voted in favor. Mr. Hartman, Ms. McCormick, and Mr. Clark voted against. The motion failed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force close out the East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20) Project following a budget increase of \$643,986 for a final maintenance event. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force extend the Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04) and Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13) Projects for another 20 years with cost increases totaling \$7,056,150. Mr. Haase seconded. Mr. Hartman, Mr. Haase, Mr. Paul, and Mr. Clark voted in favor. Ms. McCormick voted against. The motion passed.**

6. Agenda Item 5. Decision: FY16 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 26 Process, and Presentation of FY16 Outreach Budget (Process, Size, Funding, etc.) (Brad Inman, USACE) *The P&E Subcommittee presented their recommended FY16 Planning Program Budget development, including the PPL 26 Process.*

- a. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the PPL 26 Process Standard Operating Procedures include selecting four nominees in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three projects in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Tech/Vermilion Basins; and one nominee in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Ms. Murry announced that the proposed PPL 26 Process is the same as that used for PPL 25.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- b. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the FY16 Outreach Committee Budget, in the amount of \$446,113.

Mr. Scott Wilson, USGS, Chairman of the CWPPRA Public Outreach Committee, reported that the requested FY16 budget is \$300 more than last year's budget. It provides for travel, student workers, Outreach staff, involvement from the Federal agencies and the State in events, video editing services, and CWPPRA product creation and reproduction. One change this year is that the four-year WaterMarks contract is up for renewal, so they will be issuing a new request for proposals. The money in the budget is earmarked for print communications.

Mr. Wilson also introduced Ms. Kelia Bingham, the new CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator.

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

Mr. Clark expressed his support for WaterMarks, which is a fine publication that comes out twice a year.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

- c. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the FY16 Planning Budget (including Outreach Committee Budget), in the amount of \$5,002,132.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Haase made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the PPL 26 Process Standard Operating Procedures. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the FY16 Outreach Committee budget in the amount of \$446,113. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the FY16 Planning budget in the amount of \$5,002,132. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

7. Agenda Item 6. Report: Status of the 2015 Report to Congress (Darryl Clark, FWS). Mr. Darryl Clark provided a status update on the 2015 Report to Congress.

Mr. Clark announced that USFWS is progressing with the first draft of the 2015 Report to Congress. It should be submitted to the CWPPRA agencies by the first week of May, and will definitely be submitted by May 15. Mr. Clark thanked USGS and CPRA, particularly Scott Wilson, Sijan Sapkota, Kelia Bingham, Michelle Fischer, and Dona Weifenbach and her staff. The semi-final draft should be submitted by July 15 and the final by August 15. The final drafts will be presented Technical Committee in September and the Task Force in October, and if approved, should be published by January 2016.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

8. Agenda Item 7. Report: Sediment Containment for Marsh Creation Demonstration Project (LA-09) Final Report (Ron Boustany, NRCS). NRCS presented the Final Report for the Sediment Containment for Marsh Creation Demonstration Project (LA-09).

Mr. Ron Boustany, NRCS, presented the final report on the Sediment Containment for Marsh Creation Demonstration (LA-09) Project. This is a PPL 17 project. The project's goal was to demonstrate the Net Gains sediment containment system. The project team decided that the most efficient way to achieve this was to embed it into a larger project to offset some of the mobilization costs. The project was approved in 2007, and several projects were considered, but a host project was not identified until 2012. Construction began in June 2013 on the LaBranche East Marsh Creation Pilot Project and was completed in August 2013. This project is located on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain and included various forms of marsh creation. This material was used to create a completely confined cell of three acres. It was a relatively simple installation. The finished material looks like a boom but it is a C-shape under the water with weights. Two weeks after the dredging completion, the containment material was removed. By July of 2014, it was possible to walk on the land, and as of October 2014, it had about half an acre of vegetation. The material expanded but the containment system did not fail. It retained about 85% to 88% of the material. The cell was designed for 22,000 cubic yards but only 12,394 cubic yards were placed due to overtopping. Recommended improvements for future projects using this material include larger floats (24-inch as opposed to 8-inch); using non-stretch (Spectra) rope and a heavier anchor chain; and making improvements to the weir. The project cost was \$795,000.

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

Mr. Hartman asked if this system is cheaper than earthen containment. Mr. Boustany responded that this project cost approximately \$100 per linear foot, but the manufacturer estimates that the cost per foot could be reduced to \$40 per linear foot on a larger project. The product likely has potential to be used in areas where earthen containment is difficult to construct. The use of this material would have to be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Haase asked if the \$40 per linear foot estimate includes the recommended improvements. Mr. Boustany responded that it probably does. Mr. Haase asked about the next steps for this project. Mr. Boustany stated that the project team has completed the project, and at this point it is up to CWPPRA members to look at the results and determine whether it is applicable to any of their projects. Mr. Clark asked about the borrow material used for the demonstration project; he assumed that it would be very sandy, but it actually was organic clay. From a biological standpoint, Mr. Boustany stated that he was impressed with the product and thinks that it has potential to be effective in coastal restoration.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

9. Agenda Item 8. Decision: Request to Transfer Funds within PPL 14 – East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21) from Phase I and Phase II Contingency to Phase II Monitoring and O&M (Jodi White, CPRA). CPRA and NRCS proposed to transfer funds from Phase I and from Phase II contingency to Phase II Monitoring and O&M, reducing overall project costs by \$32,537. The revised total project cost would be decreased to \$22,992,913.

Ms. Jodi White, CPRA Lafayette Regional Office, presented the request to transfer funds within the East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21) Project from Phase I and Phase II Contingency to Phase II Monitoring and O&M. EPA was the Phase I sponsor for this project, and NRCS was the Phase II sponsor. The project created 363 acres of marsh. Due to low bids and an abundance of good material, an additional 665 acres were nourished. The first year post construction maintenance event was recently completed; during this work, a breach in the East-West Canal along the Gulfward shoreline was identified. Fixing this breach was added to the maintenance event to help protect the investment. CPRA and NRCS would like to move funds from Phase I and Phase II Contingency to Phase II Monitoring and O&M and return \$32,000 to the CWPPRA Program.

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

Mr. Hartman recommended that, since some activities have been completed but there is some interest in doing additional activities such as planting, the Technical Committee not vote on this item until there is a clearer picture of what the remaining costs are. Certainly CWPPRA should reimburse agencies for monies spent to-date, but he requested a clarification of what has and has not been completed with the remaining funds and remaining costs. Mr. Clark agreed and stated that the Technical Committee needs a more specific breakdown of what O&M actions are being

contemplated, since a marsh creation project should not require much O&M. Mr. Paul agreed to return to the Technical Committee at the next meeting with a more detailed recommendation.

Mr. Inman announced that the Technical Committee would table this motion and NRCS will present more information at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

10. Agenda Item 9. Decision: Request for O&M Budget and Incremental Funding Increase for the Black Bayou Culverts Project (CS-29) (Britt Paul, NRCS). The CS-29 Black Bayou Culverts structure was experiencing tidal saltwater ingress at the project site through voids that developed underneath the culvert structure. To address the problem, NRCS and CPRA requested funding for the formulation of a design to permanently repair the structure. Lonnie Harper & Associates was chosen to perform the design of the proposed repair. At the January 16, 2014 Task Force meeting, the Task Force approved a project increase to fund the repair work. The contract award for these repairs was \$6,920,303, which is within the budgeted allocation for this work, but leaves very little funds available for modification and contingencies. Due to the nature of the repair work and to allow timely potential modifications through the completion of the contract, NRCS and CPRA requested a project budget and funding increase of \$500,000 for the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project. The revised total project cost would be \$16,899,059. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve an O&M budget and incremental funding increase for CS-29.

Mr. Paul reported that this project had issues with water undermining the project. NRCS installed a temporary fix and is currently in the process of performing the final repair. Unfortunately, the bids came in higher than anticipated; although NRCS was able to negotiate the price down, there is little money left for any required modifications. NRCS estimates that they will need about \$500,000, and are requesting that these funds be put into a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) so that if the funds become necessary the administrative work is complete and does not cause further project delays.

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

Mr. Hartman suggested that the MIPR be prepared and completed but that NRCS agree to not spend the funds without Technical Committee approval. Mr. Paul and Mr. Clark agreed. Mr. Paul noted that the repair work has not yet begun.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve a budget and funding increase in the amount of \$500,000 for the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project to allow for a MIPR to be in place should the funds be needed, with the caveat that the funds may not be spent without Technical Committee approval. Mr. Hartman seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

11. Agenda Item 10. Decision: Scope Change Request for Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction Project (CS-49) (Troy Mallach, NRCS). NRCS has completed 30% design of the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction Project (CS-49) and CPRA has concurred with proceeding to 95% Design. Based on revisions to costs and benefits, NRCS requested approval of a scope change and to proceed with the project. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force regarding the scope change and whether to proceed with the project.

Mr. Mallach reported that NRCS completed the 30% design of the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project in September 2014, at which point it became apparent that a scope change would be required to proceed with the project.

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

Mr. Hartman stated that there seems to be disagreement among the agencies on whether or not the rock along the GIWW is really necessary. He clarified that cost and benefit estimates should be prepared for the project with and without the rock. Prior to being allowed to compete for Phase II funds, the project team will present both options to the Technical Committee for a decision on which one should move forward for the funding request. This could occur at the same meeting as the Phase II funding request, as long as it occurs prior to the funding request.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the scope change for the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project and allow the Project to move to 95% design with the understanding that two designs will be evaluated for both costs and benefits. One design will include rock on the GIWW and the other without. In addition, prior to being allowed to compete for Phase II funds, the project sponsors shall provide all required information to the Technical Committee to select the alternative to be considered for funding. Mr. Haase seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

12. Agenda Item 11. Decision: Request for Approval for Final Deauthorization of the PPL 19 – Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project (BA-76) (Cece Linder, NMFS). NMFS and CPRA requested approval for final deauthorization of the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) Project due to securing of construction funds for this project from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Phase III Early Restoration Plan in October 2014. This project had a favorable 95% design review through the CWPPRA process but did not secure Phase II funding approval in 2012 and 2013. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve final deauthorization of the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project.

Mr. Inman reported that this project secured funding from the BP Phase III Early Restoration funding.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Hartman made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve final deauthorization for the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) Project. Ms. McCormick seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

13. Agenda Item 12. Decision: Request for Approval for Final Deauthorization of the PPL 17 – West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation Project (BA-47) (Bren Haase, CPRA). CPRA and NRCS requested approval for final deauthorization for the West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project. This project is currently being constructed utilizing remaining CWPPRA funds from the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project (BA-42). The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve final deauthorization of the West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation project.

Mr. Inman announced that this project received funding from another source. Mr. Clark clarified that it is currently being constructed as part of the CWPPRA Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) Project.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There was no discussion from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**DECISION: Mr. Haase made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve final deauthorization of the West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project. Mr. Paul seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

14. Agenda Item 13. Additional Agenda Items (Brad Inman, USACE).

Decision: Request to Redistribute Funds for PPL 4 – Baratavia Waterway West Bank Protection Project (BA-23) (Luke Prendergast, CPRA). The Baratavia Waterway West Bank Protection Project's (BA-23) first costs (E&D, Lands, and Construction) have been reconciled and \$291,422 was returned to the Program. CPRA and NRCS requested that those funds be returned to the BA-23 Operation and Maintenance budget. The total project cost previously approved by the Task Force would remain at \$3,304,787. The Technical Committee voted on a recommendation to the Task Force to approve the request to redistribute funds for BA-23.

Mr. Hartman announced that this item was added to the agenda for the April meeting because the project team needed timely action. Mr. Clark announced that this project has an emergency need because holes developed behind the water control structure.

Mr. Kinler reported that holes in the culvert are compromising the embankment, and if the project is not repaired soon they will likely have to replace the culverts and more work would be required to repair the embankment. There are currently two options: to either insert a liner or to completely remove and replace the culvert. Both options could be performed for approximately \$500,000 if action is taken in a timely manner, but repairing this will cost more if it is not done soon.

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

Ms. McCormick suggested a Task Force fax vote to further expedite this work. Mr. Paul and Mr. Inman agreed, and Mr. Paul indicated that NRCS would write the wording for the vote.

Mr. Inman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Haller reported that one or two people have already accidentally fallen into these holes. It is critical that this be handled quickly.

Ms. Winter spoke in support of this action on behalf of Jefferson Parish.

**DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force redistribute \$291,422 to the Barataria Waterway West Bank Protection (BA-23) Project. Mr. Clark seconded. All members of the Technical Committee voted in favor and the motion passed.**

15. Agenda Item 14. Request for Public Comments (Brad Inman, USACE). There were no public comments.

16. Agenda Item 15. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Brad Inman, USACE).

The Task Force meeting will be held May 14, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center, 646 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana.

17. Agenda Item 16. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Event (Brad Inman, USACE).

The CWPPRA Dedication Ceremony will be held on October 14, 2015 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Program. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Grand Isle, Louisiana. More details will be provided via the CWPPRA Newsflash.

18. Agenda Item 17. Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings (Brad Inman, USACE).

May 14	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
September 10	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 15	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Grand Isle
December 10	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

19. Agenda Item 18. Decision: Adjourn. Mr. Haase made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Clark seconded. Mr. Inman adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:10 p.m.