

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 10 December 2015 CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting

1. Mr. Mark Wingate opened the meeting at 9:42 a.m. The following Technical Committee members were in attendance:

Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Mr. Rick Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Mr. Bren Haase, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
Ms. Karen McCormick, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Mr. Mark Wingate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chairman

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. Meeting Initiation

Mr. Wingate introduced himself and asked the members of the Technical Committee to introduce themselves. Mr. Wingate then asked if the Technical Committee had any opening remarks. Mr. Clark and Mr. Hartman thanked Ms. Leslie Suazo for providing refreshments, and Mr. Clark welcomed Mr. Wingate as the new Technical Committee Chairman.

Mr. Wingate reminded everyone of the rules of public participation. The public will be given a chance to comment on each agenda item; if a member of the public would like to make a comment, he or she should use the microphone provided and clearly speak their name and affiliation. Mr. Wingate also reminded everyone to sign in.

Mr. Wingate opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee regarding the agenda. There were no comments regarding the agenda from the Technical Committee.

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

3. Agenda Item 2. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Jernice Cheavis, USACE). Ms. Cheavis provided an overview of the status of CWPPRA accounts and available funding.

Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE, reported on the status of CWPPRA Program Funds. The current estimate for Priority Project Lists (PPLs) 1-24 is \$2.239 billion. Funding through Fiscal Year (FY) 19 is estimated to be \$1.992 billion, which includes Department of Interior (DOI) funding, as well as funding from other sponsors, such as the State of Louisiana. If the CWPPRA Program were to build all projects approved to-date, there would be a \$247 million gap in necessary

funding. The total for currently approved phases is \$1.681 billion, which includes Phases I and II, Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and monitoring. The total for currently funded projects is \$1.567 billion, which includes Phase I and II projects with only incremental funding for O&M and Monitoring. CWPPRA has \$76,698,088 available for PPL 25 approvals.

Today CWPPRA has 204 projects. 149 are active projects, including: 102 that have completed construction, 22 in Phase I, 20 in Phase II, and five projects are technical support projects, such as CRMS. Four projects have been transferred, four projects are inactive, and 47 have been deauthorized.

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

Mr. Clark welcomed Ms. Cheavis and thanked her for her presentation.

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

4. Agenda Item 3. Report/Decision: 25th Priority Project List (Kevin Roy, USFWS). The Environmental Workgroup Chairman presented an overview of the 11 PPL 25 candidate projects and one demonstration candidate project. The Technical Committee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force for selecting PPL 25 projects for Phase I Engineering and Design (E&D).

Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS, presented each of the 11 candidate projects, providing the fully-funded cost and the net acres of each project. These projects are listed below.

Region	Basin	PPL 25 Candidates	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	North Shell Beach Marsh Creation	USACE/EPA
1	Pontchartrain	Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing	NMFS
2	Barataria	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2	EPA
2	Barataria	Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	Barataria	East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing	USFWS
2	Barataria	East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS
3	Terrebonne	Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation	USFWS
3	Teche-Vermilion	West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation	NRCS/EPA
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement	NRCS
4	Mermentau	Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS

	PPL 25 Demonstration Project Candidate	Agency
DEMO	Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR) Panel	NMFS

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

Mr. Wingate thanked Mr. Roy for the presentation. He recognized that a significant amount of work from the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups, P&E Subcommittee, the Technical Committee, Task Force, local agencies, parishes, universities, and the public has gone into the project evaluations.

Mr. Hartman reiterated Mr. Wingate's comment. He added that the evaluation process was a yeoman's effort by the Environmental Work Group. There has been significant collaboration from the Engineering Work Group and the Technical Committee, which allowed many of the project issues to be addressed.

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

Mr. Martin O. Miller II, landowner, spoke in support of the Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project. The M.O. Miller Estate owns the land to the south and to the west of the Project.

Mr. Phil Precht, ConocoPhillips and Louisiana Land Exploration, LLC, spoke in support of both the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation and East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing Projects. The majority of both projects reside on Louisiana Land Exploration land. The company is a willing landowner and is in full support of both projects.

Mr. Randy Moertle, Little Lake Land Company, General Agriculture Services, LLC, and Rainey Conservation Alliance, spoke in support of several projects. On behalf of the Little Lake Land Company and General Agricultural Services, he spoke in support of the East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing Project. On behalf of the Rainey Conservation Alliance, he spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation and the Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement Projects.

Mr. Ralph Libersat, Vermilion Parish Coastal Committee, spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation and Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement Projects. He added that the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation Project fits into the priorities of Vermilion Parish, such as protecting the Vermilion Bay shoreline, and that the Project will bring freshwater and add to the estuary in these viable crabbing and shrimping communities in the sub-basin.

Ms. Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, stated that the 2012 Master Plan for Coastal Louisiana identifies Lake Charles as a 500-year level of protection area. The 2012 future without-project scenario average annual damages, which does not consider the record economic expansion currently occurring in Lake Charles, is equal to \$23.4 billion. Ms. Cormier urged the Technical Committee to support the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project, which will add 661 acres of protection to the Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish areas. Ms. Cormier stated that it is vital that attention is given to southwest Louisiana, which is experiencing world-leading economic expansion. Ms. Cormier later added that her agency also supports the demonstration project. She stated that one of the greatest features of the CWPPRA Program is testing out new ideas and innovations.

Mr. David Brunet, St. Tammany Parish, spoke in support of the Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing Project. He added that the USACE and St. Tammany Parish are constructing their own in-house projects that will complement this project within the project area. Mr. Brunet stressed the critical nature of the area for St. Tammany Parish.

Mr. Phillip Trosclair, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Program Manager for the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District No. 5, and Vice President of the Chenier Plain Protection & Restoration Authority (Chenier Plain Authority), spoke in support of the Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment and Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement Projects. Mr. Trosclair added that staff at the Rockefeller Refuge is very familiar with both projects and can offer any information necessary to help with the design process. As a resident of Cameron Parish, he spoke in support of the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project. Mr. Trosclair later added that his agencies all highly support the demonstration project.

Mr. James Harris, USFWS and the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, spoke in support of the Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing Project, which will provide valuable wildlife, public use, and other benefits. He added that the Project will restore an area that was previously a very productive marsh and that it will complement and build upon the other restoration projects in the area.

Ms. Ashley Buller, Cameron Parish Police Jury, spoke in support of the Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment and the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment Projects. She added that both project areas have experienced altered hydrologies, saltwater intrusion, hurricane-induced wetland losses, and interior marsh breakup.

Ms. Nedra Davis, on behalf of the Chenier Plain Authority, which serves Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes, thanked the Technical Committee and the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups for their hard work. She spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation, Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement, Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment, and Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment Projects.

Mr. Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish Government, spoke in support of the East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing, East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment, and Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2 Projects. He added that, as stated in their email of support, the top priority for the Lafourche Parish Government is the East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing Project and that anything that can be done to protect Port Fouchon and LA-1 is a vital priority for the Parish.

Ms. Suazo, Ducks Unlimited, spoke on behalf of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation, East Lafourche Marsh Creation, and East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment Projects. She added that her agency's top two priorities would be the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation and the East Lafourche Marsh Creation Projects, as the footprints of these projects offer more protection to infrastructure features, which is a goal of the 2012 Master Plan and Lafourche Parish. As a citizen of Terrebonne Parish, she spoke in support of the Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation Project. Ms. Suazo added that the Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation Project may have the highest cost-per-acre on this year's evaluation matrix, but the costs are commensurate with previously funded ridge restoration projects and it is one of the only protection methods available for the current landscape in the Terrebonne Basin.

Mr. Cassidy Lejeune, LDWF, spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation Project. The Project is located within the boundaries of the State Wildlife Refuge, which is owned and managed by LDWF. The Project is extremely important to the Refuge, is cost-effective, will create marsh, and will maintain critical reaches of the Vermilion Bay shoreline. Mr. Lejeune added that LDWF submitted a letter of support in January 2015 which articulated the agency's willingness to accept ownership and liability of the shoreline protection features following the end of the 20 year life of the project. He stated that LDWF would appreciate the Technical Committee's support of the Project.

Mr. David Richard, The Stream Companies, reiterated Mr. Hartman's statement that the project evaluations are a yeoman's effort and added that it is impressive to watch generations of people evaluate each project. He stated that all of the projects evaluated this year need to be implemented; however, his top priority is the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project. The Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project is adjacent to the existing Oyster Bayou Project, which is currently under construction, and the landrights agreements have already been resolved. The Project will complement the State-funded beach nourishment that has recently been completed, has strong political and landowner support, and is cost-effective. Mr. Richard added that he has fought for non-erosive measures to be placed on navigation channels, bay banks, and other shorelines for many years. The proposed demonstration project provides an opportunity to explore a potentially cheaper method to combat erosion, can address permeability issues, and can be adjusted for specific areas, as opposed to rock alternatives. He spoke in support of this innovative method.

Mr. Robert Spears, Plaquemines Parish Government Coastal Zone Management (CZM), spoke in support of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation Project.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, spoke in support of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation and the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2 Projects. She added that it is important that the rim of Barataria Bay is maintained in order to protect the wetlands to the north and to confine the sediment from the Mid-Barataria Diversion. Ms. Winter also stated that it is important to recreate the marsh platform at the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh to prevent breaches.

Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron, on behalf of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and the residents of the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, urged the Technical Committee to consider all of the projects within the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. She also thanked each Federal agency, and added that their work is appreciated.

Mr. Kevin Sagera, Vermilion Parish Police Jury, spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation and the Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement Projects. He added that these areas contain significant estuary used for crabbing and other activities, and that Vermilion Parish would appreciate the consideration.

Mr. Scott Roussel, Plaquemines Parish Government CZM, stated that Ms. Albertine Kimble has retired and that he and Mr. Robert Spears will be taking over her responsibilities. He spoke in support of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation Project. He added that he has been a resident

of the Barataria Bay area since 1975 and has personally experienced the land loss. Mr. Roussel stated that the Project will help both Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish and that the Project will complement the recently completed Bayou Dupont Project and the barrier island restorations.

Mr. Billy Broussard, Vermilion Corporation, spoke in support of the Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement Project. As the manager of the Vermilion Corporation, he assured the Technical Committee that the Project will have cooperative landowners and that Vermilion Corporation will support the Project in any way possible.

Ms. Janet Rhodus, Launch Leeville, expressed her excitement for the attention in Region 2. Although she appreciates the value of the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2 Project, she encouraged the Technical Committee to consider the East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project. She added that, in 2015, it was clarified that the east side of Leeville is consistent with the 2012 Master Plan and that is it a very fragile area. There is a grave situation at the intersection of Bayou Lafourche and the Southeast and Southwest Canals. Ms. Rhodus stated that once this intersection is open, there will be a catastrophic occurrence of rapid land loss. The East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project is a marsh creation project that will help secure this intersection and will prevent the loss of infrastructure, such as highways, residences, and business.

The Technical Committee then voted on the projects. The voting results were as follows:

Region	Project	COE	State	EPA	US FWS	NMFS	NRCS	No. of votes	Sum of Point Score	Phase I Fully Funded Cost	Phase II Fully Funded Cost
1	Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing	6	1		6	6		4	19	\$3,003,294	\$24,910,808
2	Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation		6	2		2	5	4	15	\$2,693,708	\$21,145,197
4	Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment	3	5			3	4	4	15	\$3,608,939	\$34,464,107
2	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2		2	5	5		1	4	13	\$3,034,310	\$21,943,295
2	East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment	4	3		1	4		4	12	\$4,026,090	\$31,040,882
2	East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing			1	4	1	2	4	8	\$3,242,713	\$29,788,303
3	West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation	1		6			3	3	10	\$2,875,082	\$22,100,778
4	Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment			3	2	5		3	10	\$3,150,226	\$27,765,627
1	North Shell Beach Marsh Creation	5		4				2	9	\$2,906,264	\$21,407,272
4	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement				3		6	2	9	\$3,597,172	\$29,900,374
3	Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation	2						1	2	\$3,456,191	\$33,411,701

	Project	COE	State	EPA	US FWS	NMFS	NRCS	YES	NO	Fully-Funded Cost
DEMO	Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR) Panel (NMFS)	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	6	1	\$2,215,514

DECISION: Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the following projects for Phase I E&D: Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing, Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation, Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment, Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment #2, East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment and the Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration (SPPR) Panel demonstration project. Mr. Hasse seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

5. Agenda Item 4. Report/Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding (Mark Wingate, USACE). *The Technical Committee considered requests for Phase II authorization and approval of Increment 1 funding for cash flow projects for recommendation to the Task Force. Due to limited funding, the Technical Committee recommended a list of projects for Task Force approval within available program construction funding limits. Each project listed in the following table was discussed individually by its sponsoring agency. Following presentations and discussion on individual projects, the Technical Committee ranked all projects and voted to recommend three projects to the Task Force for Phase II authorization and funding.*

Agency	Project No.	PPL	Project Name	Construct Start Date	Fully-Funded Phase I Cost	Fully-Funded Phase II Cost	Total Fully-Funded Cost Est.	Net Benefit Acres	Total Cost per Acre
EPA	BA-34-2	10	Hydro Restoration & Planting Des Allemands Swamp	Dec 2016	\$2,362,687	\$5,524,017	\$7,886,704	NA	NA
NMFS	TV-63	21	Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration	Sep 2016	\$3,136,806	\$22,498,834	\$25,635,640	340	\$75,399
NRCS	CS-49	18	Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction	Mar 2016	\$1,614,405	\$25,543,842	\$27,158,247	242	\$112,224
NMFS	ME-18	10	Rockefeller Gulf Shoreline Stabilization	Mar 2017	\$2,408,478	\$31,922,045	\$34,330,523	256	\$134,104

Each agency gave a short presentation about the features of their nominated project.

Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Plantings in Lac des Allemands Swamp (BA-34-2)

Ms. Barbara Aldridge, EPA, presented an overview of the PPL 10 Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Plantings in Lac des Allemands Swamp (BA-34-2) Project. This project is located in St. James Parish within the northern part of the Barataria Basin, to the west of Lac Des Allemands and south of Vacherie. It was originally proposed in 2001 in PPL 10. Since that time, the Mississippi River re-introduction feature has been determined to not be feasible. The Project scope was changed and approved in 2013; this also included renaming the Project. A kick-off

meeting for the re-scoped Project occurred in January 2014, and a 95% design was completed by October 2015. The new features include clearing and excavating six gaps within the swamp area to restore hydrology and relieve impoundment, spoil placement landward of the existing spoil bank, and cypress and tupelo tree plantings. The design includes six gaps and two alternate gaps. The Project goals are to restore the natural hydrology, relieve impoundment, improve the health of trees, increase the canopy cover, increase the success that the trees will regenerate, and enhance the survival of plantings. The Project benefits 2,395 acres, will create or maintain 529.96 Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHUs), and will include 1,200 tree plantings. The fully-funded cost is \$7,886,704 and the Phase II Request is \$2,575,861. The Project has a very low cost for a high benefit, has full support from the surrounding community and Parish, and uses the beneficial use of spoil on-site. If this project is funded and constructed, it will be the first swamp project of its kind within the CWPPRA Program and will be a valuable learning experience for future projects.

Mr. Wingate opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

Mr. Blaise Davis, St. James Parish Government, stated that his agency has been working with the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups to move the BA-34-2 Project forward for several years. He added that St. James Parish will take full ownership of the Project after the 20 year project life and he thanked the Technical Committee for their consideration.

Ms. Testroet-Bergeron, BTNEP, stated that the BA-34-2 Project can provide an additional marketing benefit to the Program as it is located near New Orleans and can be showcased nationally in support of restoration in Louisiana. She added that her agency is in full support of the Project.

Mr. Richard asked for clarification on the BA-34-2 Project. He asked why the fully-funded cost, which is \$7.8 million, is significantly higher than the Phase II Increment 1 cost of \$2.6 million. Ms. McCormick replied that the additional \$5 million will be spent on additional E&D, O&M, and monitoring. She added that it is a new type of project and costs are uncertain; however, she anticipates that the fully-funded cost has been over estimated and much of it will be returned to the Program. Mr. Richard added that he supports the Project; however, he would like a transparent, specific breakdown of costs. Ms. McCormick agreed to provide that breakdown via email.

Mr. Moertle, EA McIlhenny Enterprises, stated that the BA-34-2 Project will plant approximately 1,200 trees, which results in a fully-funded cost per tree of \$6,500. He has mitigation experience and believes that this is highly overpriced. He stated that he is fully supportive of the CWPPRA Program, the Technical Committee, and the Project; however, he is not comfortable with the current cost estimate. Mr. Moertle also requested a breakdown of costs and Ms. McCormick again agreed to provide it via email.

Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)

Dr. John Foret, NMFS, presented an overview of the PPL 21 Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63) Project. This project is located in the Teche-Vermilion Basin along the Mermentau Basin boundary. The nearest community is Intracoastal City, approximately four miles northeast of the Project. This region typically experiences land loss patterns associated with both man-made and natural events, which affect the beach rim to the south and the upland slope from the terrace. The wetlands within the project area have undergone a land loss rate of -0.42% per year based on 1982 and 2011 United States Geological Survey (USGS) data. The area has also experienced subsidence and sediment deficiency, as well as the enlargement of small interior ponding as a result of storms. Due to these changes, the marsh has changed from a traditional, freshwater marsh, to a brackish marsh, and is now a floating marsh. The goals of the Project are to create and nourish approximately 418 acres of brackish marsh, which will help the restoration of the region. In the 1960's, Cole's Bayou was blocked from receiving freshwater by an oil and gas canal. The Project will relieve that blockage, create marsh in three cells, and restore hydrology in Cole's Bayou by blocking off or reducing 12 breach locations. The Project team will use the existing oil and gas infrastructure canals to get material from the borrow site in Vermilion Bay to the project area, which will minimize dredge pipe damage. The Project will be completed by creating a channel around the newly created marsh. The Project Team is aware of sheet piles located at two locations within the project area, and has plans to extend the wall for hydrologic connectivity in these areas. The Project will also include check valves in two locations. The Project benefits 3,840 acres of marsh and open water habitats, and would result in 240 net acres at the end of the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost is \$25.6 million, with a Phase II Increment I request of \$21.0 million. The Project will restore one of the last previously intermediate marshes that separate Vermilion Bay from Freshwater Bayou, reintroduce the historical hydrologic connectivity, and reduce interior marsh loss.

Mr. Wingate opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

Mr. Moertle, E.A. McIlhenny Enterprises, stated that his company is the majority landowner for the TV-63 Project. Mr. Moertle stated that the total cost per acre for the TV-63 Project makes it the most cost-effective project being evaluated for Phase II Increment 1 funding. He stated that Freshwater Bayou is Southwest Louisiana's Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO), and that the northwest quadrant of the project area has significant amounts of open water that will be filled in. In the next year, his company will be seeking a permit to add a shoreline protection feature to the area. Mr. Moertle added that the TV-63 Project will use interior borrow, from the self-regenerating Vermilion Bay, instead of Gulf of Mexico borrow. He thanked NMFS for keeping the landowners involved throughout the Project.

Mr. Libersat spoke in support of the TV-63 Project and added that it is a priority for Vermilion Parish. The project area is eroding internally, and is very important to his agency.

Ms. Davis spoke in support of the TV-63 Project, and added that Cole's Bayou is a priority of the Chenier Plain Authority. Her agency appreciates the consideration of this project.

Mr. Sagrera stated that the TV-63 Project is crucial to Vermilion Parish's coastal plan. The Project is located at the top of the Freshwater Bayou. He added that restoration can begin at the top and work its way down. The Project is very important to Vermilion Parish.

Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49)

Mr. Troy Mallach, NRCS, presented the PPL 18 Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project Phase II funding request. The Project is located in the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin in Cameron Parish. It is on the east end of Calcasieu Lake in an area known as the Cameron-Creole Watershed. The Project was separated into two construction phases. Unit 1 was a planting feature that was funded in 2009 and completed in 2012. Unit 2 consists of freshwater introduction, terracing, and other features. The Calcasieu Ship Channel (CSC) has altered the historic situation in the project area and induces tidal exchange and saltwater introduction. Modeling indicates that when there are low water levels within Calcasieu Lake, the water could be replaced by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). To do that, the Project will utilize structures that will open when waters are low. An existing project was constructed in the 1990's and has since reached its 20-year project life. That project did not incur any maintenance events on the rock dike, and another project, CS-11, which lies to the west of the Project, was completed by NRCS in 2000, also has not had any maintenance events. The shoreline protection feature will repair an existing breach where there is exchange through the marsh. This will allow the freshwater to flow from the GIWW through the structure to the Cameron-Creole Watershed and Montesano Canals. The proposed project will convey some of the high water from the Mermentau Basin, when it is available, out of the five existing structures along Calcasieu Lake. The Project will benefit 22,510 acres of brackish and intermediate marsh, including the National Wildlife Refuge in the southwest edge of the Project. The existing breach would be repaired and approximately seven acres of marsh would be created within the area of the breach. The Project would result in 242 net acres and 467 AAHUs at the end of the 20-year project life. The Phase II Increment 1 request is \$21.1 million. The Project will reduce the salinization of intermediate marsh by 30% and of brackish marsh by 9%. As a whole, the Project will reduce salinities by 18%, reduce total land loss by 10%, increase fish access to approximately 2,510 acres of brackish and intermediate marsh, and increase freshwater access to the Cameron-Creole area.

Mr. Wingate opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

Mr. Chad Courville, Miami Corporation, spoke in support of the CS-49 Project. He urged the Technical Committee to consider that the Project is a freshwater introduction project that also includes a shoreline protection feature. The CS-49 Project has features that will make the area more favorable for future projects. On behalf of the Sweet Lake Land and Oil Company, Mr. Courville added that there would not be any issues securing landrights for the Project.

Ms. Buller spoke in support of the CS-49 Project and added that the Project will address salinity issues and increase habitats for wildlife.

Ms. Cormier stated that the CS-49 Project is greatly needed and urged the Technical Committee to understand what is happening in the Cameron-Creole area.

Ms. Davis stated that her agency is in full support of the CS-49 Project.

Rockefeller Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18)

Dr. Foret presented the PPL 10 Rockefeller Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18) Project Phase II request. This project is located in Cameron Parish near the western boundary of the Joseph's Harbor Canal. The project area continues west for approximately 0.4 miles. The geotechnical investigation was completed for 9.2 miles and it was determined that soils within the area are extremely poor with a bearing capacity of only 300 pounds per square foot. The Project Team evaluated 84 different design alternatives and designed three alternatives. The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) constructed three test-sections within the area. Due to the cost of the Project, a scope change was requested and approved in April 2013, which reduced the Project to approximately three miles. The Project is located in the Chenier Plain, where the beach is made from shell hash, crushed oyster shell, and sand. The beach material has shifted over time and smothered the marsh behind it. In parts of the project area, existing marsh has disappeared within weeks. When the existing coastal erosion is extrapolated out for 10, 20, and 50 years, the project area is expected to experience erosion at a rate of 46 feet per year with some areas of the Project receding at a rate of over 60 feet per year. The shoreline stabilization features will tap into the existing oyster rim using a 3.5 contour and a breakwater gap every 350 feet to allow the movement of organisms and sediment overtopping. The feature is relatively low and wide so that it will handle wave energy for storms up to Category 1 hurricanes. For storms above that level, it is anticipated that the structure will be under water, which will reduce the exposure of the structure. The structure will consist of a lightweight aggregate core surrounded by clay and heavy stone, and the structures will be placed diagonally to prevent erosion through the breakwater gaps. The Project benefits 450 acres of marsh and open water habitats and will result in 256 net acres at the end of the 20-year project life. The fully-funded cost is \$34.3 million with a Phase II Increment 1 request of \$31.0 million. The Project is anticipated to have minimal maintenance and will reduce the land loss in the area. For every year that the Project is not completed, the project area is projected to lose 17 acres of functioning wetlands to erosion. LDWF is the permit holder and has already agreed to accept ownership and liability of the Project after the end of the project life.

Mr. Wingate opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

Mr. Miller is the landowner to the west of the ME-18 Project. He spoke in support of the Project and suggested that it be extended along the entire coast.

Mr. Trosclair stated that, if approved, the ME-18 Project could not have better timing. Recently, construction costs in the project area have been much lower than predicted, and he hopes that the cost estimate for the ME-18 Project will also receive low bids. Mr. Trosclair added that it would be easy to adapt this project to a larger area, and that the Project will provide benefits for significant recreation, wildlife, and habitat uses. He thanked the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups for their hard work and the public for the support of the Project.

Ms. Brooklyn Frerks, volunteer at the Rockefeller Refuge and a resident of Grand Chenier, stated that South Cameron High School allowed her to speak in support of the ME-18 Project. The Project will benefit the area she calls home and will also benefit the wildlife and birds that migrate to that area from across America.

Mr. John Reynolds, resident, spoke in support of the ME-18 Project. He noted that Mr. Trosclair is a very passionate advocate for waterfowl and public access. Although some CWPPRA projects benefit private land with limited access, the ME-18 Project benefits a public area. As an oil field worker for 35 years, Mr. Reynolds has flown throughout the coast of Louisiana numerous times and has personally seen changes in the coastline within weeks. He added that he has fished within the Rockefeller Refuge for 15 to 20 years, and that it is home to many speckled trout fishing locations. The area provides the public with access to pristine wildlife that has not been commercialized, and the Project would greatly improve recreational fishing, as well as provide habitat benefits for pelicans within this area. The ME-18 project area is very exposed and can provide an intangible benefit of supporting the interior marsh behind it, beyond the existing cost per acre.

Mr. Todd Baker, a biologist in the Coastal Resource Division at LDWF, stated that the Rockefeller Refuge is nationally significant. The resources developed within the Rockefeller Refuge are used throughout the country. He added that the Coastal Resource Division realizes that there are problems within the area and is willing to put forth additional funding for the ME-18 Project. Two Capital Outlay projects have been approved to do additional shoreline protection in addition to this Project. His agency has agreed to take ownership and liability for the Project after the end of the 20-year life.

Mr. Gabe Giffin, LDWF, was assigned to work within the Rockefeller Refuge in August 2015. He stated that southwest Louisiana is in need of shoreline protection features. Mr. Giffin is excited about the ME-18 Project and hopes that the CWPPRA Program will move the Project forward. He added that LDWF has staff and equipment in the Project area and are willing to take on the work necessary to complete the Project. Mr. Giffin stated that a local Boy Scout Troop came to see the project area recently. The Troop had trouble understanding why a project has not been completed when there is so much erosion in the area. Mr. Giffin added that he promised to speak in support of the Project on their behalf. He urged the Technical Committee to consider the ME-18 Project, which, if approved, will allow other agencies to contribute and make the largest impact possible.

Ms. Buller spoke in support of the ME-18 Project. She noted that shoreline stabilization projects are Cameron Parish's top priority every year. The Parish has applied and been approved for a multi-year plan for Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived

Economics of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act funding in the area and is currently working with CPRA on the local match. She urged the Technical Committee to consider the ME-18 Project.

Ms. Cormier spoke in support of the ME-18 Project. She added that Calcasieu Parish sits on top of Cameron Parish. The ME-18 Project is Cameron Parish’s top priority and Calcasieu Parish supports their priorities.

Ms. Davis stated that her agency is in full support of the ME-18 Project. She added that the ME-18 Project is the Chenier Plain Authority’s top priority. Her agency is pursuing funding with Federal agencies and working with delegates at the State to market the project further.

Mr. Hartman asked Ms. Cheavis how much funding is available after the Phase 1 approvals. Mr. Inman responded that the CWPPRA Program began the meeting with \$76.69 million, the five Phase I projects totaled \$16.40 million, and the demonstration project was \$2.20 million, leaving a total amount of \$58,085,232 for Phase II Increment 1 projects. Ms. Cheavis confirmed that \$58.1 million is remaining for the Phase II Increment 1 projects.

The Technical Committee then voted on the projects. The voting results were as follows:

PPL	Project No.	Project	COE	EPA	US FWS	NMFS	NRCS	State	No. of Agency Votes	Sum of Weighted Score	Phase II, Increment 1 Funding Request	Phase II Fully Funded Cost
20	ME-18	Rockefeller Gulf Shoreline Stabilization	2	2	3	2	2	2	6	13	\$30,928,838	\$31,922,045
21	TV-63	Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration	3	1		3	1	3	5	11	\$21,032,685	\$22,298,834
10	BA-34-2	Hydro Restoration & Planting Des Allemands		3	2	1		1	4	7	\$2,857,761	\$5,524,017
18	CS-49	Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction	1		1		3		3	5	\$21,109,905	\$25,543,842

Mr. Wingate announced that the top three votes for Phase II funding were: Rockefeller Gulf Shoreline Stabilization, Cole’s Bayou Marsh Restoration, and Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Plantings in Lac des Allemands Swamp.

Mr. Inman reiterated that there was \$58,086,232 available for consideration, and added that the top three projects total \$54,819,284, leaving \$3,266,948 remaining. Mr. Inman stated that the results will be sent out in a CWPPRA News Flash and will be posted to the CWPPRA website.

DECISION: Ms. McCormick made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve Phase II funding in the amount of \$54,819,284 for the Rockefeller Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18), Cole’s Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63), and Hydrologic Restoration & Vegetative Planting in Lac Des Allemands Swamp (BA-34-2) Projects. Mr. Clark seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

6. Agenda Item 5. Report: Monitoring Work Group Meeting Held October 21 in Lafayette (Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA) Ms. Sharp provided a report on the Monitoring Work Group meeting held October 21 in Lafayette.

Mr. Haase announced that Ms. Dona Weifenbach has retired and that Ms. Leigh Anne Sharp will be accepting Ms. Weifenbach's responsibilities along with Mr. Bill Boshart. Mr. Boshart will handle the financials of the Coastal Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) program and Ms. Sharp will manage the technical work.

Ms. Sharp presented a report on the Monitoring Work Group meeting. The initial reason for the meeting was to standardize the monitoring frequency measures. The Engineering Work Group requested estimates and standardized costs for monitoring efforts, a list of which efforts should be measured and when, and proposals for how the measures will be adjusted to fit each project. A document will be prepared as a result of the meeting and will be released in early 2016.

Ms. Sharp added that the State overhead costs and the impact those costs will have on monitoring budgets were also discussed at the meeting. The Monitoring Work Group agreed that the same level of service should be provided, despite the rising costs, and that the Program will work with the individual project sponsors moving forward.

Ms. Sharp announced that CRMS moved to an automated delineation method in 2012. She recommended that projects use the USGS spatial analysis and automated delineation method when applicable. The Monitoring Work Group discussed the need for a coastwide alignment of spatial products.

Lastly, the Monitoring Work Group meeting discussed measurable project goals, target ranges, availability of monitoring staff to discuss goals as early as the kickoff meeting, and programmatic analyses.

Ms. Sharp announced that the 2015 Coastwide Elevation Survey has new geoids. Everything on the CRMS website has not been converted to the new geoid; some monitoring sites prior to October 1, 2013 have the old geoid and users of the data should note which geoid is used for their project data. The CRMS program hopes to update all sites to the new geoid in the future.

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

Mr. Clark asked if a draft of the document developed at the Monitoring Work Group meeting will be provided to the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups, as well as the Technical Committee. Ms. Sharp replied that the document is intended for the Engineering Work Group, but that it can be made available for others. Mr. Clark expressed his interest in reviewing the document and Ms. Sharp agreed to provide it when it becomes available.

Mr. Hartman stated that the Engineering Work Group's goal was to make sure the monitoring costs were consistent regardless of which office was creating the cost estimate. When the CWPPRA Program began, each project had its own monitoring plan. However, when the CWPPRA Program invested the over \$10 million necessary to create the CRMS Program, it was

agreed upon that program-level monitoring through the CRMS Program would replace project-specific monitoring efforts. Mr. Hartman expressed his concern that project-specific monitoring has been increasing and that the CWPPRA Program cannot afford to fund both the CRMS Program and project-specific monitoring. Mr. Clark replied that it is the responsibility of each agency to determine if their project was successful after 20 years. Some projects do not have CRMS stations nearby and require project-specific monitoring.

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

7. Agenda Item 6. Decision: Request for Approval to Initiate the Transfer of the PPL 20 – Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation Project (CS-53) to the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (Britt Paul, NRCS). *The Chenier Plain Authority has requested a transfer of the Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation Project from CWPPRA to the Chenier Plain Authority. By letter dated 16 November 2015 from the Chenier Plain Authority to the Task Force, the Chenier Plain Authority formally requested that the Project be transferred to them in lieu of deauthorization. The Technical Committee voted to recommend to the Task Force that the initiation of deauthorization be rescinded and switched to the transfer process.*

Mr. Wingate announced that the Chenier Plain Authority has requested a transfer of the CS-53 Project. Mr. Paul added that at the most recent Technical Committee and Task Force meetings, the deauthorization process had been initiated for the CS-53 Project. Since that time, the Chenier Plain Authority has formally requested a transfer as an alternative. Mr. Paul added that NRCS is supportive of the transfer. Mr. Inman and Mr. Clark added that, if the Technical Committee votes favorably, the Task Force will vote on the transfer at the January 2016 meeting, there will be a comment period, and then there will be a vote to finalize the transfer of the Project in either May or September.

Mr. Wingate opened the floor to discussion from the Technical Committee. There were no comments from the Technical Committee.

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

Ms. Davis thanked the Technical Committee for considering the transfer of the CS-53 Project.

DECISION: Mr. Paul made a motion to recommend that the Task Force approve the transfer of the Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-53) Project to the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority. Ms. McCormick seconded. All Technical Committee members voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. Agenda Item 7. Report: Request Approved by Technical Committee Vote to Expend Funds in the Amount of \$150,000 for the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project (Britt Paul, NRCS) *On May 14, 2015, the Task Force approved placing \$500,000 into a MIPR for the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project with the caveat that the funds not be spent without Technical Committee approval. NRCS requested to expend \$150,000, and the Technical Committee approved the request via electronic vote on November 30, 2015.*

Mr. Paul announced that NRCS previously requested approval for \$500,000 to be used for repairs on the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project, with the caveat that a request must be made and granted approval prior to expending funds. A request to spend \$150,000 was sent via email and was approved.

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

Mr. Hartman asked if the remaining \$350,000 will be returned to the Program. Mr. Paul responded that construction is not complete, and that if it is not needed, the funding will be returned at the completion of construction.

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

9. Agenda Item 8. Additional Agenda Items (Mark Wingate, USACE).

There were no additional agenda items.

10. Agenda Item 9. Request for Public Comments (Mark Wingate, USACE).

There were no public comments.

11. Agenda Item 10. Announcement: Priority Project List 26 Regional Planning Team Meetings (Mark Wingate, USACE)

January 26, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Lafayette
January 27, 2016	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Gray
January 28, 2016	8:00 a.m.	Region I Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
January 28, 2016	11:30 a.m.	Region II Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
February 23, 2016	10:30 a.m.	Coastwide Electronic Voting	<i>via email, no meeting</i>

12. Agenda Item 11. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Mark Wingate, USACE).

The Task Force meeting will be held January 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana in the District Assembly Room (DARM).

Mr. Inman noted the time change of the upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to accommodate Colonel Hansen and Mr. Wingate.

13. Agenda Item 12. Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings (Mark Wingate, USACE).

January 14, 2016	9:00 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
January 26, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Lafayette
January 27, 2016	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Gray
January 28, 2016	8:00 a.m.	Region I Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
January 28, 2016	11:30 a.m.	Region II Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
April 5, 2016	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
May 12, 2016	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
September 14, 2016	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 19, 2016	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 7, 2016	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

14. Agenda Item 17. Decision: Adjourn. Mr. Hartman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Clark seconded. Mr. Wingate adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.