

**BREAUX ACT**  
**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act**

**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**06 May 2021**

**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Stephen Murphy convened the 103rd meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on May 6, 2021, via WebEx virtual meeting platform. The agenda is shown as Enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, commonly known as the Breaux Act), which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President George Bush on November 29, 1990.

**II. ATTENDEES**

The attendance record for the Task Force Meeting is presented as Enclosure 2. The Task Force members acknowledged their presence as follows:

Col. Stephen Murphy (USACE), Chairperson  
Mr. Bren Haase (CPRA, for the State of Louisiana)  
Mr. Troy Hill (EPA, Region 6) sitting for Charles Maguire  
Mr. Chad Kacir (NRCS, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture)  
Mr. Chris Doley (NOAA Fisheries Service, for the U.S. Department of Commerce)  
Mr. Jeffery Weller (USFWS, for the U.S. Department of Interior)

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

Col. Murphy introduced himself, and performed roll call of Task Force members. He invited opening comments from the agency representatives; none were proffered except for the eager anticipation of eventually meeting in person. Col. Murphy personally commented to iterate statistically the ecological and economic imperatives of Louisiana's coastal wetland restoration efforts for the nation. He highlighted the acreage created and the investment made by the CWPPRA Program over its 30-year history. He acknowledged a recent change of policy, which now allows the USACE to submit projects for consideration through this process.

**IV. AGENDA and MINUTES**

Col. Murphy asked if the Task Force had any changes to make to the agenda; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried without dissent.*

Col. Murphy reviewed procedures for public participation within this virtual format. Throughout these proceedings, Alice Kerl, USACE, managed any virtual public comments, and confirmed in sound checks whether or not public comments were proffered.

**Agenda Item #2 – Announcement: Retirement of Dr. Sasser, CWPPRA Academic Advisory Group (AAG) Chairman (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

Col. Murphy announced the retirement of Dr. Charles Sasser, who has served on the AAG since the inception of the CWPPRA program. Ms. Bradley provided an overview of the role of the AAG within the CWPPRA program, which is to work with the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee to provide support for the Environmental & Economic and Monitoring workgroups as a scientific augment to the process of screening, developing, and ranking candidate and demonstration projects. Dr. Sasser is current chair of the CWPPRA AAG, having served in that capacity since 2014; he is expected to retire this year. Mr. Erick Swenson will serve as acting chair through PPL-31, at which point a permanent replacement will be named. Ms. Bradley presented a list of all current AAG members.

Col. Murphy invited comments from the Task Force members. Mr. Doley offered his congratulations and gratitude for Dr. Sasser’s seminal contributions in wetland ecology. Mr. Doley, Mr. Kacir, Mr. Hill and Mr. Haase spoke similarly, each expressing their appreciation of Dr. Sasser’s work on behalf of the CWPPRA Program, and their fond experiences of and good wishes for Dr. Sasser in his retirement. Dr. Sasser was not available for comment. No public comments were proffered.

**V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

**Agenda Item #3 – Decision: Adoption of Minutes for the January 22, 2021 Task Force Meeting (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

In lieu of reading them, Ms. Bradley reminded attendees that the minutes been sent to the agencies for review and edits. The revised version is presented in Task Force binders. Ms. Bradley invited questions or comments from the Task Force; with none proffered, she recommended adoption of the 22 January 2021 Task Force meeting minutes.

*Col Murphy called for any opposition to adopt the minutes as presented; none was proffered. He declared the minutes formally adopted.*

**Agenda Item #9 – Report/Decision: 2021 CWPPRA Report to Congress (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)**

Ms. Carriere began with the reminder that a Report to Congress is required by law every 3 years to demonstrate the efficacy of CWPPRA projects. As is typical, the USACE leads the multi-agency effort; this report is similar in format, structure and length as the 2018 report. The first draft of the 2021 report has been provided in the Task Force meeting binders. It was sent to the P&E Subcommittee on March 8, 2021 for review and comment. Ms. Carriere stated that comments have been received from all agencies, but have thus far not been “substantial”. Approval is being sought to proceed with technical content editing, and subsequently with graphic design elements. Another review is anticipated in August; ultimately a request for approval of the final draft is expected during fall (2021) proceedings.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Doley commented on the timeliness of the document, as well as its context, as it relates to ongoing discussions within the current administration regarding coastal resiliency.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to accept the recommended path forward for the Report to Congress. Mr. Hill made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #11 -- Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)**

Ms. Carriere began with a brief review of the review process, whereby the P&E subcommittee determines a path forward for projects at year 15 of their 20-year life. A recommended path forward to cover what happens at or after year 20, may include such actions as a project transfer or extension, and project closeout with or without a cost increase.

She provided a brief verbal review and an abbreviated slide presentation, highlighting the location, features and performance for the projects below, each of which has an end-of-life date within the next five to six years:

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

BS-11	Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip	FWS	14-Dec-26
ME-22	South White Lake Shoreline Protection	COE	29-Aug-26
TV-13a	Oaks/Avery Canal Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS	11-Oct-22

Ms. Carriere then listed and acknowledged projects that have reached their end of life (since the May 2020 Task force meeting) and either have been, or are expected to be closed out: TE-27, BA-02, BA-23, and PO-06.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to accept the Technical Committee's recommendation for the paths forward for project closeout with no additional cost as presented. Mr. Haase made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

Stanley Aucoin, CPRA, was called upon to present the following (single) request:

- a. Projects requesting approval for a cost increase contingent upon CWPPRA workgroup review, a 5 year extension, and subsequent closeout:

TV-04	Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS	15-Dec-18
-------	-------------------------------------	------	-----------

Mr. Aucoin reviewed the project location, original goals, and construction and maintenance history. This is a PPL-3 project, originally constructed in 1999. Today's request is based on several features (at specific locations within the project area) that require one final maintenance event – i.e. repositioning of rock, additional bolstering of rock or sheet pile weirs, or complete removal of features that have been ineffective and have now become navigational hazards. In addition, maintenance will be required at one location for U.S. Coast Guard-mandated signage.

Mr. Aucoin hereby requested transfer of unused Monitoring funds in the amount of \$45,603 to the O&M budget, an O&M budget increase of \$606,922 to prepare for the final maintenance event (i.e. E&D and land rights acquisition), and a further O&M budget increase of \$4,178,478 to implement the final maintenance event upon workgroup review and approval. A five-year extension for completion of the work was also requested.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation for the path forward for TV-04 project closeout with additional cost as presented. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Hill seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

Mr. Roy was called upon to present the final recommendation/ request:

c. Projects pursuing project extension through formal evaluation:

CS-23	Sabine Refuge Structure Replacement (Hog Island)	FWS	10-Sept-23
-------	---	-----	------------

Mr. Roy began his review of this PPL-3 project, which was constructed in 2003, and consists of three automated water control structures. The structures were placed at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal and Hog Island Gully on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge for the purpose of controlling water and salinity levels in the project area. Mr. Roy reviewed project performance, which (regarding water levels) has not been successful; flooding has been observed in all years except 2011 and 2014, and there seems to be an inundation of fresh water into the desired brackish marsh. He reminded attendees of the recent (September 2020) increase in O&M funding for a canal cleanout event to facilitate water delivery to the structures, and for an operations contract to provide intensive management of water levels. Mr. Roy explained the decision matrix and graphic representation of water and salinity levels since project inception; other options (project close-out, project transfer) were also reviewed. Mr. Roy provided cost/benefit justification and a preliminary cost estimate to extend O&M and Monitoring for this project beyond its 20-year life.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Technical Committee and the public. None were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to approve the request for a 20-year project extension on CS-23 through formal evaluation. Mr. Weller made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

**Agenda Item #12 -- Decision: Request for a One Year Time Extension and Budget Transfer of Approved Monitoring to Approved O&M for Fritchie Marsh Restoration (PO-06) Project (Barry Richard, CPRA)**

Barry Richard, CPRA, was called to present the request. Without a power point, he simply made the formal request to approve the Technical Committee recommendation of a one-year time extension, and the transfer of \$100,000.00 from Monitoring to O&M to facilitate completion of project close out. He explained that a final culvert cleanout would be performed before LDOTD assumes responsibility.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to accept the Technical Committee's recommendation for the PO-66 project extension and transfer of funds within the budget as presented. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

**Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for a Transfer of Approved O&M to Approved Monitoring for Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16) Project (Tommy McGinnis, CPRA)**

Tommy McGinnis presented the request for approval of a simple transfer of funds (\$5,243.49) from O&M to Monitoring in order to reconcile the budget for project closeout.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation for the transfer of funds within the budget as presented. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

**Agenda Item #14 – Decision: FY21 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 32 Process, and Presentation of FY22 Outreach Budget (Process, Size, Funding, etc.) (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

On behalf of the P&E Subcommittee Ms. Bradley introduced the following items for Task Force consideration:

She began with a request for Task Force approval of the Technical Committee recommendation of the PPL 32 process (which is based on loss-loss rates and is unchanged from last year.)

- a. Technical Committee recommendation to approve the PPL 32 Process includes selecting four nominees (each) in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three projects (each) in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees (each) in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Tech/Vermilion Basins; one nominee in the Atchafalaya Basin, and one Coastwide Project.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public about the PPL 32 process; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation for the PPL 32 process as presented. Mr. Doley made the motion, which Mr. Weller seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

Kathy Ladner, USGS, was called upon to present the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the FY22 Outreach Committee Budget, which is unchanged from previous years.

- b. The Technical Committee recommendation is to approve the FY20 Outreach Committee Budget in the amount of \$452,113.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public regarding the Outreach budget; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to accept the FY22 Outreach Committee budget in the amount of \$452,113. Mr. Hill made the motion, which Mr. Kacir seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

Ms. Cheavis was asked to present the FY22 planning budget noting the deletion of a line item for the Report to Congress.

- c. The Technical Committee recommends the approval the FY22 Planning Budget (which includes Outreach Committee Budget) in the amount of \$5,008,132.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public regarding the Planning Budget; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation for the FY22 Planning Budget in the amount of \$5,008,132. Mr. Weller made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

## **VI. INFORMATION**

### **Agenda Item #4 – Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Jernice Cheavis, USACE)**

Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE, presented an overview of the status of CWPPRA funds as follows: The fully funded total program estimate since its inception through PPL 1 – 30 is \$3.149 billion. Total projected state and federal sources of funding (through FY21) for all authorized projects in addition to projected Department of the Interior (DOI) funds is \$2.130 billion. A potential gap of \$1.019 billion remains if the Program were to construct all projects to date. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II and O&M totals \$2.256 billion. Authorized funding obligated to each agency for approved projects in all phases currently totals \$1.921 billion.

A request for funding (a budget increase of \$606,922) for the Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration Project (TV-04) is on the agenda. Total available program funding as of January 2021 is \$12,661,338. If the budget increase were approved, the Construction Program balance would be \$12,054,416 at the close of today's proceedings.

The annual request for approval of the FY21 Planning Program budget is also on the agenda. A total of \$597 has been carried over from FY20. In light of this unusually low carry-over, agencies were asked to close-out excess FY20 funds, and are effectively returning \$270,639 to the Planning Activities budget. Added to that is the expected allocation of \$5,000,000 for Planning activities, resulting in an available total of \$5,271,236. An approval request for FY22 Planning and Outreach is expected later in these proceedings, the funding of which totals \$5,008,132. If approved, a balance of \$263,104 would carry over.

Ms. Cheavis then presented a pie chart summarizing projects as follows: CWPPRA has authorized 229 projects through PPL-30. There are 126 active projects including 29 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 17 in Phase 2 Construction, 75 projects that have been completed and are now in Operations, Maintenance and/ or Monitoring phase, and 5 support projects. Additionally, CWPPRA has completed 39 projects (i.e. reached the 20-year life mark), deauthorized 49 projects, transferred 10 projects, and placed 5 in the inactive category.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public; none were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

Ms. Bradley began with a brief explanation of the rationale for electronic voting; she then presented results for the most recent electronic votes as follows:

On April 13, 2021, Technical Committee clarified and approved the recommended 20-year life path forward of TV-04, the details of which will be presented for Task Force consideration in Agenda Item #11.

On April 28, 2021 the Technical Committee voted for a second time to determine whether or not the Wave Robber Demonstration project would move forward in the PPL-31 process. The project received a tie vote during the April 1, 2021 Technical Committee proceedings. Further cost information was requested at that time, and was provided for the second vote. The second vote also resulted in a tie. Therefore, the project will not move forward.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public; none were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Report: Construction Update (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

Ms. Bradley introduced the CWPPRA agency representatives who provided the following reports on a few projects that are currently under construction.

Kevin Roy (USFWS) presented a status update for the Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation and Nourishment project (BA-125). The project is located in Jefferson Parish on a landmass separating Little Lake from Bayou Perot and Bayou Rigolettes. It is adjacent to a previously constructed CWPPRA project – BA-36. The base project consists of two marsh creation cells, and originally sought to restore and/or nourish 791 acres. An electronic vote in March 2020 resulted in the approval of project expansion after a favorable bid was received. The expansion plans include an additional 315 acres of marsh creation and 2,600 LF of bank protection along the Harvey Cut. Construction was completed in the eastern cell in August 2020 and in the western cell in October 2020. Construction of the expansion areas was completed in March 2021; the installation of articulated concrete mats (ACM) was completed in April 2021. Thus, construction for the project is complete; final inspection is scheduled. Total construction costs were about \$19.6 million of a \$23.7 million budget. Mr. Roy provided photographic evidence of project progress (30-40% vegetative re-growth after one growing season), and pointed out various project features.

Ron Boustany (NRCS) provided an update for Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49), beginning with a review of project features. The primary project feature is a freshwater introduction structure, which will allow water to flow southward from the GIWW into the project area. Over 8,000 LF of rock dike is intended to support the proposed structure and protect the associated bank along the GIWW. Earthen terraces within the outfall area of the water inlet are designed to capture nutrients and sediment, and promote marsh accretion. Vegetative plantings along the westernmost edge of the project area have occurred in an effort to mitigate hurricane damage. The entire project area consists of 22,000 acres located south of the

GIWW, west of Highway 27 at the Gibbstown Bridge. Project construction has commenced; as of this presentation 139,000 LF of terraces have been built, and were not significantly damaged by recent hurricanes. An opportunity exists to increase/extend terraces into gaps (left by the removal of a power line), and will occur at no additional cost. Vegetative planting on the terraces has commenced. Construction of the rock dike is complete. Construction of the freshwater introduction structure has commenced. Expected cost of construction is \$9.3 million.

Jennifer Smith (NOAA Fisheries) gave an update for the Cameron Meadows Marsh Creation and Terracing (CS-66) project, which was approved for Phase 2 funding in January 2017. After revisions in June 2020 a Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued in August of 2020; the project is subject to a 400-day contract period. Located between the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge and the Gulf of Mexico, the project includes a pipeline corridor that extends from the Gulf, under Hwy 82, and into the marsh creation area. Construction of the pipeline corridor is nearly complete; the culvert under Hwy 82 is complete. Containment dike construction around the 303-acre marsh creation cell is complete. Dredging is scheduled to begin in September 2021; construction within the marsh creation cell will continue through 2021. Terrace construction (4 acres) has commenced; May 2021 is the estimated completion date there. Ms. Smith provided pictorial evidence of progress. Current construction cost is \$32.1 million.

Ms. Smith continued with a status update for the Bayou De Cade Ridge and Marsh Creation (TE-138) project. The project was approved for Phase 2 funding in January 2019; the NTP was issued in September 2020 and is subject to a 500-day contract period. The project is located south of Houma, LA, westward of Lake De Cade, adjacent to Bayou De Cade. It consists of an 11,133 LF earthen ridge feature along the bayou and temporary earthen dikes within the 437-acre marsh creation area. The earthen ridge and dikes are nearly complete and the dredge pipeline is currently being installed; dredging is expected to commence mid May 2021. At a cost of about \$8.3 million, construction is set for completion by the end of January 2022.

Ms. Bradley closed the Construction Report presentations, with an acknowledgment of the presenters, and an appreciation for the photographic representations therein. Col. Murphy concurred.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Kacie Wright, USGS)**

Col Wingate called upon Ms. Kacie Wright to present the Outreach Committee report. Ms. Wright introduced herself as the Media Specialist sitting in for the Outreach Coordinator. She provided an overview of outreach activities for the time period of January 2021 – April 2021, highlighting the opportunities for virtual public participation as follows:

The Public Outreach Committee launched a pilot program to provide wetland-themed placemats into three strategically located restaurants. The purpose is to garner awareness of and interest in Louisiana’s coastal environment. As response to the placemats is gauged, more will be made available to more restaurants; the placemats will be made available both in print and downloadable format.

The inaugural Youth Wetlands Writing Contest (established in honor of Jennifer Ritter-Guidry) has been conducted. More than 261 entries were received from K-12



students. Winners are to be announced through the month May 2021 via CWPPRA social media; photos and videos of participants reading their entries will be viewable. Ms. Wright acknowledged all corporate and NGO partners on this project, which acted as judges and provided awards for the contest.

The most recent “How-To...” info-graphic was highlighted in NOAA’s *Coastal Communicators* newsletter. The info-graphic provided information regarding the process of submitting project proposals at the Regional Planning Team (RPT) meetings, thus encouraging public participation in the CWPPRA Program.

Ms. Wright presented a list of webinars and virtual meetings recently attended by outreach staff.

Recent electronic and social media efforts focused on Women of the Wetlands in honor of Women’s History Month; that effort reached over 40,000 people, 7,500 of whom “engaged” in the post. Upcoming social media outreach will include new info-graphics, informal educational facts, short wetland videos as “meditation minutes”, all intended to encourage audience engagement.

Ongoing partnerships and projects include the development of classroom resources (specifically interactive *Webquests* and 360° Virtual Field Trips), which will be introduced in teacher workshops over the summer. Work with the National Parks Service in Thibodaux, LA will result in a display (during the month of June) entitled “*I Remember*” alongside the Smithsonian “*Waterways*” exhibit.

The upcoming State of the Coast conference is scheduled for June 4-6, 2021, which will be a virtual event. The event provides a platform to convey the intent, work and success of the CWPPRA Program.

Additionally, Ms. Wright introduced new Outreach Committee personnel, highlighting the experience and credentials of each. Ms. Lauren Leonpacher is expected to be named Outreach Coordinator with a start date of June 7, 2021. Ms. Christine Hidalgo will serve as Educational Consultant primarily to assist in the development of the *WebQuests*. Finally, Ms. Guidry presented contact information for herself and the Outreach staff.

Col. Murphy complimented Ms. Wright on the presentation, and praised the innovation and energy of the Outreach team. He extended a welcome to the new Outreach staff.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public. One was proffered about obtaining the placemats in another area of the state. Ms. Wright responded affirmatively, reiterating that once the pilot phase of the project is assessed, an expanded distribution of the placemats across the coast will likely occur.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Doley expressed his favorable impression of the activities presented, and his confident anticipation of future endeavors.

### **Agenda Item #8 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report (Sarai Piazza, USGS)**

Ms. Sarai Piazza was called upon to provide the update on CRMS services, which she did as follows:

Ms. Piazza began with a review of post-hurricane accretion data. Accretion (sediment deposition) varied across the gulf, but in some areas was higher than ever

documented. Because, however, accretion does not always result in long-term land elevation change; future accretion data analysis will demonstrate how sediment is redistributed within the system through natural processes.

Ms. Piazza provided a few examples of the color-matrix land change maps from the 2018 land change analysis, which is in its final stages of review before publication. She interpreted the graphics (land gain and/ or loss) depicting data that was collected at five points in time from 2005-2018.

She presented high-resolution photographic maps indicating land percentages by site, and land change rates by site.

Heretofore the CRMS program has relied on high-resolution aerial photography for its land change analyses. The next aerial flight is being contracted for the fall of 2021; the final budgeted flight is anticipated in 2024. The USGS is investigating the feasibility of utilizing satellite constellations to obtain land/water imagery, which it can do at no cost (but with certain data use restrictions.) A test case will be conducted this fall in conjunction with the aerial photography to compare and refine satellite imagery processing. Results will be shared with all CWPPRA agencies so that plans for future land/water imagery can be devised.

Ms. Piazza also announced the possibility of expanding the CRMS real-time data collection capacity with cellular telemetry feeds, although many logistical details must be considered.

The next coastwide vegetation survey via helicopter is set to begin in the next few weeks in partnership with LDWS and LSU. Data will be published on the USGS ScienceBase repository and on the CRMS website. A coastwide elevation survey will be conducted and updated in the summer and fall of 2021.

The CRMS program was recently highlighted in a podcast produced by the USGS Ecosystem Mission Area; Ms. Piazza provided a link to view that podcast.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Haase spoke of the importance of CRMS data as it relates to all coastal endeavors, and urges continued support for the program. He also expressed appreciation to the CRMS staff for its recent “roadshow” to educate and update CPRA staff about the CRMS program.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public. None were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Report: Status of Development of the Support Programmatic Project for Signage (Kent Bollfrass, CPRA)**

Mr. Kent Bollfrass provided an update on the development of a new CWPPRA support project to address the maintenance of existing/remaining navigational aids associated with projects that have reached the end of their 20-year life span, and have no budgetary access for navigation aids. The content of this report is heavily based on CPRA field office experience (the entity currently responsible for navigational aids and signage within a project’s life-span, and within its operational budget). Mr. Bollfrass detailed the rationale for developing the budget on a ten-year perspective, and presented a flow chart to illustrate how preliminary annual cost estimates were derived. Mr. Bollfrass gave the Task Force an annualized program budget estimate from year 2022--2031 that included the estimated number of projects likely to be enrolled. He pointed out that the number of projects served by this program would continue to increase, as more projects enter their end-of-life period (past their 20-year active stage). The numbers presented have not been reviewed by any workgroup(s), and are subject to inherent project uncertainties (i.e.

navigational aid removal, project extension) and land rights issues. He stressed the need for program flexibility as all scenarios cannot be anticipated with certainty. A federal sponsor for this program has not been determined, nor has contractual framework for ongoing maintenance been developed (although the latter may be modeled on/ included in existing maintenance contracts.) Future budget requests (anticipated in fall 2021 proceedings) are envisioned as a 10-year fully funded budget, followed by an initial 3-year incremental request; subsequent annual requests throughout the program would allow for effective, flexible implementation. Finally, (and as an aside) Mr. Bollfrass summarized efforts to provide NOAA Nautical Data Branch with relevant CWPPRA project information in order to update NOAA Navigational charts.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Doley spoke with appreciation of the thorough effort thus far to develop this program in a dynamic landscape and as more projects reach their post-20-year stage, and the thoughtfulness of the presentation.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public. None were proffered.

**Agenda Item #15 – Report/ Decision: Selection of Ten Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 30 (Kevin Roy, FWS)**

Mr. Roy was called upon to announce the ten (of twenty-two nominated) projects selected as PPL 32 candidates for Phase 0 analysis at the April 2021 the Technical Committee meeting. He summarized each project (location, features, net acreage and estimated cost) as listed below:

Region	Basin	PPL 31 Candidates	Agency
2	Barataria	Southeast Golden Meadow Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration - Increment 2	FWS
2	Breton Sound	Spanish Lake - Grand Lake Marsh Creation	FWS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	East Cove Marsh Creation	NRCS
3	Terrebonne	Port Fourchon Marsh Creation	EPA
3	Terrebonne	Jug Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing	NMFS
2	Barataria	Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension	NRCS
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation	NRCS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Mud Lake South Marsh Creation	EPA
3	Terrebonne	West Louisiana Highway 1 Marsh Creation	NMFS

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force regarding the ten Phase 0 candidate projects. Col. Murphy acknowledged the efforts of the workgroups, as well as local, state, federal & university participation in the development of candidate project nominees. Mr. Doley echoed that sentiment and noted the scale and cost of each project.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public. None were proffered.

**Agenda Item #16 -- Additional Agenda Items**

Col. Murphy called for any additional agenda items; none were proffered.

**VII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Col. Murphy called for any additional public comments; none were proffered.

## VIII. CLOSING

### A. **Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

### B. **Announcement: Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings**

September 2, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	TBD
October 7, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD
December 2, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	TBD

\*subject to change

Ms. Bradley pointed out that in-person venues will be announced if permissible; in the event that meetings can be convened physically, a virtual component shall be maintained to maximize public participation.

Col. Murphy thanked those in attendance, and offered commendation and gratitude for those involved in the orchestration of this virtual meeting.

### C. **Adjournment**

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to adjourn today's proceedings. Mr. Hill made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded. The motion carried without dissent and at 12:01 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.*