

FRAGE

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING,
PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT**

TASK FORCE MEETING

JUNE 17, 1991

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

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June 17, 1991

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**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
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**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB A

AGENDA

Tab A

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

AGENDA

- I. Introductions**
 - A. Task Force members and alternates.
 - B. Other attendees.
 - C. Opening remarks by Task Force members.
- II. Adoption of Minutes from the January 11, 1991 Meeting**
- III. Technical Committee Recommendations**
 - A. Technical Committee Procedures.
 - B. Planning and Evaluation Work Group.
 - C. Definition of "Major Federal Action".
 - D. Lead Task Force Member Criteria.
 - E. Cost Escalation Limit for Listed Projects.
 - F. Authority to Prepare FY92 Budget.
 - G. Cost Sharing of Detailed Project Design.
 - H. Voting Status of the State.
 - I. Formation of Additional Work Groups.
 - J. Reimbursement of the State for Use of a Contractor.
 - K. Funding of the Task Force Members on a Reimbursable Basis.
 - L. Use of the Wetland Value Assessment Methodology.
- IV. Priority List Criteria**
- V. Status of Fiscal Matters**
 - A. Programming of FY 1992 funds.
 - B. Distribution of FY 1992 funds.
- VI. Additional Agenda Items**
- VII. Date/Location of the Next Task Force Meeting**
- VII. Request for Written Questions from the Public**

Tab B

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
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**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB B

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

TabB

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Task Force Member

Member's Representative

Governor, State of Louisiana

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Administrator, EPA

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Environmental Services Division
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Environmental Protection Agency
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Secretary, Department of the Interior

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Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Washington, D.C. 20240
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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE MEMBERS (cont.)

<u>Task Force Member</u>	<u>Member's Representative</u>
Secretary, Department of Agriculture	Mr. Horace J. Austin State Conservationist Soil Conservation Service 3737 Government Street Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 (318) 473-7751 ; FAX: (318) 473-7771
Secretary, Department of Commerce	Dr. Clement Lewsey Gulf Regional Manager Coastal Programs Division Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management U.S. Department of Commerce Room 721; Universal Bldg. 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20235 (202) 673-5138 ; FAX: (202) 673-5329
Secretary of the Army	Col. Richard V. Gorski District Engineer U.S. Army Engineer District, N.O. P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 (504) 862-2204 ; FAX: (504) 862-2492

TabC

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
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**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB C

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Tab C

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE PROCEDURES

I. Task Force Meetings and Attendance

A. Scheduling/Location

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B. Delegation of Attendance

The appointed members of the Task Force may delegate authority to participate and actively vote on the Task Force to a substitute of their choice. Notice of such delegation shall be provided in writing to the Task Force Chairperson prior to the opening of the meeting.

C. Staff Participation

Each member of the Task Force may bring colleagues, staff or other assistants/advisors to the meetings. These individuals may participate fully in the meeting discussions but will not be allowed to vote.

D. Public Participation (see Public Involvement Program)

All Task Force meetings will be open to the public. Interested parties may submit written questions or comments that will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

II. Administrative Procedures

A. Quorum

A quorum of the Task Force shall be a simple majority of the appointed members of the Task Force, or their designated representatives.

B. Voting

Whenever possible, the Task Force shall resolve issues by consensus. Otherwise, issues will be decided by a simple majority vote, with each member of the Task Force having one vote. The Task Force Chairperson may vote on any issue, but must vote to break a tie. All votes shall be via voice and individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes, which shall be public documents.

C. Agenda Development/Approval

The agenda will be developed by the Chairperson's staff. Task Force members or Technical Committee Chairpersons may submit agenda items to the Chairperson in advance. The agenda will be distributed to each Task Force member (and others on an distribution list maintained by the Chairperson's staff) within two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Additional agenda items may be added by any Task Force member at the beginning of a meeting.

D. Minutes

The Chairperson will arrange for minutes of all meetings to be taken and distributed within two weeks after a meeting is held to all Task Force members and others on the distribution list.

E. Distribution of Information/Products

All information and products developed by the Task Force members or their staffs will be distributed to all Task Force members normally within two weeks in advance of any proposed action in order to allow adequate time for review and comment, unless the information/product is developed at the meeting or an emergency situation occurs.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Liability Disclaimer

To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Task Force nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Task Force may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgement, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.

B. Conflict of Interest

No member of the Task Force (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must clearly be stated by the member prior to any discussion on the agenda item.

Tab D

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
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**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB D

MINUTES FORM THE JANUARY 11, 1991 MEETING

Tab D

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

January 11, 1991

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTION

Col. Richard V. Gorski, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the inaugural meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:00 a.m., January 11, 1991, in the District Assembly Room of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Agenda is attached as Enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President Bush on November 29, 1990.

II. ATTENDEES

The Attendance Records for the Task Force meeting are attached as Enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members, all of whom were in attendance, with the exception of Mr. Richards who was represented by Mr. Horace Austin:

Mr. David Chambers, State of Louisiana
Mr. Russell Rhoades, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. S. Scott Sewell, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. William Richards, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mr. Timothy Keeney, U.S. Department of Commerce
Col. Richard Gorski, U.S. Department of the Army, Chairman

III. DISCUSSION OF FISCAL MATTERS

In his opening remarks, Mr. Chambers noted that Governor Roemer had written a letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works [(ASA(CW))], offering to fund the participation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the CWPPRA during FY 1991, if the State was permitted to receive credit or reimbursement for those funds. Mr. Chambers indicated that the State did not view continuation of cost sharing under the LCCWS as an appropriate use of State funds [1/306]. * Mr. Morgan Rees, representing ASA(CW), stated that his office had been unable to identify an authority that

would allow the State to receive such credit or reimbursement. Mr. Rees also stated that the only authorized source of funding for USACE participation that his office had identified, was the LCCWS and that use of those funds would require the State to resume sharing 50% of those expenditures, as provided in the previously signed cost-sharing agreement for the LCCWS [3/290]. Mr. Rhoades then suggested that the Secretary of the Army's staff prepare a legal brief that addresses the issues of USACE funding in FY1991 and credit for the State of Louisiana. Mr. Rhoades asked that the legal brief be made available to the Task Force members for their review and comment [3/400]. Mr. Chambers asked that the Secretary of the Army's staff provide the State with a written response to Governor Roemer's letter and provide the State with the results of the legal reviews made by the other Task Force members. Mr. Chambers said he will present this information to the State's Wetland Conservation and Restoration Task Force for their review. The State Task Force will then make a decision on the State's final position on the FY 1991 funding and credit issues [3/426].

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

- A. The administrative procedures contained in Enclosure 3, "Task Force Meeting Procedures", were unanimously approved by the Task Force members [1/540].
- B. Projects approved by the Task Force for inclusion on the Priority List or in the Restoration Plan do not require further action by the Congress prior to implementation. There was unanimous agreement among the Task Force members [2/112].
- C. Section 307(b) can be implemented pursuant to Section 303(b), if the Task Force identifies the redistribution of the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River flows as an appropriate alternative to be evaluated for inclusion in the Restoration Plan. Section 307(b) can also be implemented by the Secretary of the Army under a separate authority. There was unanimous agreement among the Task Force members [2/430].
- D. A single Task Force Technical Committee will be formed to implement Sections 303(a) and 303(b). Each Task Force member will have one representative on the Technical Committee. Work Groups, staffed by technical representatives from the Task Force members, will be used by the Technical Committee to accomplish necessary implementation tasks. This procedure was unanimously approved by the Task Force members [3/180].

- E. The public involvement procedures outlined in Enclosure 4 "Public Involvement Program", were unanimously approved by the Task Force members [3/488].

V. TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS

A. All Task Force Members

1. Identify the following criteria and provide to the Chairman, as soon as possible [2/605].
 - a. Criteria for selecting projects for the Priority List.
 - b. Criteria for ranking projects on the Priority List.
 - c. Preliminary list of projects to be considered for inclusion on the Priority List.
2. Provide the Chairman with the names of individuals to fill the following positions, as soon as possible [3/230].
 - a. Task Force member alternate.
 - b. Technical Committee member.
3. Provide a draft FY 1991 budget estimate to the Chairman NLT February 11, 1991. This should be an estimate of the cost of accomplishing the following tasks in FY 1991 [4/1].
 - a. Preparation of the draft Priority List.
 - b. Preparation of the Plan of Study for the Restoration Plan.
4. Review the legal brief to be prepared by the Secretary of the Army's staff, as described under Section III above. Provide comments to the Task Force Chairman, as soon as possible [3/400].

B. State of Louisiana

Develop a draft definition of "no-net-loss" for the purpose of implementing Section 304. Provide the definition to the Task Force for discussion at the April 1991, Task Force meeting [2/235].

C Secretary of the Army

1. Determine if the Federal Task Force members can contract with the State of Louisiana for construction of wetland restoration projects [1/625].
2. Determine if funds can be expended to implement projects included in the Restoration Plan, as soon as the Restoration Plan is submitted to Congress [2/145].
3. Determine if study cost sharing would be required if Section 307(b) is implemented as a separate study independent from the CWPPRA [2/482].
4. Prepare a legal brief, for review by the Task Force, addressing the issue of alternative funding sources for USACE participation in implementation of the CWPPRA during FY1991 and the issue of the State of Louisiana's request to receive credit or reimbursement for cash expenditures or in-kind contributions made by the State during FY 1991 to expedite implementation of Sections 303(a), 303(b), and 304. Task Force action on both issues awaits receipt and review of this legal brief, by the Task Force members [3/400].
5. The above assignments will be completed prior to the April 1991, Task Force meeting.

VI. CLOSING STATEMENT BY MR. KEENEY

Enclosure 5 is the text of Mr. Keeney's closing statement.

VII. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No written questions were received from the members of the public in attendance.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

* The Task Force meeting was recorded on audio tape. These bracketed figures represent the Tape#/Counter# for the discussion of this item.

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING
11 January 1991**

AGENDA

- I. Introductions**
 - A. Task Force members and alternates
 - B. Other attendees
 - C. Opening remarks by Task Force members

- II. Task Force Meeting Procedures**
 - A. Public/Media Participation in Task Force Meetings
 - B. Scheduling/Location
 - C. Quorum/Voting
 - D. Agenda/Minutes

- III. Overview of Act**
 - A. Overview by Section
 - 1. Section 303
 - 2. Section 304
 - 3. Section 305
 - 4. Section 306
 - 5. Section 307
 - B. Overview by Task Force Member
 - 1. State of Louisiana
 - 2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - 3. Department of the Interior
 - 4. Department of Agriculture
 - 5. Department of Commerce
 - 6. Department of the Army
 - C. Deliverables
 - 1. Priority List
 - 2. Restoration Plan
 - 3. Conservation Plan
 - 4. Flow Redistribution Study

- IV. Formation of Technical Committees**
 - A. Technical Committees
 - 1. Priority List Technical Committee
 - 2. Restoration Plan Technical Committee
 - B. Membership/First Meetings

- V. Fiscal Matters**
 - A. FY 91 Funding
 - B. Budget Preparation and Funds Distribution

- VI. Public Involvement Program**
 - A. Information Bulletin
 - B. Public Review Process

- VII. Additional Agenda Items**

- VIII. Date/Location of Next Task Force Meeting**

- IX. Request for Written Questions from Public**



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) 1/11/91	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION New Orleans
--------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

PURPOSE Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection & Restoration Act.

PARTICIPANT REGISTER *

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
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MORGAN REES	OWSA (CW)	703-695-1370
RANDY HANCOCK	LMVD	601-634-5901
Bill Sawant	DNR/CRD	504-342-9420
Walloo/Denderson	Sen. John Breaux	202-224-4623
MARTIN WALKER	SEN JOHN BREAUX	504-579-2531
James E. Miculka	National Park Service	589-3882
Harare Austin	Soil Cons. Service	473 775-1
Mike Woodson	" " "	334 5287
Jim Tucker	Howard Weil Labrousse Friedrichs	582-2629
DUSTY WARRINGTON	Coastal Engineering	594-9128
David M. Soileau	LA Dept of Nat. Resources	504-342-1375
Timothy M. Nebel	LA Dept. of Nat. Resources	504-342-1375
David Chambers	LA Governor's Office	(504) 342-6493
Bill Good	DNR/CRD	(504) 342-7308
Russell Rhoades	U.S. EPA	214 655-2210
Ric Ruebsamen	NOAA/NMFS	504/389-0508
NICK CONSTAN	CELMN-PD-E	504/862-1906
John C. Weber	CELMN-PD-R	504/862-2516
Joe Ryan	Planning Director	504/877-5452
Mary Kasey	CELMN-RE-L	862 1951
Tim Keefe	NOAA/OCRM	202 673-5111



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) 1/11/91	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION New Orleans
--------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

PURPOSE Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection & Restoration Act

PARTICIPANT REGISTER *

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
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Buck Landry	Howard Weil.	504-582-2575
Jim W	WDS-TV	2201
G. Land Brand	WDS4-TV 6	327-0615
Dorene A. Martin	WDS4-TV 6	527-0607
Nancy W	U.S. Fish & Wildl. Service	(318) 264-6630
Jeff Williams	U.S. Geol. Survey	703-648-6511
R.H. Schroeder	PLAN DIV C.O.F.I.	504-862-2214

* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record, please indicate so next to your name.



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) 1/11/91	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION New Orleans
---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

PURPOSE Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection & Restoration Act.

PARTICIPANT REGISTER *

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Darwin Knochenmus	USGS - Baton Rouge LA	(504) 389-0281

* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record, please indicate so next to your name.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Task Force Member

Member's Representative

Governor, State of Louisiana

Mr. David Chambers
Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 94004
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(504) 342-6493 ; FAX: (504) 342-0909

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Division Director
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1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 655-2210 ; FAX: (214) 655-7446

Secretary, Department of the Interior

Mr. S. Scott Sewell
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Washington, D.C. 20240
(202) 208-7400 ; FAX: (202) 208-4684

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE MEMBERS (cont.)

Task Force Member

Member's Representative

Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Mr. Horace J. Austin
State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
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Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
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Secretary, Department of Commerce

Dr. Clement Lewsey
Gulf Regional Manager
Coastal Programs Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal
Resource Management
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(202) 673-5138 ; FAX: (202) 673-5329

Secretary of the Army

Col. Richard V. Gorski
District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, N.O.
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
(504) 862-2204 ; FAX: (504) 862-2492

TabC

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

**TAB C
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Tab C

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
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III. Miscellaneous

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Statement of Timothy R. E. Keeney
at First meeting of
Task Force Under the
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
January 10, 1991
Army Corps of Engineers District Office
New Orleans, Louisiana

Before I state what I believe to be the interest of the Department of Commerce in the work of this Task Force, I would like to designate two primary alternates in the event that I cannot attend future meetings of the Task Force or meetings of various Working Groups. The two primary Department of Commerce alternates will be Mr. Bill O'Beirne, who works in the Coastal Programs Office of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and Mr. Rickey Ruebsamen, the Area Supervisor (Louisiana) for the National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation Division.

ROLE OF NOAA/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IN THE FEDERAL TASK FORCE:

The Department of Commerce/NOAA concerns with regards to the Federal Task Force breakdown into two perspectives; that of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and that of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Office. Both perspectives will be taken into consideration by the Department of Commerce Federal Task Force Representative.

With regards to NOAA/OCRM's position concerning wetlands restoration projects and planning, NOAA's main concern will be to ensure that the plan and projects are consistent with the Federal Coastal Management Policies, which speaks to protection of coastal resources, provision of public access, coastal hazards mitigation, coastal water quality improvement, and public participation, as implemented through the federally approved State (Louisiana) Coastal Management Program. All projects incorporated under the Plan will require review for consistency with the State Plan and will likely require a State Coastal Use Permit. Over time NOAA will also be concerned with monitoring various projects endorsed by the Task Force for their effectiveness. The Task Force should consider using the Coastal Management Program and Section 306 funds under the Coastal Zone Management Act toward that end.

With regards to Section 6 Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan NOAA/OCRM will be interested in how this Plan will be coordinated with the federally approved Coastal Management Plan for consistency, and especially how the Plan will be implemented. We strongly urge that the State Coastal Program be the vehicle to implement the Plan as the Program already includes permits, education, and technical programs. This may avoid duplication of

effort. It is also important to note that Sections 306 and 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act may be a source of funding for development and implementation of the Plan.

From the standpoint of NOAA/NMFS-Habitat Conservation Program, NOAA will be interested in maximizing the use of Federal funds to enhance, restore and create habitats beneficial to living marine resources for which it acts as trustee. Special interest will also be placed on potential negative impacts that projects may have on marine resources (i.e. traditional marsh management projects involving impoundments). NOAA should be able to provide the Task Force with technical assistance on the coastal ecology in marine resources in the design and evaluation of projects. NOAA will also be available to provide monitoring assistance. It is possible that NOAA and the Corps of Engineers could develop a Memorandum of Understanding on restoration practices. Finally with regard to the Conservation Plan, NOAA will provide technical assistance with an eye to maximizing protection of critical marine resource habitat.

Another source of support within NOAA which should not be overlooked is the Office of Sea Grant. The Sea Grant network can provide support studies and backup research to specific aspects of the Plan. Sea Grant may also assist in monitoring efforts.

Tab E

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB E

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

Tab E

1 COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the Technical Committee interim administrative procedures at Tab E. The Technical Committee will operate under these procedures until additional procedures are developed and adopted by the Technical Committee and approved by the Task Force.

Additional Considerations:

The Planning and Evaluation Work Group will develop additional procedures under the direction of the Technical Committee as discussed at Tab F.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

I. Technical Committee Meetings and Attendance

A. Scheduling/Location

The Technical Committee agreed to establish the second Tuesday of each month as the date for their regular meetings. This schedule will begin in July 1991.

Special meetings may be called upon request and with the concurrence of a majority of the Technical Committee members, in which case, the Chairman will schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Emergency meetings may be called upon request and with the unanimous concurrence of all members of the Technical Committee at the call of the Chairman. When deemed necessary by the Chairman, such meetings can be held via telephone conference call provided that a record of the meeting is made and that any actions taken are affirmed at the next regular or special meeting.

B. Delegation of Attendance

The appointed members of the Technical Committee may delegate authority to participate and actively vote on the Technical Committee to a substitute of their choice. Notice of such delegation shall be provided orally or in writing to the Task Force Chairman prior to the opening of the meeting.

C. Staff Participation

Each member of the Technical Committee may bring colleagues, staff or other assistants/advisors to the meetings. These individuals may participate fully in the meeting discussions but will not be allowed to vote.

D. Public Participation

All Technical Committee meetings will be open to the public. Interested parties may submit written questions or comments that will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

II. Administrative Procedures

A. Quorum

A quorum of the Technical Committee shall be a simple majority of the appointed members of the Technical Committee, or their designated representatives.

B. Voting

Whenever possible, the Technical Committee shall resolve issues by consensus. Otherwise, issues will be decided by a simple majority vote, with each member of the Technical Committee (including the State of Louisiana) having one vote. The Technical Committee Chairman may vote on any issue, but must vote to break a tie. All votes shall be via voice and individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes, which shall be public documents.

C. Agenda Development/Approval

The agenda will be developed by the Chairman's staff. Technical Committee members may submit agenda items to the Chairman in advance. The agenda will be distributed to each Technical Committee member (and others on an distribution list maintained by the Chairman's staff) prior to the scheduled meeting date. Additional agenda items may be added by any Technical Committee member at the beginning of a meeting.

D. Deadlines

The Technical Committee will establish deadlines for work items such as review of documents and preparation of comments. These deadlines will be set by consensus or majority vote of the Technical Committee members, if required. Each Technical Committee member is expected to strictly adhere to these deadlines in order to facilitate the extensive coordination requirements of the Technical Committee. The failure of a Technical Committee member to meet an approved deadline will be assumed to mean the member has decided not to provide any response.

E. Minutes

The Chairperson will arrange for minutes of all meetings to be taken and distributed after a meeting is held to all Technical Committee members and others on the distribution list.

F. Distribution of Information/Products

All information and products developed by the Technical Committee members or their staffs will be distributed to all Technical Committee members in advance of any proposed action in order to allow adequate time for review and comment, unless the information/product is developed at the meeting or an emergency situation occurs.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Liability Disclaimer

To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Technical Committee nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Technical Committee may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgement, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.

B. Conflict of Interest

No member of the Technical Committee (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must clearly be stated by the member prior to any discussion on the agenda item.

Tab F

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB F

PLANNING AND EVALUATION WORK GROUP

Tab F

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

PLANNING AND EVALUATION WORK GROUP

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Direct the Technical Committee to establish a Planning and Evaluation Work Group which will be staffed by a representative from each Task Force member and which will have the following initial tasks:

1. Develop draft operating procedures which will address at a minimum:
 - a. Project Prioritization Criteria.
 - b. Project Fact Sheet Format.
2. Present an initial draft at the next Task Force meeting.

Additional Considerations:

The Planning and Evaluation Work Group will integrate the following three documents (at Tab E) into one document.

1. Technical Committee Procedures.
2. Draft Task Force Charter. (Department of the Interior)
3. Suggested Gulf Task Force Committee Structure/Task Force Operational Manual. (Department of Agriculture)

Representatives from the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture will briefly discuss their respective documents.

The following individuals will serve as participants or points of contact on the Planning and Evaluation Work Group:

Mr. Bill Savant, State of Louisiana
Ms. Jeanene Peckham, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Gerry Bodin, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Rick Simmering, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ms. Peggy Jones, U.S. Department of Commerce
Mr. Oscar Rowe, U.S. Department of the Army, Chairman

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE PROCEDURES

I. Task Force Meetings and Attendance

A. Scheduling/Location

The Task Force will hold regular meetings quarterly, or more often if necessary to carry out its responsibilities. When possible, regular meetings will be scheduled as to time and location prior to the adjournment of any preceding regular meeting.

Special meetings may be called upon request and with the concurrence of a majority of the Task Force members, in which case, the Chairperson will schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Emergency meetings may be called upon request and with the unanimous concurrence of all members of the Task Force at the call of the Chairperson. When deemed necessary by the Chairperson, such meetings can be held via telephone conference call provided that a record of the meeting is made and that any actions taken are affirmed at the next regular or special meeting.

B. Delegation of Attendance

The appointed members of the Task Force may delegate authority to participate and actively vote on the Task Force to a substitute of their choice. Notice of such delegation shall be provided in writing to the Task Force Chairperson prior to the opening of the meeting.

C. Staff Participation

Each member of the Task Force may bring colleagues, staff or other assistants/advisors to the meetings. These individuals may participate fully in the meeting discussions but will not be allowed to vote.

D. Public Participation (see Public Involvement Program)

All Task Force meetings will be open to the public. Interested parties may submit written questions or comments that will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

II. Administrative Procedures

A. Quorum

A quorum of the Task Force shall be a simple majority of the appointed members of the Task Force, or their designated representatives.

B. Voting

Whenever possible, the Task Force shall resolve issues by consensus. Otherwise, issues will be decided by a simple majority vote, with each member of the Task Force having one vote. The Task Force Chairperson may vote on any issue, but must vote to break a tie. All votes shall be via voice and individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes, which shall be public documents.

C. Agenda Development/Approval

The agenda will be developed by the Chairperson's staff. Task Force members or Technical Committee Chairpersons may submit agenda items to the Chairperson in advance. The agenda will be distributed to each Task Force member (and others on an distribution list maintained by the Chairperson's staff) within two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Additional agenda items may be added by any Task Force member at the beginning of a meeting.

D. Minutes

The Chairperson will arrange for minutes of all meetings to be taken and distributed within two weeks after a meeting is held to all Task Force members and others on the distribution list.

E. Distribution of Information/Products

All information and products developed by the Task Force members or their staffs will be distributed to all Task Force members normally within two weeks in advance of any proposed action in order to allow adequate time for review and comment, unless the information/product is developed at the meeting or an emergency situation occurs.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Liability Disclaimer

To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Task Force nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Task Force may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgement, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.

B. Conflict of Interest

No member of the Task Force (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must clearly be stated by the member prior to any discussion on the agenda item.

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DRAFT CHARTER

**INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE FOR
THE BREAUX WETLANDS ACT: LOUISIANA'S COASTAL WETLANDS**

Section 1. Establishment of the Interagency Task Force

There is established an Interagency Task Force formed under the requirements of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Breaux Wetlands Act), as noted in Title III of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Act of 1990 (Public Law).

Section 2. Membership of the Task Force

2.1 The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from the following organizations:

- o Secretary, Department of the Army
- o Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
- o Governor, State of Louisiana
- o Secretary, Department of the Interior
- o Secretary, Department of Agriculture
- o Secretary, Department of Commerce

and any other Federal entities that the Secretary of the Army shall so designate.

2.2 The Task Force shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Army, or his designee.

2.3 The Task Force shall be formed no later than January 13, 1991, to conform with the Breaux Wetlands Act.

2.4 Advisory Committees shall be formed by the Executive Task Force as required.

2.5 A Technical Committee shall be formed under the guidance and supervision of the Task Force. This committee shall serve as the principal staff of the Executive Task Force. The representation on the Technical Committee shall be as follows:

- o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- o Environmental Protection Agency
- o Governor's Office, Louisiana
- o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- o Soil Conservation Service
- o National Marine Fisheries Service

and any other Government entities that the Executive Task Force shall so designate.

- 2.6 Technical Working Groups may be formed at the discretion and under the direction of the Technical Committee to accomplish specific tasks in support of the Task Force mission. Representation on the Technical Subcommittees shall include the necessary skills and capabilities to accomplish assigned work, and may include individuals from Government, University or the Private sector.

Section 3. Meetings of the Task Force

- 3.1 The Task Force shall meet at the call of the Chairman or a majority of its members. The Task Force will plan to meet quarterly (at a minimum the Task Force shall meet at least twice each year) to review progress, develop priorities and plans, approve plans and budgets, and develop reports to Congress.
- 3.2 The representative from the Governor's Office, State of Louisiana shall serve on the Task Force as a senior advisor and non-voting member, in keeping with the Appointments Clause, Article II, sec. 2, cl. 2, of the Constitution of the United States.

Section 4. Purpose of the Task Force

- 4.1 The rate of loss of vegetated wetlands in Louisiana's coastal zone has been documented to be inordinately high. The purpose of the Task Force is to formulate plans and projects that will significantly reduce the rate of wetland loss in coastal Louisiana, maintain the quality of these wetland systems, and provide for their long-term conservation..
- ~~4.2 A second purpose of the Task Force is to develop and implement a Coastal Louisiana Conservation Plan that has a goal of achieving no net loss of wetlands in the coastal areas of Louisiana as a result of development activities initiated subsequent to approval of that plan.~~
- 4.3 The Task Force shall prepare a report to the Congress that is a priority list of wetland restoration projects based on cost effectiveness and wetland quality. The first report shall be transmitted to the Congress no later than November 28, 1991, in conformance with the Breaux Wetlands Act. Thereafter, a report shall be transmitted annually as part of the President's budget.
- 4.4 The Task Force shall prepare a comprehensive coastal wetlands restoration plan for Louisiana that consists of a list of wetland projects, ranked by cost effectiveness and wetland quality. The completed Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan will become a Priority List. The Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan shall be transmitted to the Congress no later than November 28, 1993.
- 4.5 The Secretary of the Army shall ensure that navigation and flood control projects are consistent with the purposes of the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan prepared by the Task Force.

- 4.6 Not less than three years following the submission of the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan to the Congress, and every three years thereafter, the Task Force will conduct a scientific evaluation of the completed wetland restoration projects every 3 years and report the findings to the Congress.

Section 5. Distribution of Appropriations

- 5.1 Funding for the activities and projects of the Task Force shall be derived from the Sport Fish Restoration account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (Wallop-Breaux Fund).
- 5.2 Annual appropriations shall not exceed \$70 million, and 70% of those funds shall be available to the Task Force.
- 5.3 The annual appropriations for the Task Force, ~~excluding the grants and assistance available under the Breaux Wetlands Act to the State of Louisiana through the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,~~ shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Army, and the Secretary of the Army shall be responsible for the disbursement of these funds.
- 5.4 Funds to complete the Priority List and Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan shall not exceed \$15 million.
- 5.5 Funding approved by the Task Force for Louisiana Coastal Wetland Restoration Projects will follow the priorities established by the Priority List and Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan and will be obligated for those projects as funds are available within the Wallop-Breaux Fund.
- 5.6 Wetland Restoration Projects funded by the Task Force shall be initially cost-shared at 75% Federal and 25% State of Louisiana until the Coastal Wetland Conservation Plan for Louisiana is approved, and thereafter cost-shared at 85% Federal and 15% State of Louisiana.
- 5.7 ~~The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shall make grants available to the State agency designated by the Governor's Office, State of Louisiana, to assist that agency in the development of the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan. Such grants shall not exceed 75% of the agencies costs for developing the plan.~~

Section 6. Public Participation

- 6.1 The Task Force shall provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan during the planning process.

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Section 7. Coordination with other Federal and State Agencies

- 7.1 The Task Force shall provide an opportunity for other Federal and State agencies to participate in the development of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan.

Section 8. Reports

- 8.1 No later than November 28, 1991, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Congress that includes a Priority List of Wetland Restoration Projects based upon cost-effectiveness and wetland quality.
- 8.2 No later than November 28, 1993, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Congress that includes the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan.
- 8.3 Not less than three years after the approval of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Congress on the scientific evaluation of the completed wetlands restoration projects.
- 8.4 Each Federal fiscal year the Task Force shall submit a list of priority projects as part of the President's budget.

Section 9. Amendment of the Charter

- 9.1 The Charter may be amended by a majority vote of the Task Force Members and in accordance with Department of the Army procedures and policies.

Section 10. Establishment of Committees and Subcommittees

- 10.1 Committees and Subcommittees may be established by the Chairman, or by a majority vote of the Task Force members present at a properly scheduled meeting of the Task Force.

Section 11. Frequency of Meetings

- 11.1 The Task Force shall hold regular meetings quarterly, or more often if necessary to carry out its responsibilities. After development and approval of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan the Task Force shall meet at least twice a year.
- 11.2 Special meetings of the Task Force may be called upon request and with the concurrence of a majority of the designated Task Force members, in which case the Chairman will schedule such a meeting as promptly as possible.
- 11.3 Emergency Telephone Meetings may be held with the unanimous consent of all Task Force members at the call of the Chairman. When deemed necessary by the Chairman, such meetings can be held via telephone conference call, provided that a record of the meeting is made and

that any actions taken are affirmed at the next regular or special meeting.

Section 12. Delegations, Staff and Public Participation

- 12.1 The designated members of the Task Force may delegate authority to participate and actively vote on the Task Force to a substitute of their choice. Notice of such delegation shall be provided in writing to the Chairman, prior to the opening of the Task Force Meeting.
- 12.2 Members of the Committees, and Working Groups are encouraged to attend Task Force Meetings.
- 12.3 All meetings of the Task Force shall be open to the public. A portion of time will be allocated at each meeting for public comment.

Section 13. Task Force Meeting Procedures

- 13.1 All meetings of the Task Force shall utilize parliamentary procedures, when not in conflict with provisions of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law (L.R.S. 42:4.1-9).
- 13.2 A quorum of the Task Force shall be a simple majority of the members of the Task Force or their properly designated representatives.
- 13.3 Whenever possible, the Task Force shall resolve issues by consensus. Otherwise, the business and issues before the Task Force will be decided by a simple majority vote of the Task Force members present, with each Task Force member having a single vote. All votes shall be viva voce. Individual votes and abstentions shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, which shall become a public record. The Chairman may vote on all issues, but must vote to break a tie.
- 13.4 The agenda for Task Force Meetings will be developed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Chairman of the Task Force. Members from other Committees and Public Interest Groups may submit agenda items to the Chairman in advance of the Task Force meeting. The agenda will be distributed to each Task Force member at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Task Force members may add additional agenda items at the beginning of a meeting.
- 13.5 The Chairman shall arrange for the minutes of each Task Force meeting to be taken and distributed within two weeks after a meeting is held. Minutes are to be distributed to each Task Force member and to a distribution list to be maintained by the Chairman.
- 13.6 All information and products developed by the Task Force, or any of its Committees, shall be distributed to the Task Force members two weeks in advance of any proposed action to allow for adequate time for review and comment, unless the information or product is developed at the meeting or an emergency situation exists.

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Section 14. Miscellaneous

- 14.1 To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Task Force, nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Committee may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgment, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.
- 14.2 No member of the Task Force (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must be clearly stated by the Task Force member prior to any discussion on the agenda item and the member shall be recused from such discussion.
- 14.3 The Chairman's office shall serve as the primary contact point for the media.

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

I. Public Information Bulletin

- A. Prepared by Task Force.
- B. Distributed Monthly.
- C. Provides Status on all aspects of Act.

II. Participation in Task Force Meetings

- A. Public Notices and News Releases announce Task Force Meetings.
- B. Public/Media Invited to Attend.
- C. Questions and Comments.
 - 1. Submitted in writing at meetings.
 - 2. Addressed at next task force meeting.

III. Method of Public Review and Comment on Deliverables

A. Section 303a

- 1. Attendance at Task Force Meetings.
- 2. Bulletin/News Releases/Media interviews.

B. Section 303b

- 1. Attendance at Task Force Meetings.
- 2. Bulletin/News Releases/Media interviews.
- 3. Scoping Meetings.
- 4. Public Meeting during Plan Formulation Phase.
- 5. Draft Report/EIS Review and Public Meeting.
- 6. Final Report/EIS Review.

C. Section 304

- 1. Attendance at Task Force Meetings.
- 2. Bulletin/News Releases/Media interviews.
- 3. State provides opportunity for Public Involvement during development of Conservation Plan.

D. Section 307b

1. Attendance at Task Force Meetings.
2. Bulletin/News Releases.
3. Scoping Meetings.
4. Draft Report/EIS Review and Public Meeting/News Releases.
5. Final Report/EIS Review.

IV. Media Participation

- A. Chairperson's Office serves as Primary Media Contact.
- B. Press invited to Attend Task Force Meetings and conduct post-meeting interviews.
- C. Questions submitted during meetings will be answered at the Next Task Force Meeting.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Liability Disclaimer

To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Task Force nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Task Force may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgement, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.

B. Conflict of Interest

No member of the Task Force (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must clearly be stated by the member prior to any discussion on the agenda item.

Tab H

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB H

LEAD TASK FORCE MEMBER CRITERIA

Tab H

Approved

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

LEAD TASK FORCE MEMBER CRITERIA

Technical Committee Recommendation:

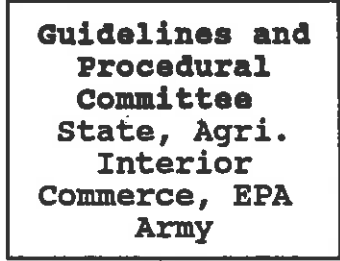
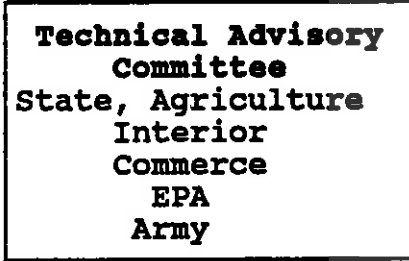
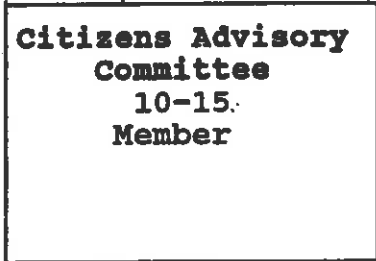
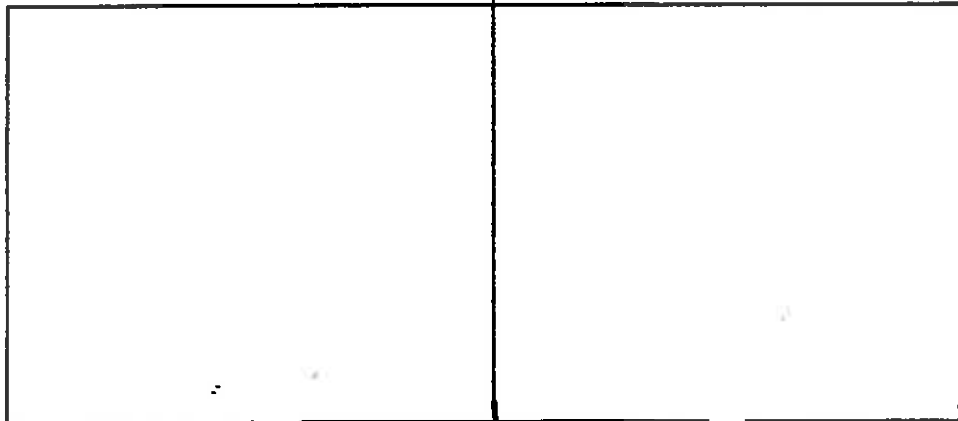
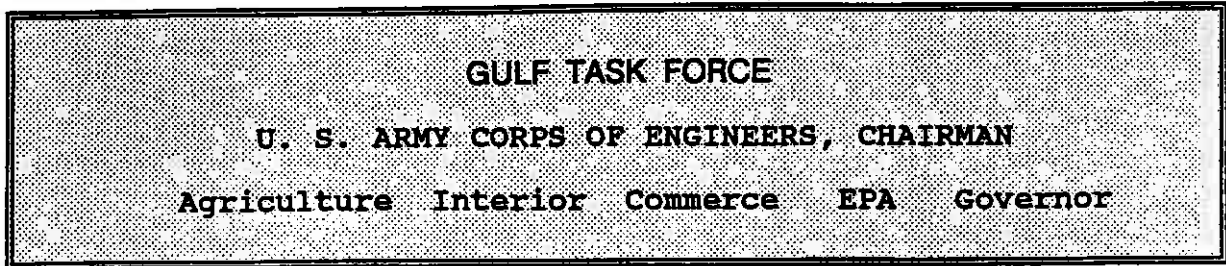
Approve the lead Task Force member selection criteria below. A Task Force member who meets one or more of these criteria would be eligible for selection by the Task Force.

1. Task Force member has jurisdiction by Federal law.
2. Task Force member has existing real estate interest in the project lands.
3. Task Force member has previous experience implementing such a project.
4. Task Force member has an interest in and a capability to implement such a project.

Additional Considerations:

The criteria listed above do not apply to the State of Louisiana, based on the wording contained in President Bush's signing statement, which indicates that the State will not be eligible to serve as a lead Task Force member.

SUGGESTED GULF TASK FORCE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



Suggested functions and membership of each committee.

Guidelines and Procedures Committee (GAPC)

Purpose: To develop an operating manual to be used by the Task Force and committees in carrying out the mandates of the Act. The development of this manual would be an evolving process. All issues relative to legal interpretations, administrative functions, planning and evaluation guidelines and implementation procedures would be in the manual. The manual would also contain the operating principle for a Citizens Advisory Committee.

The Technical Advisory Committee would be responsible for that portion of the manual dealing with planning, project benefit evaluations, project formulations, cost-share, etc. They in turn, would provide this information to the GAPC for inclusion in the procedural manual. Likewise, the Citizens Advisory Committee would be responsible for formulating a public participation section of the manual.

The GAPC would develop all administrative procedures and guidelines.

Membership: One person from each agency and the Governor's office represented on the Task Force.

Type of Discipline: Administrative types, personnel who understand the funding, and administrative functions of their respective agencies.

It would be necessary for this committee to bring in special assistance or resources such as legal counsel on an as-needed-basis without the persons needing to be a member.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Purpose: To develop project planning, evaluation and implementation guidelines. Provide to GAPC for including in manual. Select projects to be recommended to the Task Force.

Develop plans, evaluate proposed projects, and develop implementation strategies for proposed projects.

Develop recommendations for operating and maintaining projects.

Carry out all assigned tasks as directed by the Task Force.

Formulate monitoring and evaluation proposals.

Membership: Representative from each agency and Governor's office.

Type Discipline: Project planners, designers, managers, etc. Specific design, economic evaluations and other normal project formulation functions can be carried out by the agency responsible for a project once the basic project formulation and objectives have been agreed on. Specialists from agencies could be brought to the Committee as resource persons and not have to be a member of the committee.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Purpose: To maintain consistent public review and input into the plans and projects being approved by the Task Force. This group would formulate the public participation plan. They could interact with the TAC and GAPC as needed. They could bring issues and concerns to the Task Force for consideration by that group. This committee may request the TAC to make presentations to their group at an appropriate time during project formulation.

They could tie into and interact with the state's existing coastal committees.

Membership: Ten to 15 members representing the major interests in the area. For example, have three people representing one third each of the police juries across the coastal marsh, 3 from environmental groups, 3 from landowners association, 3 from soil and water conservation districts, and one from fishing-shrimping.

It would be the responsibility of these members representing their interest group to feed information back to their respective members.

Once a plan, project, or any other product of the Task Force is forwarded to Congress, it will have had review by the CAC in accordance with their public participation plan. This will provide continuity in public review. The CAC may not need to be organized until late summer or early fall after the TAC and GAPC have become more organized.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE OPERATIONAL MANUAL

I. Introduction

II. Authority

III. Task Force

A. Membership

B. Meetings and Attendance

C. Staff Participation

1. TAC Reports

2. GAPC Reports

D. Public Participation

1. CAC Reports

E. Administrative Procedure

1. Quorum

2. Voting

3. Agenda Development/Approval

4. Minutes

5. Distribution of Information

6. Budget

7. Distribution of Appropriations

8. Transfer of funds to agencies

9. Project sponsorship

10. Land rights

11. Funding for operations and maintenance

12. Liability disclaimer

13. Conflict of interest

IV. Reports to Congress

- A. Priority list of wetland restoration projects (Section 303a).
- B. Three-year evaluation of projects.
- C. Comprehensive coastal wetlands restoration plan for Louisiana (Section 303b).
- D. Louisiana coastal wetlands conservation planning (Section 304).
- E. National coastal wetlands conservation grants (Section 305).
- F. Corps projects (Section 307).

V. Task Force Committees

- A. Technical Advisory Committee
 - 1. Membership
 - 2. Purpose
 - 3. Operating procedures
 - 4. Area of responsibility
 - (a) Project plan format
 - (b) Project formulation procedure
 - (c) Project evaluation procedure
 - (d) Cost-share procedure
 - (e) Operations and maintenance procedures
 - (f) Monitoring and evaluation procedures
- B. Guidelines and Procedures Committee
 - 1. Membership
 - 2. Purpose

3. Area of responsibility
 - (a). Overall responsibility for development of the operational manual.
 - (b) Provide guidance to the Task Force on administrative matters.
4. Budgets development and management
5. Fund transfer procedures
6. Personnel procedures
7. Liabilities

C. Citizens Advisory Committee

1. Membership
 - (a) Public groups represented
2. Meeting schedule
3. Public participation plan
4. Budget
5. Reports

VI. Project Planning

(Use Congressional Record to establish procedures)

- A. Lead agency assignment
- B. Plan format
- C. Project formulation procedures
- D. Project evaluation procedures
- E. Cost share
- F. Report reviews
- G. Environmental Impact

VII. Project Implementation

- A. Local sponsor requirements
- B. Lead agency responsibility

- C. Contract administration
- D. Land easements and rights-of-way
- E. Operation and maintenance agreement
- F. Three-year post project evaluation plan and report

VIII. Administration

- A. Task force budget
- B. Fund transfer
- C. Personnel procedure
- D. Liabilities

IX. Appendices

- A. Coastal Wetlands, Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
- B. Congressional Record-House, October 27, 1990

Tab G

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB G

DEFINITION OF "MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION"

Tab G

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

DEFINITION OF "MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION"

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the following definition:

The "Major Federal Action" for the purposes of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), under the CWPPRA, will be the advertisement of bids for project construction or the issuance of a Federal permit.

Additional Considerations:

The Technical Committee recognized that it is necessary to determine when full compliance with NEPA is required for each coastal wetlands restoration project.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TASK FORCE PROCEDURES

I. Task Force Meetings and Attendance

A. Scheduling/Location

The Task Force will hold regular meetings quarterly, or more often if necessary to carry out its responsibilities. When possible, regular meetings will be scheduled as to time and location prior to the adjournment of any preceding regular meeting.

Special meetings may be called upon request and with the concurrence of a majority of the Task Force members, in which case, the Chairperson will schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Emergency meetings may be called upon request and with the unanimous concurrence of all members of the Task Force at the call of the Chairperson. When deemed necessary by the Chairperson, such meetings can be held via telephone conference call provided that a record of the meeting is made and that any actions taken are affirmed at the next regular or special meeting.

B. Delegation of Attendance

The appointed members of the Task Force may delegate authority to participate and actively vote on the Task Force to a substitute of their choice. Notice of such delegation shall be provided in writing to the Task Force Chairperson prior to the opening of the meeting.

C. Staff Participation

Each member of the Task Force may bring colleagues, staff or other assistants/advisors to the meetings. These individuals may participate fully in the meeting discussions but will not be allowed to vote.

D. Public Participation (see Public Involvement Program)

All Task Force meetings will be open to the public. Interested parties may submit written questions or comments that will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

II. Administrative Procedures

A. Quorum

A quorum of the Task Force shall be a simple majority of the appointed members of the Task Force, or their designated representatives.

B. Voting

Whenever possible, the Task Force shall resolve issues by consensus. Otherwise, issues will be decided by a simple majority vote, with each member of the Task Force having one vote. The Task Force Chairperson may vote on any issue, but must vote to break a tie. All votes shall be via voice and individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes, which shall be public documents.

C. Agenda Development/Approval

The agenda will be developed by the Chairperson's staff. Task Force members or Technical Committee Chairpersons may submit agenda items to the Chairperson in advance. The agenda will be distributed to each Task Force member (and others on an distribution list maintained by the Chairperson's staff) within two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Additional agenda items may be added by any Task Force member at the beginning of a meeting.

D. Minutes

The Chairperson will arrange for minutes of all meetings to be taken and distributed within two weeks after a meeting is held to all Task Force members and others on the distribution list.

E. Distribution of Information/Products

All information and products developed by the Task Force members or their staffs will be distributed to all Task Force members normally within two weeks in advance of any proposed action in order to allow adequate time for review and comment, unless the information/product is developed at the meeting or an emergency situation occurs.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Liability Disclaimer

To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Task Force nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Task Force may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgement, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.

B. Conflict of Interest

No member of the Task Force (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must clearly be stated by the member prior to any discussion on the agenda item.

Tab I

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB I

COST ESCALATION LIMIT FOR LISTED PROJECTS

Tab I

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

Adopted

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

COST ESCALATION LIMIT FOR LISTED PROJECTS

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the following policy:

Any project whose estimated project cost increases by more than 25 percent will be referred back to the Technical Committee for reassessment of its priority status. The estimated project cost is defined as the cost of the project at the time of submittal of the project to Congress as part of the annual list. The 25 percent limit will not include price-level increases.

Additional Considerations:

None.

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB J

AUTHORITY TO PREPARE FY 1992 BUDGET



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

AUTHORITY TO PREPARE FY 1992 BUDGET

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Direct the Technical Committee to prepare a draft FY 1992 budget for implementation of Section 303 of the CWPPRA. The draft budget will be presented to the Task Force for approval at their September, 1991 meeting.

Additional Considerations:

The initial appropriation of CWPPRA funds will occur in FY 1992.

Tab K

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB K

COST SHARING OF DETAILED PROJECT DESIGN

Tab K

Project approved

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

COST SHARING OF DETAILED PROJECT DESIGN

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the following policy:

The detailed engineering and design of coastal wetlands restoration projects will be completed using construction funds and, therefore, will be subject to non-Federal cost sharing.

Additional Considerations:

Section 306 contains language that indicates that only feasibility-level planning and design work, associated with preparation of the Priority Project List and Restoration Plan, would be conducted at full Federal expense.

Tab L

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB L

VOTING STATUS OF THE STATE

Tab L

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

passed

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

VOTING STATUS OF THE STATE

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the following policy:

The State of Louisiana will be a full voting member of the Task Force except for implementation of Section 303(a)(2), as described in President Bush's November 29, 1990 signing statement.

Additional Considerations:

None.

**Statement on Signing the Bill on
Wetland and Coastal Inland Waters
Protection and Restoration Programs**
November 29, 1990

Today I am signing H.R. 5390, "An Act to prevent and control infestation of the coastal inland waters of the United States by the zebra mussel and other nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species, to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program, and for other purposes." This Act is designed to minimize, monitor, and control nonindigenous species that become established in the United States, particularly the zebra mussel; establish wetlands protection and restoration programs in Louisiana and nationally; and promote fish and wildlife conservation in the Great Lakes.

Title III of this Act designates a State official not subject to executive control as a member of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. This official would be the only member of the Task Force whose appointment would not conform to the Appointments Clause of the Constitution.

The Task Force will set priorities for wetlands restoration and formulate Federal conservation and restoration plans. Certain of its duties, which ultimately determine funding levels for particular restoration projects, are an exercise of significant authority that must be undertaken by an officer of the United States, appointed in accordance with the Appointments Clause, Article II, sec. 2, cl. 2, of the Constitution.

In order to constitutionally enforce this program, I instruct the Task Force to promulgate its priorities list under section 303(a)(2) "by a majority vote of those Task Force members who are present and voting." and to consider the State official to be a nonvoting member of the Task Force for this purpose. Moreover, the Secretary of the Army should construe "lead Task Force member" to include only those members appointed in conformity with the Appointments Clause.

George Bush

The White House,
November 29, 1990.

Tab M

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB M

FORMATION OF ADDITIONAL WORK GROUPS

Tab M

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

FORMATION OF ADDITIONAL WORK GROUPS

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve establishment of the following three work groups, in addition to the Planning and Evaluation Work Group, to aid the Technical Committee in the implementation of Sections 303(a) and 303(b).

1. Engineering Work Group.
2. Economics Work Group.
3. Data Support/Monitoring Work Group.

Additional Considerations:

Each Technical Committee member will review the description of the three work groups developed by the Department of Interior and provide comments on the listed functions and composition of the work groups at the next regularly scheduled Technical Committee meeting, to be held on July 9, 1991.

LA COASTAL WETLANDS TASK FORCE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORK GROUPS

WORK GROUP	FUNCTION	POSSIBLE COMPOSITION
<p>Planning/Evaluation Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify potential projects/plans -Develop & implement ranking system -Determine non-monetary benefits of proposals -Select tentative "final cut" Priority Lists and Restoration Plans -Prepare Priority List/Restoration Plan Submittal Packages 	<p>EPA, FWS, SCS, NMFS, CE, LDNR-CRD/LDWF</p>
<p>Engineering Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Determine engineering feasibility of proposals -Prepare plans and specifications for submittal packages 	<p>SCS, CE, USGS, LDOTD/LDNR-CRD</p>
<p>Economics Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Determine cost and cost effectiveness of proposals -Determine monetary benefits of proposals 	<p>CE, SCS, LDNR (Consult w/ NMFS, FWS, LDWF)</p>
<p>Data Support / Monitoring Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide data needed by Tech. Comm. & Other Work Groups (e.g., wetland maps and trends, data on sediment, contaminants, water quality, geological processes, hydrology) -Develop project monitoring and evaluation plans 	<p>USGS, FWS (NWRC), FWS, LDWF, LDEQ, CE</p>
<p>Env. Compliance Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prepare EIS, Sec. 7 Endangered Species Compliance, F&WL Coordination Act Report, Sec. 401 and 404 of CWA, CZM consistency, Prime & Unique Farmland Assessment 	<p>FWS, EPA, CE, LDNR-CMD, SCS, NMFS</p>

Tab N

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB N

REIMBURSEMENT OF THE STATE FOR USE OF A CONTRACTOR

Tab N

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

REIMBURSEMENT OF THE STATE FOR USE OF A CONTRACTOR

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the following policy:

Support the reimbursement of the State of Louisiana for the cost of retaining a contractor to aid the Technical Committee in the implementation of Sections 303(a) & 303(b), if the contract has the support and concurrence of the Planning and Evaluation Work Group and is approved by the Task Force.

Additional Considerations:

The purpose of the contract would be to conduct a coastwide inventory of flood control, navigation, and water supply problems, projects, and plans, as well as other coastal-dependent activities. This inventory would then enable the Planning and Evaluation Work Group to identify potential conflicts with coastal wetlands restoration projects proposed for inclusion on the Priority List. Planning and Evaluation Work Group representatives will participate in the preparation of the "Request For Proposals" and the selection of the contractor.

STATE-WIDE COORDINATION
LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES
SCOPE OF WORK
(DRAFT OF 6/5/91)

Introduction

State legislation (Act 6) passed in 1989 created the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Program (LCWCR) which focuses on reducing coastal wetland loss in Louisiana. This state initiative is administered by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and involves interaction with numerous state resource management agencies through the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority.

Subsequent to the passage of state legislation, federal legislation in the form of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (PL 101-646, Title III, 1990) was also enacted which allows for federal-state cooperation and assistance in planning and implementing projects to create, restore, protect, or enhance wetlands in Louisiana.

The aforementioned legislative actions and other numerous state and federal programs influencing Louisiana's coastal wetlands, require careful planning considerations and coordination. The state retains responsibility in guiding and protecting its vital coastal resources and programs which influence the conservation,

protection, and management of these resources. The basic goal of the State of Louisiana will be to assure that all coastal activities, programs and projects are coordinated and provide overall net benefits at the hydrologic basin level. The purpose and intent of this contract, administered through the Secretary of DNR, will be to facilitate and accomplish this basic planning goal.

The programs and/or projects to be included in this comprehensive planning effort, to the extent that they influence Louisiana's coastal wetlands include:

1. Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Program
2. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Program (PL 101-646, Title III)
3. Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
4. USDA Watershed Protection Program (PL-566)
5. EPA and State Non-point Source Pollution Management Program
6. State Coastal Zone Management Program
7. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
8. USCOE Navigation Channel Construction and Maintenance
9. USCOE/State Louisiana Land Loss and Marsh Creation Program
10. USCOE Long Term Dredge Material Disposal Plan
11. State of Louisiana Long Term Dredge Material Disposal Plan
12. Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance Program
13. State/Federal mitigation efforts
14. Approved local (parish) CZM programs
15. Local (parish) flood control programs

Scope of Services and Deliverables

The Contracting Party shall conduct this planning effort in four phases.

Phase One will be to provide assistance to the Task Force or its representatives (committees, work groups, etc.) in implementation of Section 303(a) of PL 101-646, Title III (1990). Specifically, for the first year (FY 92) Priority List this will involve the following tasks or actions as requested by the Task Force or its representatives:

1. Utilize a comprehensive coast-wide approach to identify and inventory the following planning needs within each coastal hydrologic basin.
 - (a) Existing programs and projects, infrastructure, and ecological and physical processes affecting wetlands and dependent fish and wildlife populations.
 - (b) Wetland problems and restoration opportunities with identification of any possible alternatives for inter-basin resource utilization or management activities.
 - (c) Potential wetland restoration measures to be employed.
2. Provide additional information and coordination assistance as needed to facilitate the development of specific restoration projects.

3. Prepare and revise draft and final priority list packages for approval.

Phases two, three and four will deal with the implementation of Section 303(b), PL 101-646, Title III and the integration of the first year (FY'92) priority list of projects with the long-term Coastal Restoration Plan required under Section 303(b).

Phase Two will be an investigation of the fifteen programs/projects identified in the introduction. This will include researching the stated objectives and proposed time frame of each. The funding mechanisms, authorizations, and participating agencies will also be determined, as well as the principal contact people. An analysis of the viability of each program/project will be discussed, and the expected results assuming that status quo conditions persist.

The deliverable for this phase will consist of a report containing the information discussed in the above paragraph, as well an overview of the present state of wetland conservation programs in Louisiana with a time-line projection of anticipated impacts (positive or negative) on the distribution of water, sediment, and vegetation throughout the coastal wetlands over the next ten years. This report will conclude with a synopsis of the current programmatic situation, with particular attention to apparent omissions, redundancies, and efforts which may conflict with specific basin needs and objectives.

Phase Three will be an overview of Louisiana's coastal wetland loss problem and relevant wetland resource management alternatives. This will include a review the predominant mechanisms of wetland loss pertinent to each of the nine coastal hydrologic basins, and a proposed plan for each basin that would utilize existing resources and processes to the fullest extent feasible. This plan would seek to integrate a full array of available management practices within each basin; including existing projects, those that have already been proposed for implementation, and new measures to be suggested by the Contracting Party.

Phase Four will involve development by the contracting part of a strategy to coordinate the initiatives investigated in Phase Two in order to accomplish as much of the integrated plan developed in Phase Three as possible. "Missing links" needed to tie various efforts together will also be an explanation of how the State can best seek to achieve this overall integration of programmatic objectives. Finally, there shall be a discussion of what the likely end result of allowing the status quo to continue without guidance from an overview perspective (from Phase Two), versus what the potential deliverable for this phase will be directed towards in both the short-term (Priority List) and long-term (Restoration Plan) planning efforts.

In all deliverable reports, graphic presentation of material will be used to the extent that it can illustrate information more effectively than text alone. Also, the reports shall be presented

to Task Force representatives in draft form at least -- days prior to delivery of the final report in order to allow for Task Force input. The time frame of this planning effort is expected to be ---. Work on Phases One, Two, and Three will be concurrent, and must be completed (final draft submitted to DNR) within --- months of the notice-to-proceed date. Work on Phase Four shall not begin until Phases One, Two, and Three are completed. Fifty bound and covered copies of each final deliverable report shall be supplied to DNR as part of this agreement. Three copies of a slide presentation consisting of 50 color slides each shall also be prepared as a deliverable item in order to assist the Task Force in explaining the Phase Four coordination strategy.

Tab O

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB O

FUNDING OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS

Tab O

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

FUNDING OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the following policy:

All Task Force members, including the State of Louisiana, will be reimbursed from CWPPRA funds for their actual budgeted expenses associated with the preparation of the Priority Project List (Section 303a) and the Restoration Plan (Section 303b).

Additional Considerations:

This procedure is presently used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fund activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Tab P

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB P

USE OF THE WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Tab P

*approved
or
modified*

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

USE OF THE WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Approve the use of the "Wetland Value Assessment Methodology" as the primary wetland quality criteria, *with subject to testing and refinement successful*

Additional Considerations:

The "Wetland Value Assessment Methodology" was proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is derived from their Habitat Evaluation Procedures. The Planning and Evaluation Work Group will identify other secondary wetland quality criteria, as appropriate, fully utilizing previous proposals made by the Technical Committee members. The Planning and Evaluation Work Group will test the "Wetland Value Assessment Methodology" and recommend revisions, if required.

DRAFT

COASTAL WETLAND PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

Project Ranking Procedure

Wetland Value Assessment Methodology

Introduction

The Wetland Value Assessment (WVA) methodology was developed as a uniform and quantitative habitat-based assessment methodology for use in prioritizing project proposals submitted under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The WVA takes into account changes in habitat quality and quantity that are projected to be brought about as a result of a proposed project. The results of the WVA, measured in Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHU's), will be combined with pertinent engineering and economic data to provide a measure of the effectiveness of a proposed project in terms of cost per AAHU gained.

The WVA was developed by the personnel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lafayette Field Office, with extensive participation and/or input from all agencies represented on the CWPPRA Task Force. The final form of the methodology was dictated largely by the short time frame under which projects proposed for 1991 need to be identified, evaluated, ranked, and submitted to Congress. Therefore, the selected methodology had to be developed quickly and it had to be easily applied using available data.

WVA Development

The WVA is a modification of the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. HEP is widely used by the Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal and State agencies in evaluating the impacts of development projects on fish and wildlife resources. HEP is based on species-oriented Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) models. However, the WVA utilizes community models developed for each of four coastal Louisiana wetland types: swamp, fresh/intermediate marsh, brackish marsh, and saline marsh. The WVA assumes that optimal conditions for a coastal wetland type can be characterized and that any wetland condition can be compared to the optimum to provide an index of wetland quality. The WVA was developed strictly for use in ranking proposed projects; it is not intended to provide a detailed, comprehensive methodology for establishing baseline conditions within a project area.

WVA community model development consisted of first selecting habitat variables for describing wetland quality. Initial variables were selected by consulting established HSI models (published for use in HEP) for species known to occur in the various coastal wetland types being evaluated. A variable had to satisfy three criteria before being considered: 1) the condition described by the variable had to be important in

defining or characterizing the particular wetland type under consideration, 2) values had to be easily estimated for the proposed project area based on existing data (e.g., aerial photography, LANDSAT, GIS systems, water quality monitoring stations, and interviews with knowledgeable individuals), and 3) the variable had to be sensitive to the types of changes expected to be brought about by typical wetland projects proposed under the CWPPRA. Models consulted included those for mammals, birds, reptiles, freshwater fish, and estuarine fish and shellfish, which represented a wide range of trophic levels and habitat requirements.

The variable selection procedure resulted in seven variables chosen to describe wetland quality for each of the three marsh types, and three variables for swamp (Attachments A-D). Suitability Index graphs were constructed for each variable to illustrate how wetland quality changes as the variable values change. Construction of Suitability Index graphs for each variable allows the model user to quantitatively describe the "quality" of a wetland area for any value measured for the variable in question. Each Suitability Index ranges from 0.0 to 1.0, with 1.0 representing the optimum condition for the variable in question. Suitability Index graphs were developed via consensus between various representatives of most of the agencies making up the CWPPRA Task Force.

Suitability Indices for each of the variables within a wetland type are combined via a formula to yield a single Habitat Suitability Index value that describes the overall quality of the particular study area being evaluated (Attachment 2). Like the Suitability Index graphs, the Habitat Suitability Index formulas were developed by consensus.

WVA Application

Habitat Suitability Indices are established for baseline conditions and are predicted for future-with and future-without project conditions for various target years throughout the expected life of the project being evaluated. Those Habitat Suitability Indices are then multiplied by the acreage of wetland type known or expected to be present in the various target years to arrive at Habitat Units. The Habitat Units are then summed across all years in the project life and are annualized to arrive at Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHU's). The AAHU's resulting from the future-with and future-without project conditions are compared to determine the net gain in AAHU's attributable to the project being evaluated. Net gain in AAHU's is then combined with cost data to arrive at a cost per AAHU for the evaluated project.

WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MODEL

Fresh/Intermediate Marsh

Vegetation:

- V₁ Percent of wetland area dominated by emergent vegetation.
V₂ Percent of open water area dominated by aquatic vegetation.

Interspersion:

- V₃ Marsh/open water interspersion.

Water Depth and Duration:

- V₄ Water regime of marsh and shallow water areas.
V₅ Open water depth.

Water Quality:

- V₆ Mean high salinity during the growing season (March through October).

Aquatic Organism Access:

- V₇ Percent of marsh/open water interface accessible to aquatic organisms.

HSI Calculation:

$$HSI = (SI_{V_1}^2 \times SI_{V_2}^2 \times SI_{V_3} \times SI_{V_4} \times SI_{V_5} \times SI_{V_6} \times SI_{V_7})^{1/9}$$

WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MODEL

Brackish Marsh

Vegetation:

- V₁ Percent of wetland area dominated by emergent vegetation.
V₂ Percent of open water area dominated by aquatic vegetation.

Interspersion:

- V₃ Marsh/open water interspersion.

Water Depth and Duration:

- V₄ Water regime of marsh and shallow water areas.
V₅ Open water depth.

Water Quality:

- V₆ Average annual salinity.

Aquatic Organism Access:

- V₇ Percent of marsh/open water interface accessible to aquatic organisms.

HSI Calculation:

$$HSI = (SI_{V_1}^2 \times SI_{V_2}^2 \times SI_{V_3} \times SI_{V_4} \times SI_{V_5} \times SI_{V_6} \times SI_{V_7})^{1/9}$$

WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MODEL

Saline Marsh

Vegetation:

V₁ Percent of wetland area dominated by emergent vegetation.

V₂ Percent of open water area dominated by aquatic vegetation.

Interspersion:

V₃ Marsh/open water interspersion.

Water Depth and Duration:

V₄ Water regime of marsh and shallow water areas.

V₅ Open water depth.

Water Quality:

V₆ Average annual salinity.

Aquatic Organism Access:

V₇ Percent of marsh/open water interface accessible to aquatic organisms.

HSI Calculation:

$$HSI = (SI_{V_1}^2 \times SI_{V_2}^2 \times SI_{V_3} \times SI_{V_4} \times SI_{V_5} \times SI_{V_6} \times SI_{V_7})^{1/9}$$

WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MODEL

Swamp

Water Depth and Duration:

V₁ Water regime.

Water Quality:

V₂ Water flow/exchange.

V₃ Average annual salinity.

HSI Calculation:

$$HSI = (SI_{V_1} \times SI_{V_2} \times SI_{V_3})^{1/3}$$

Tab Q

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

**TAB Q
PRIORITY LIST CRITERIA**

Tab Q

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

PRIORITY LIST CRITERIA

Technical Committee Recommendation:

Differ action on the "Priority List Criteria" until the Task Force meeting to be held in September, 1991.

Additional Considerations:

The Priority List Criteria, at Tab Q, is presently under consideration by the Technical Committee. The Chairman of the Technical Committee will provide a brief status report to the Task Force.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

PRIORITY LIST CRITERIA

Criteria for Candidate Projects :

- Coastal wetland restoration project (as defined in Section 302).
 - "any technically feasible activity to create, restore, protect, or enhance coastal wetlands through sediment and freshwater diversion, water management, or other measures that the Task Force finds will significantly contribute to the long-term restoration or protection of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of coastal wetlands in the State of Louisiana, includes any provision of law, including, but not limited to, new projects, completion or expansion of existing or on-going projects, individual phases, portions, or components of projects, and operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of completed projects; the primary purpose of a "coastal wetlands restoration project" shall not be to provide navigation, irrigation, or flood control benefits;"
- Project substantially complete in 5 years.
- Project results in the long-term (>10 years) conservation of wetlands.
- Project meets desirable planning objectives established by the Task Force and does not appear to conflict with other projects within the same basin.

Criteria for Listed Projects :

- Criteria for candidate projects satisfied.
- Project meets desirable planning objectives established by the Task Force and does not conflict with other proposed projects within the same basin.
- The Task Force agrees that the lead Task Force member for the project will likely be able to obtain full environmental compliance :
 - NEPA
 - Sections 10/404
 - State Coastal Management Program
 - State Water Quality Certification
 - Endangered Species Act
- A Letter of Interest to cost share through/from the State of Louisiana.
- A Letter of Interest from landowner to satisfy the necessary "terms and conditions", to be established by the Secretary of the Army, under Section 303(e).

Primary criterion for Prioritizing Candidate and Listed Projects :

- Average Annual Cost/Habitat Unit
 - Construction costs.
 - Real Estate costs.
 - O & M costs.
 - Monitoring Costs
 - Wetland Value Assessment Methodology.

Secondary criteria for Prioritizing Candidate and Listed Projects :

- A Letter of Intent to cost share through/from the State of Louisiana.
- A Letter of Intent from landowner to satisfy the necessary "terms and conditions", to be established by the Secretary of the Army, under Section 303(e).
- Average Annual Acres of wetlands and other habitats created/benefited by the project.
- Average Annual Acres of wetlands and other habitats lost/degraded by the project.
- Current and/or projected rates of vegetated wetland loss and their causes within the project area, hydrologic basin, and throughout the coastal area.
- Freshwater or sediment diversion/introduction project or feature of a project.
- Relative abundance of marsh types in the project area, hydrologic basin, and throughout the coastal area.
- Level of public support.
- Part of major interagency environmental program that has a scientifically based methodology.
- Provides direct benefits to Federal and State endangered or threatened species.
- Speed of implementation.
- Technologies used are applicable to other coastal wetlands.

Fact Sheet Contents:

- Lead Task Force Member identified.
- Location (with map).
- Project Description.
- Project outputs (benefits).
 - Average Annual Acres of Wetlands created/benefited.
 - Average Annual Habitat Units (HU) provided.
- Financial Data.
 - First cost.
 - O&M costs.
 - Monitoring costs.
 - Other economic costs.
 - Average Annual cost/HU.
- Construction schedule.
- Responsibilities of other Task Force Members.
- Status of Environmental Compliance.

Criteria for Identifying Lead Task Force Members :

- Task Force member has jurisdiction by Federal Law.
- Task Force member has existing real estate interest in project lands.
- Task Force member has previous experience implementing such a project.
- Task Force member has an interest in and a capability to implement such a project.

Criterion for Developing Engineering Design and Cost Data :

- 25 percent limit on project cost estimate increases.
 - Based on the cost estimate when the project was submitted to Congress as part of the annual list.
 - Percentage does not include price-level increases.
 - Project would be returned to the Technical Committee to reassess its priority.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

PRIORITY LIST CRITERIA

Criteria for Candidate Projects :

- Coastal wetland restoration project (as defined in Section 302).
 - "any technically feasible activity to create, restore, protect, or enhance coastal wetlands through sediment and freshwater diversion, water management, or other measures that the Task Force finds will significantly contribute to the long-term restoration or protection of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of coastal wetlands in the State of Louisiana, includes any provision of law, including, but not limited to, new projects, completion or expansion of existing or on-going projects, individual phases, portions, or components of projects, and operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of completed projects; the primary purpose of a "coastal wetlands restoration project" shall not be to provide navigation, irrigation, or flood control benefits;"
- Project substantially complete in 5 years.
- Project results in the long-term (>10 years) conservation of wetlands.
- Project meets desirable planning objectives established by the Task Force and does not appear to conflict with other projects within the same basin.

Criteria for Listed Projects :

- Criteria for candidate projects satisfied.
- Project meets desirable planning objectives established by the Task Force and does not conflict with other proposed projects within the same basin.
- The Task Force agrees that the lead Task Force member for the project will likely be able to obtain full environmental compliance :
 - NEPA
 - Sections 10/404
 - State Coastal Management Program
 - State Water Quality Certification
 - Endangered Species Act

Primary criterion for Prioritizing Candidate and Listed Projects :

- Average Annual Cost/Habitat Unit
 - Construction costs.
 - Real Estate costs.
 - O & M costs.
 - Monitoring Costs
 - Wetland Value Assessment Methodology.

Secondary criteria for Prioritizing Candidate and Listed Projects :

- A Letter of Intent to cost share through/from the State of Louisiana.
- A Letter of Intent from landowner to satisfy the necessary "terms and conditions", to be established by the Secretary of the Army, under Section 303(e).
- Average Annual Acres of wetlands and other habitats created/benefited by the project.
- Average Annual Acres of wetlands and other habitats lost/degraded by the project.
- Current and/or projected rates of vegetated wetland loss and their causes within the project area, hydrologic basin, and throughout the coastal area.
- Freshwater or sediment diversion/introduction project or feature of a project.
- Relative abundance of marsh types in the project area, hydrologic basin, and throughout the coastal area.
- Level of public support.
- Part of major interagency environmental program that has a scientifically based methodology.
- Provides direct benefits to Federal and State endangered or threatened species.
- Speed of implementation.
- Technologies used are applicable to other coastal wetlands.

Fact Sheet Contents:

- Lead Task Force Member identified.
- Location (with map).
- Project Description.
- Project outputs (benefits).
 - Average Annual Acres of Wetlands created/benefited.
 - Average Annual Habitat Units (HU) provided.
- Financial Data.
 - First cost.
 - O&M costs.
 - Monitoring costs.
 - Other economic costs.
 - Average Annual cost/HU.
- Construction schedule.
- Responsibilities of other Task Force Members.
- Status of Environmental Compliance.

Criteria for Identifying Lead Task Force Members :

- Task Force member has jurisdiction by Federal Law.
- Task Force member has existing real estate interest in project lands.
- Task Force member has previous experience implementing such a project.
- Task Force member has an interest in and a capability to implement such a project.

Criterion for Developing Engineering Design and Cost Data :

- 25 percent limit on project cost estimate increases.
 - Based on the cost estimate when the project was submitted to Congress as part of the annual list.
 - Percentage does not include price-level increases.
 - Project would be returned to the Technical Committee to reassess its priority.

Tab R

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

**TAB R
STATUS OF FISCAL MATTERS**

Tab R

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

STATUS OF FISCAL MATTERS

Programming of FY 1992 Funds:

A representative from the Program Management Office of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will report to the Task Force on the status of the Washington-level discussions on this subject.

Distribution of FY 1992 Funds:

A representative from the Office of the Comptroller of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will report to the Task Force on the funds distribution plan currently under review within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Tab S

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB S

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Tab S

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Each Task Force member has the opportunity at this point to propose additional items/issues for the consideration of the Task Force.

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB T

DATE/LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

DATE/LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

Recommendation For Task Force Approval:

DATE: September 25, 1991

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Assembly Room
New Orleans District Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Tab U

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB U

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tab U

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

June 17, 1991

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

All Task Force meetings are open to the public. Interested parties may submit a completed "Question Submittal Card" to the Task Force Chairman at this time. Questions and comments will be addressed at the next regularly scheduled Task Force meeting.

Tab V

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND
RESTORATION ACT**

**TASK FORCE MEETING
June 17, 1991**

TAB V

SUMMARY OF THE CWPRA AND COMPLETE TEXT

Tab V