

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 19, 1992

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Michael Diffley, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the eighth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 10:15 a.m., October 19, 1992, 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. With the exception of Dr. Lewsey and Mr. Sewell, who were represented by Mr. Ric Ruebsamen and Mr. David Fruge, respectively, all were in attendance.

Dr. Len Bahr, State of Louisiana
Mr. Russell Rhoades, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. S. Scott Sewell, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Horace Austin, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Dr. Clement Lewsey, U.S. Department of Commerce
Col. Michael Diffley, U.S. Department of the Army, Chairman

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the Task Force meeting held on September 1, 1992, were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Mr. Ruebsamen and seconded by Mr. Rhoades. The minutes (Enclosure 3) were unanimously approved by the Task Force members. [1/171] *

IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

The Task Force voted on and passed the following motions:

- A. Mr. Steyer presented the Monitoring Work Group's proposed plan for CWPPRA project monitoring (Enclosure 4). As a result of the ensuing discussion, Mr. Steyer agreed that under the paragraph titled "Monitoring Responsibilities" in the sentence "The P & E Subcommittee may direct the Monitoring Work Group to provide a technical review of the project reports," the word "may" will be amended to read "shall."¹ Mr. Ruebsamen moved, with a second from Mr. Rhoades, that the last sentence of the paragraph titled "Limits on Monitoring Variables" be amended to read "To reduce monitoring costs, full use will be made of existing research findings regarding the effects of water control structures."² Col. Diffley then moved that the proposal be accepted with the previous amendments; the motion was seconded by Mr. Austin. The Task Force unanimously approved the motion.³ [2/417¹, 3/254² & 3/285³]
- B. Dr. Joseph Suhayda presented an overview of a hydraulic model he was proposing to use to assist the Task Force in developing the comprehensive plan and screening project alternatives. Col. Diffley noted, with concern, that the Technical Committee had returned this item to the Task Force with no recommendation. He also pointed out that the proposal was incomplete, as no source of available funds had been identified nor had the specific products to be supplied. He noted that the FY 93 budget, approved by the Task Force, included no contingencies and that funding of proposals of this type would depend on the

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

1,2,3... Numbered footnotes in the text of these minutes refer to multiple tape/counter numbers for that item of discussion.

IV. B. Cont.

availability of carry-over funds. He then asked if any agency was willing to volunteer any of their budgeted funds to support this proposal. After receiving no response, the Colonel also suggested that proposals needed to compete against one another for funding based on relative merit rather than simply be funded by virtue of their own merit. Since no source of funding was identified by the Technical Committee and none was offered at that time, no action was taken on the proposal. [3/600]

- C. The recommendation of the Technical Committee and Citizen Participation Group for the Second Priority Project list (Enclosure 5) was presented to the Task Force. A lengthy discussion concerning the make up of the list, and the method used to arrive at that point, was held. This discussion included possible adjustments to the procedures for use in developing the next priority list. Mr. Austin moved that the list be accepted with the *caveat* that the East Mud Lake and Browns Lake projects be subject to a 50 percent design review.¹ Col. Diffley requested that the Isle Dernieres Barrier Island Restoration project be subject to this stipulation and Dr. Good of LDNR-CRD requested that the First Priority List project, West Bay Sediment Diversion, also be subject to this review.² The motion was seconded, after some discussion, by Mr. Ruebsamen.³ Mr. Fruge' then moved that the project list presented by the Technical Committee be amended to include the Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery project based on projections of cost savings on three previously listed projects. This motion was also seconded by Mr. Ruebsamen.⁴ Col. Diffley restated the motion and amendments, which were approved unanimously by the Task Force.⁵ [5/367¹, 457², 632³, 654⁴ & 6/028⁵]

V. TASKS REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

- A. Dr. Bahr presented a strawman proposal from the State concerning limits of funding to be set aside for the inclusion of R & D type demonstration projects on future priority project lists. Col. Diffley directed the Technical Committee to develop specific procedures for these types of project. This procedure is to define not only the means of funding these projects but also the method for ranking and selecting them. A manner of establishing practical limits for these types projects is also to be addressed. [4/753, 5/011]

V. Cont.

- B. Col. Diffley stated that he felt that a number of projects on the first priority list had reached the point of being ready for construction approval by the Task Force at its next meeting. He noted that lead agencies needed to take the initiative in calling for project technical review conferences. Once a review conference has been held for a project, the Task Force's approval could be delivered at their next scheduled meeting or by a telephone vote if necessary. [6/168]
- C. Col Diffley commented to the Task Force on a letter he had received from Senator Johnston, concerning the Isles Dernieres restoration project approved for PPL1. The Colonel echoed Senator Johnston's concerns and urged EPA, as the lead agency, and the State to come to terms on the Cost Sharing Agreement as soon as possible. If this matter is not soon resolved, action by the Task Force to bring about a resolution will be unavoidable. [6/050, 237]

VI. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mr. Fruge' announced that the USFWS National Wetlands Research Center had completed habitat mapping based on 1988-89 infrared photography. He stated that index maps of this data were available. [6/452]

VII. DATE/LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The date for the next Task Force meeting is January 12, 1993. The site of the meeting will be the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District. The meeting will be held in the New Orleans District Assembly Room. [6/466]

Col. Diffley also requested that Mr. Schroeder schedule an executive session for the Task Force and select members of the Technical Committee. This meeting is to be scheduled prior to the next regular Task Force meeting with the date to be determined. [6/473]

VIII. Questions from the Public

No written questions or comments were received from the public.
[6/500]

IX. Adjournment

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. [6/509]

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING
October 19, 1992

ENCLOSURE 1

AGENDA

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 19, 1992

AGENDA

I. Introductions

- A. Task Force Members or Alternates
- B. Other Attendees
- C. Opening Remarks by Task Force Members

II. Adoption of Minutes from the September 1, 1992 Meeting

III. Status of Tasks from September 1992 Meeting Requiring Further Action

- A. Recommendation of Technical Committee Regarding a Proposal for Monitoring of Priority Project List Projects—Mr. Schroeder
- B. Proposal for Development of a Hydraulic Model of the Coastal Zone—Mr. Schroeder

IV. 2nd Priority Project List

- A. Recommendation of Technical Committee and Citizens Participation Group—Mr. Schroeder
- B. Discussion and Action by Task Force

V. Additional Agenda Items

VI. Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting

VII. Request for Written Questions from the Public

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING
October 19,1992

ENCLOSURE 2
ATTENDANCE RECORDS



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
10/19/92	Planning Division	District Assembly Room

PURPOSE Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force Meeting

PARTICIPANT REGISTER *

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
David Fugé	USDI/Fish & Wildl. Serv.	318/284-6630
BILL GOOD	DNR/CRD	504 342 7308
DAVE SOLLEAU	" "	504 342 7308
CAROL CLARK	" "	" "
GREG STEKER	" "	" "
Arnold Robbins	CELMV-PD-C	601-634-5928
LEN CARTER	Gov's office	504-922-3244
Jim Stone	" "	" "
Peggy Jones	US DOC/NMFS	504 389-0508
Bill Sewart	DNR/CRD	504-342-9420
Nora Thomas	USEPA	(214) 655-2260
Glenn Engster	USEPA Washington DC	202-260-6045
CPT Jim Duffweiler	USACOE New Orleans	504-862-1879
BOB STRWART	FWS/NWRC-LARAYETTE	318-266-8501
CARL HAKENTAS	GULF INTRACOASTAL CANAL ASSOC.	504-523-5287
Tim Axtman	COE PD-FE	504-862-1921
Jimmy Johnston	USFWS/NWRC	318-266-8556
Philip Breaux	FINA Oil & Chemical	318-478-9673
Stan Green	COE Prog Dir	(504) 862-1486
MARY KINSEY	COE RE	(504) 862-1951
Linda LaBure	COE Real Estate	(504) 862-1295
Jeff Williams	USGS, Reston, Va.	703-648-6511
Escar Pore	COE	504 862 2512

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING
October 19,1992

ENCLOSURE 4

Proposal for Monitoring of Priority Project List Projects

October 14, 1992

A JOINT MONITORING PROPOSAL BY
THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND
THE USFWS NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER
REGARDING MONITORING OF
COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT
PROJECTS

Background:

Monitoring of projects implemented from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) restoration plan must provide:

- 1) "an evaluation of the effectiveness of each coastal wetlands restoration project in achieving long-term solutions to arresting coastal wetlands loss in Louisiana" PL 101-646 Sec. 303 (b)(4)(L); and
- 2) "a scientific evaluation of the effectiveness of the coastal wetlands restoration projects carried out under the plan in creating, restoring, protecting and enhancing coastal wetlands in Louisiana" PL 101-646 Sec. 303 (b)(7).

In order for the above mandates to be achieved, the monitoring efforts must generate results that can aid in determining the success or failure of existing projects, in the beneficial modification of existing projects, in the design of future projects, and most importantly, support future decisions on selection of projects proposed for creating, restoring, protecting and enhancing Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Comparisons of results among projects of similar type is the only way to determine which projects are most effective in achieving long-term solutions to arresting coastal wetlands loss in Louisiana.

The Monitoring Work Group was tasked by the P & E Subcommittee to resolve two issues essential to achieving the above mandates. The first issue was to develop a standardized monitoring protocol, and the second issue was to determine how this protocol would be implemented in a monitoring program, e.g., who would develop monitoring plans, collect field data, write reports, etc. The protocol was developed and reviewed by representatives from agencies, academia, and consulting firms, and their recommendations were incorporated into a final Monitoring Program Document. This

document is attached as Appendix A to this proposal.

Once the Monitoring Program Document was complete, the representatives of the various committees of the Task Force and the Monitoring Work Group discussed who would implement the monitoring program. Several options presented themselves as follows: 1) all monitoring would be the responsibility of the project sponsor; 2) all monitoring would be the responsibility of a single agency; 3) divide the monitoring among all the sponsoring agencies based upon expertise; 4) contract all monitoring with universities; and 5) contract all monitoring with a private consulting firm. The Monitoring Work Group discussed which options would meet the goals of consistency and technical credibility while at the same time being cost-effective and able to integrate with on-going data collection programs. The result of this discussion was that none of the options fit all of the requirements; therefore, they were all rejected.

During these discussions, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources proposed that they be responsible for managing the monitoring program. After review and comments by the Monitoring Work Group and P & E Subcommittee, this proposal was refined to insure that the goals of consistency, credibility, and cost would be met. It was accepted and is presented here as a recommendation of the P & E Subcommittee.

Monitoring Responsibilities:

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Restoration Division (LDNR/CRD) will be responsible for management of all monitoring activities of the CWPPRA including monitoring plan development, data collection and storage, statistical analysis, quality control, data interpretation and report generation. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service/National Wetlands Research Center (USFWS/NWRC) will be responsible for habitat mapping and GIS analysis (geographic information systems support) and other related monitoring as deemed appropriate by LDNR/CRD for each project. The LDNR/CRD and the USFWS/NWRC will jointly prepare reports for each CWPPRA project implemented. These reports will be submitted to the P & E Subcommittee, Technical Committee and Task Force for final approval. The P & E Subcommittee may direct the Monitoring Work Group to provide a technical review of the project reports. The implementation of all monitoring plans will follow the protocols developed in the CWPPRA Monitoring Program Document. A Technical Advisory Group consisting of a federal project sponsor representative, state (LDNR/CRD) project sponsor representative, USFWS/NWRC representative, wetland ecologist and biostatistician will assist in the development of project specific monitoring plans. The P & E Subcommittee will be advised of all Technical Advisory Group meetings. Assistance by the other sponsoring agencies in the development of the monitoring plans will be available on a voluntary basis. These plans will be reviewed by the Monitoring Work Group and submitted to the P & E

Subcommittee, Technical Committee and Task Force for final approval (see attached flowchart). The independent wetland ecologist and biostatistician will also provide quality assurance and verification of data interpretations to ensure unbiased determinations of results.

Justification:

- As a 25% cost-share partner on all CWPPRA projects, the State of Louisiana is the common denominator across all projects. The LDNR/CRD can provide the consistency needed to evaluate and compare similar project types across the entire coastal zone of Louisiana. In addition, the natural resources affected by CWPPRA projects fall under the domain of the State of Louisiana and, therefore, these resources should be monitored and managed by the State of Louisiana.
- A program within the LDNR/CRD is already established to monitor projects developed within the State of Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plans. This monitoring program was used as a template for the development of the CWPPRA Monitoring Program Document and, therefore, would be compatible or easily adaptable to any CWPPRA requirements.
- The USFWS/NWRC currently provides GIS support and mapping assistance to the CWPPRA Task Force and the LDNR/CRD for planning and monitoring. The USFWS/NWRC program provides a mechanism for organizing and distributing GIS data generated for CWPPRA activities. This program, combined with the LDNR/CRD monitoring program will establish a long term mechanism to properly manage, archive, transfer, and distribute information.
- The LDNR/CRD currently develops reports for the Louisiana Legislature one year after project completion and updates these reports yearly. This coincides with the requirement of the Task Force to report to the United States Congress on the effectiveness of all implemented projects not less than three years after the completion and submission of the restoration plan, and at least every three years thereafter. Combined with the graphical, editorial and technical support of the USFWS/NWRC, the LDNR/CRD can complete all reporting requirements as specified in the CWPPRA.

Limits on Monitoring Variables:

Monitoring budgets for CWPPRA projects will be developed based on the minimum monitoring variables necessary to provide sufficient information to determine if project goals and objectives are being

met. A mechanism for selecting variables to be monitored is provided in the CWPRA Monitoring Program Document. However, due to the limited availability of funds, all of the highest priority variables cannot be monitored. The Monitoring Work Group determined by project type which variables were essential in judging project success or failure and which variables may need to be monitored based on project objectives and possible impacts. They are as follows:

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Essential Variables</u>	<u>Additional Variables or Substitutions</u>
Freshwater Diversion	Habitat Mapping Salinity Water Level Vegetation	Fisheries Discharge Precipitation Wind Speed/Direction
Marsh Management	Habitat Mapping Salinity Water Level Vegetation Fisheries*	Sediment Accretion
Hydrologic Restoration	Habitat Mapping Salinity Water Level Vegetation	Fisheries Sediment Accretion Water/Sediment Quality
Sediment Diversion	Habitat Mapping Bathymetry/ Topography	Vegetation Suspended Sediment Discharge
Vegetative Planting	Vegetation Shoreline Markers	Habitat Mapping Salinity
Beneficial Use of Dredge Material	Habitat Mapping Vegetation Bathymetry/ Topography	Shoreline Markers
Barrier Island Restoration	Habitat Mapping Vegetation Bathymetry/ Topography	Shoreline Markers
Sediment/Nutrient Trapping	Habitat Mapping Vegetation	Suspended Sediment Bathymetry Nutrients
Shoreline Protection	Habitat Mapping Shoreline Markers	Vegetation Bathymetry/ Topography

The essential variables illustrate those variables which generally would be measured for each project type. However, project-specific goals and objectives may dictate that some of these variables may be non-essential. This list does not preclude other variables from being monitored, if determined necessary by the Technical Advisory Group. *Fisheries monitoring will be conducted, provided that, to reduce monitoring costs, full use be made of existing research findings regarding the effects of water control structures on estuarine fish movement.

Limits on Monitoring Costs:

The LDNR/CRD has reviewed the goals and objectives of all 18 first priority list projects and developed monitoring cost estimates for each. The monitoring budgets on 20 completed State of Louisiana wetland restoration projects as well as the monitoring priorities and costs identified within the CWPPRA Monitoring Program Document were also reviewed. This review determined that monitoring costs cannot be set at a fixed percentage of project cost, due to varying project goals and objectives and project sizes. It did, however, provide enough information to estimate an average annual cost (below) necessary to adequately monitor each type of wetland restoration project.

Average annual monitoring costs for each project type will not exceed the following:

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Average Annual Cost</u>
Freshwater Diversion	\$ 25,875
Marsh Management	\$ 25,875
Hydrologic Restoration	\$ 25,875
Sediment Diversion	\$ 8,625
Vegetative Planting	\$ 4,325
Beneficial Use of Dredged Material	\$ 4,325
Barrier Island Restoration	\$ 4,325
Sediment/Nutrient Trapping	\$ 4,325
Shoreline Protection	\$ 2,150

Freshwater diversion, marsh management, and hydrologic restoration project costs can be prorated based on project size as follows:

less than 1,000 acres = 60%
 1,000 - 5,000 acres = 70%
 5,000 - 15,000 acres = 80%
 15,000 - 60,000 acres = 100%

In addition, those projects that require continuous data recorders for active management will also be funded at 100%, regardless of project size.

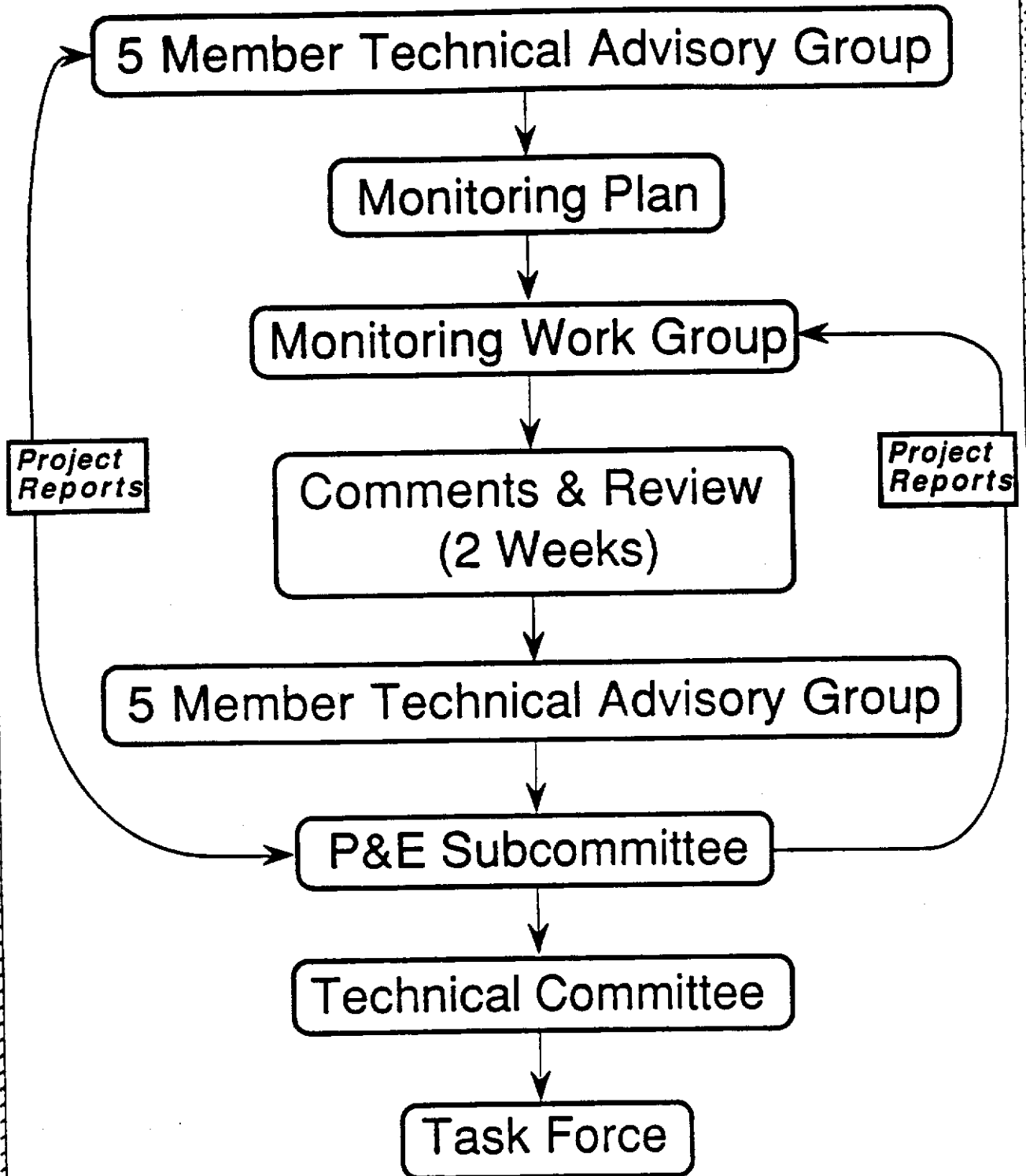
Monitoring costs for any given project will not exceed 125% of the original, fully-funded monitoring cost estimate.

Monitoring costs for any given project will not exceed 50% of the fully-funded project cost.

These costs were derived based on a number of assumptions regarding sample number, sample frequency, project size, and the monitoring protocol utilized. Costs were derived independently and without consideration of existing monitoring stations. Average annual monitoring costs will decrease over time as a greater number of projects are implemented.

Project-specific exemptions to the above monitoring costs will be mutually agreed upon by the State of Louisiana and the Federal cost-share sponsor. Monitoring costs will be included as a component of the fully-funded project cost using the above average annual monitoring cost guidelines. In situations where monitoring costs must be added to a previously approved project, such an addition will not cause the previously approved fully-funded project cost to be exceeded by more than 25%.

Monitoring Implementation Protocol



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING
October 19, 1992

ENCLOSURE 5

Proposed 2nd Priority Project List

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

2nd Priority Project List As Proposed by the Technical Committee

13 Oct 92

			Avg Annual Cost/AAHU (\$/AAHU)	Fully Funded Cost (\$)	Cumulative Cost (\$)
Freshwater Bayou	Merm	SCS	126	2,643,000	2,643,000
Bayou Sauvage	Pont	FWS	186	1,463,000	4,106,000
Clear Marais	Calc/Sab	SCS	193	1,733,000	5,839,000
Caernarvon Outfall Mgmt	Bret Sd	SCS	414	2,416,000	8,255,000
Mud Lake	Calc/Sab	SCS	463	2,630,000	10,885,000
Point Au Fer	Terr	NMF	697	1,123,000	12,008,000
Big Island Mining (Incrmnt 1)	Atch	NMF	935	4,161,000	16,169,000
Jonathan Davis Wetland	Bar	SCS	886	3,399,000	19,568,000
Fritchie Marsh	Pont	SCS	1,139	2,748,000	22,316,000
Hwy 384	Calc/Sab	SCS	1,225	1,032,000	23,348,000
Boston Canal	Teche/Verm	SCS	1,374	1,363,000	24,711,000
Brown's Lake	Calc/Sab	SCS	2,150	2,949,000	27,660,000
W Belle Pass	Terr	COE	2,327	4,880,000	32,540,000
Isle Dernieres (Ph 1)	Terr	EPA	6,188	6,894,000	39,434,000

Projects Deferred:

Humble Canal	Merm	SCS	89	999,000
Atch Sed Del	Atch	NMF	112	894,000
Hwy 90 to GIWW	Bar	SCS	211	3,819,000
Sawmill Canal	Mermentau	SCS	534	1,174,000
Sediment Mining	Miss Delta	COE	1,096	1,358,000

AAHU: Average Annual Habitat Units

Note: Fully funded costs have not been adjusted for recent changes in monitoring costs for some projects.