Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING September 22, 1994

MINUTES

L INTRODUCTION

Colonel Kenneth Clow, representing the Secretary of the Army, convened the fifteenth meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force at 9:45 a.m. on September 22, 1994, 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.

11. **ATTENDEES**

The Attendance Record for the Task Force meeting is attached as enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members. Mr. Pulliam, Dr. Bahr, and Dr. Fox were represented by Mr. Dave Frugé, Dr. Jim Stone, and Mr. Tim Osborn, respectively. The remaining Task Force members were in attendance.

Dr. Len Bahr, State of Louisiana

Mr. Russell Rhoades, Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. James Pulliam, U.S. Department of the Interior

Mr. Donald Gohmert, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. William Fox, U.S. Department of Commerce

Colonel Kenneth Clow, U.S. Department of the Army, Chairman

Ш APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Task Force meeting held on July 14, 1994 (enclosure 3) were approved unanimously with no discussion. Mr. Gohmert made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Frugé seconded it.

VIEWING OF CWPPRA VIDEO IV.

Mr. Gerrard Breaux introduced a video tape of the CWPPRA program prepared under contract by Planit Communications. The video was viewed by the Task Force, who complimented the work performed thus far. The completed video will be played on Public Broadcasting System television stations and will be distributed to the news media. Colonel Clow stated that such public involvement tools as the video are important to wetland restoration efforts. Members of the Task Force expressed the

hope that these public involvement tools will keep the public informed of CWPPRA activities and generate new interest in wetlands restoration. [1/90]1

V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Ms. Sue Hawes, Project Manager for the Environment for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the New Orleans District, presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee to extend the existing contract with the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) for academic and scientific advisory services, with no increase in cost. [3/320] The extension through April 30, 1995, will cover completion of the following: 1) the Quality Assurance/Quality Control report for CWPRRA monitoring, 2) participation of academic scientists in planning meetings for the Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient, and Freshwater Redistribution Study, and 3) academic review of CWPPRA monitoring plans. A draft memorandum of agreement for the nocost extension and a status report on the existing contract are attached as enclosure 4.

Motion by Mr. Frugé: That the existing LUMCON contract be extended through April 30, 1995, for feasibility study involvement and Quality Assurance/Quality Control reporting. [3/342]

Second: Mr. Rhoades [3/343]

Passed unanimously. [3/343]

B. Ms. Sue Hawes presented a recommendation from the Technical Committee to start negotiations with LUMCON for Fiscal Year 1995 work that may include such deliverables as input on project monitoring, input on the WVA process, and the coordination of an information exchange workshop. Mr. Frugé commended Dr. Denise Reed on her efforts related to the existing contract.

Motion by Mr. Gohmert: That negotiations with LUMCON for Fiscal Year 1995 work be started for deliverables that may include project monitoring, input on [3/342]

Second: Mr. Rhoades [3/357]
Passed unanimously. [3/358]

C. Mr. Bob Schroeder, chief of the New Orleans District's Planning Division, presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee to amend the budget for fiscal year 1994 to include the following two items: 1) \$240,000 for commissioning aerial infrared photography of coastal Louisiana, to include a set of 1:35,000 prints for each agency (to be administered by the Southern Science Center of the National Biological Survey), and 2) \$25,993 for contracting with Dr.

The Task Force meeting was recorded on audio tape. The bracketed figures represent the tape no./counter o. for the discussion of this item. Multiple tape/counter numbers are used when an item is discussed more an once during the meeting.

Mark Byrnes and Mr. Randolf McBride as technical advisors on the Barrier Island feasibility study (to be administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources). A summary of FY 94 proposed and approved budget amendments and a copy of the proposal for a technical advisor are attached as

Motion by Mr. Osborn: That the Technical Committee's recommended budget amendment for fiscal year 1994 be accepted. [3/450]

Second: Mr. Frugé [3/470]

Passed unanimously. [3/473]

D. Mr. Bob Schroeder presented a recommendation of the Technical Committee concerning the fiscal year 1995 budget. The recommended budget is \$2,631,500, which does not include funds to initiate the two feasibility studies. Mr. Schroeder explained that the Technical Committee reduced the Office of the Governor's requested budget by \$47,000 for certain work items that the committee decided were not related to CWPPRA activities. Mr. Osborn suggested that the target date to present the budget for the two CWPPRA feasibility studies should be the next Task Force meeting. A table summarizing the fiscal year 1995 CWPPRA budget is attached as enclosure 6.

Motion by Mr. Osborn: That the Technical Committee's recommended fiscal year 1995 budget be accepted. [3/497]

Second: Mr. Frugé [3/498]

Passed unanimously. [3/499]

VI. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mr. Tom Podany briefed the Task Force on the response to its letter to Governor Edwards regarding the issues of oyster leases and land rights as they are affected by wetlands restoration projects [1/250]. Mr. Dave Soileau announced that Louisiana Land and Exploration, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Louisiana Attorney General's office were meeting on September 26, 1994, to initiate the resolution of land rights issues on the Isle Dernieres projects (Priority Lists 1 and 2). Dr. Jim Stone stated that the Technical Committee's budget cut of \$47,000 could jeopardize the planned Coastal Summit, where resolution of these issues is sought. [1/255]
- B. Mr. Norm Thomas and Dr. Bill Good gave an update on the state's Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan. Dr. Bill Good presented a "strawman" proposal that is an outline for the plan. He also introduced Mr. Doug Meffert, a student intern who will work on a report to Congress on the monitoring of CWPPRA projects. The proposal will be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Objectives of the proposal include the following: 1) establish the main deliverable of the conservation plan by defining "no net loss" of wetlands, 2) develop partners for the conservation plan, 3) determine the boundaries of the

- coastal zone for the conservation plan, and 4) develop a public involvement program. [1/360]
- C. Mr. Dom Elguezabal, Mr. Donald Gohmert, Mr. Norm Thomas, Mr. Tim Osborn, and Mr. Dave Frugé briefed the Task Force on the status of priority list projects that their agencies sponsor. [1/413, 2/252]
- D. Ms. Rachel Wilson gave a report on the status of the barrier island feasibility study. She discussed the selection of Dr. Mark Burns and Mr. Randolph McBride and related that progress was being made on the outline of the plan of study. In response to a question by Dr. Jim Stone, she stated that the Chandeleur be considered for areas that did not historically function as barriers would not Soileau stated that all potentially feasible plans should be evaluated and that such constraints are too narrow. [2/312]
- E. Mr. Tom Podany gave a report on the status of the Mississippi River diversion feasibility study. The study manager, Mr. Tim Axtman, has assigned the Engineering, Environmental, and Economic Work Groups the task of refining the scope of work, distributing study tasks, and developing more detailed cost estimates for the first year of work. Mr. Podany discussed proposals received for the study that included: 1) forming a matrix of the plans contained in existing coastal restoration plans, 2) developing a template from this matrix to guide the study, and 3) eliminating the Atchafalaya Basin from the study area and allowing diversions from the basin to be considered under the ongoing Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study. Mr. Podany stated that the template as proposed appeared to be in conflict with the Federal Principles and Guidelines, which do not allow for the preselection of a single alternative that will serve as the basis for measuring the merits of all alternatives. [2/438] Considerable discussion followed concerning the merits of both the template and of moving Atchafalaya Basin diversion alternatives to the reevaluation study. Dr. Sherwood Gagliano had no problem with dividing the study, but expressed concern that the Principles and Guidelines were too rigid and antiquated to form the basis of a successful study. [2/472] Dr. Paul Kemp asked whether the reevaluation study will be conducted under the purview of the Task Force and in accord with the objectives of the Mississippi River diversion study. Mr. Podany responded that the main purposes of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study are flood control and to maintain the capacity of the outlets to pass the project flood; however, navigation and environmental restoration features in conjunction with these plans would be considered wherever possible. Colonel Clow stated that it is doubtful that typical CWPPRA diversion projects could be adequately considered within the Atchafalaya Basin area without giving full consideration to the predominant flood control and navigation concerns in the area. He suggested that the Task Force could be briefed on the reevaluation study as appropriate. Mr. Soileau suggested that the Task Force seek Federal funding for the feasibility study under the Mississippi

River and Tributaries authority. [2/527] Dr. Joe Suhayda gave a definition of the template which was to guide the study by identifying plans on which to do design work, reduce delays in plan formulation, and provide a comprehensive effort upfront. Dr. Kemp said that his view of the template was to capitalize on the 20-year restoration planning effort already completed. The template, in his view, would provide a top down process that starts with a big picture restoration plan and improves the likelihood of success. [3/100]

F. After some discussion about the need to take a big picture approach on both feasibility studies while maintaining consistency with the Principles and Guidelines, the Task Force decided to offer no formal guidance or directives at this time, but to allow the respective study teams to resolve these issues and report back at a later date. [3/318]

VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mr. Frugé asked if there were sufficient surplus funds from previous fiscal years for project monitoring. After a general discussion of carryover, it was agreed that an itemized breakdown by agency of previous year surplus funds would be developed. In addition, the cost of project monitoring would be confirmed. [3/510] Colonel Clow suggested that a budget recap be conducted periodically to ensure that surplus funds are used effectively. He suggested that the Task Force [4/48]
- B. Mr. Tim Osborn announced there would be a Coastal Management Resource Conference in Tampa, Florida in July 1995. During the week following this Task Force meeting, he will send out a format of the conference for Task Force participation. [4/105]
- C. Colonel Clow announced that there was the opportunity for the Task Force to assist the Jean Lafitte National Park with an environmental restoration project near Lake Salvador. The assistance would likely be in the form of providing engineering and design services. Dr. Bill Good stated that Louisiana Department of Natural Resources had already prepared some design work for the project that could be folded into additional design. After some discussion, Colonel Clow stated that a meeting of all involved parties would be arranged to determine whether the design effort could be covered with existing, non-CWPRRA funding sources. If not, there is a possibility that a request for CWPRRA funds would be presented to the Task Force. [4/120]
- D. Colonel Clow announced that the Task Force had prepared a letter wishing Mr. Pulliam well in his retirement and thanking him for his efforts in furthering the critical goal of restoring and preventing the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana. [4/130]

VIII. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next Task Force meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 9, 1994. Task Force members will be contacted to confirm the date.

IX. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No written questions or comments were received from the public.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gohmert moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. Mr. Frugé seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

TASK FORCE MEETING September 22, 1994

ENCLOSURE 1

AGENDA

TASK FORCE MEETING 22 September 1994 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

L	Introductions	Tab
	A. Task Force members or alternatesB. Opening remarks by Task Force members	
П.	Adoption of Minutes from the 14 July 1994 Meeting	_
Щ	Status of Tasks from the July 1994 Meeting Requiring Further Action Task Force letter to Gov. Edwards concerning oyster leases and land rights-Mr. Green	
IV.	Status of Development of the State Conservation Plan-Mr. Thomas	E
v.	Status of Priority List ProjectsLead Agencies	F
VI.	Status of Feasibility Studies-Lead Agencies	G
VII.	Extension and Renegotiation of LUMCON Contract-Mrs. Hawes	Н
VIII.	Amendment of Fiscal Year 1994 Budget-Mr. Schroeder	········ 1
IX.	Fiscal Year 1995 BudgetMr. Schroeder	J
X .	Viewing of CWPPRA VideoDr. Good	······································
XI.	Additional Agenda Items	L
XII.	Date and Location of the Next Task Force Meeting.	М
XIII.	Request for Written Questions from the Public	N

TASK FORCE MEETING September 22, 1994

ENCLOSURE 2

ATTENDANCE RECORD



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	
September 22,1994	Planning Division	USACE - NOD
PURPOSE Louis	ana Coastal Wotlands Conserve	District Assembly Room

Louisiana Coastal Wotlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force".

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	PARTICIPANT REGISTER *	
NAME		
Oscar Kow	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBE
PAUL KEMP	This	CRD (504)342942
Philip Burman	- Course (on abo)	
Greb Stever	TO GA. Wild For Erelian	5 (7) (36-0/1)
Jimmy Johnston	= JULY ERD	() ()
Karen Sanfream	NBS	(504) 342-9435
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CARL B. HAKENTOS	GULF INTRACONSTAL CANTA ROSSO	318 462-0762
John Barras	NBS/SSC	180 8 08 /
Martin Cancino	Cong Biery Taugin	504-345-3077
Deuso Rood		504-621-8490
CHRADI CCARU	LDNR	221 821 5800
S. M. Goglismo	CEI	5043429418
Vecil Constan	COF	504-383-7457
DAW CARNEY	COF	504 862-FOL
Voel Grego	COE	" BES 52.58
Rickey Ruebsamen		504 862-1562
John C. Wober	DOC/NMFS	504/389-0508
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FORM 583-R	* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the a	

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

	التعتبا	ATTENDANCE RECORD	H:H
_	DATE(S)	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	
	22 Sept. 94	Planning Division	District Assembly Room
	PURPOSE Louisia Force M	na Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection a	
}		PARTICIPANT REGISTER *	
L	NAME		
	NEIL ARMININ	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
-	lace Muse	DOI/FUS	836-2315
/	Hay Browning	USEPA.	318/262-6662(EXT)
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1	Marion Fannel		766-0195
I	sa Jennell		504/342-1488
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05	SEPH SUHAYDA	LSU	(504) 862-2017
			504-388-8620

IV FORM 683- R N 88

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

PROPONENT: CELMV-IM

TASK FORCE MEETING 22 September 1994

FY 94 BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST

Mr. Schroeder will present the recommendation of the Technical Committee concerning proposed amendments to the fiscal year 1994 budget. A summary of the FY94 budget, with proposed modifications, is enclosed. Also enclosed is a proposal for the technical advisors as recommended by the Technical Committee.

Recommendation of the Technical Committee:

That the fiscal year 1994 budget be amended to include \$420,000 for commissioning aerial infrared photography of coastal Louisiana, to include a set of 1:35,000 prints for each agency (to be administered by the Southern Science Center of the National Biological Survey); and

that the budget be further amended to include \$25,993 for contracting with Dr. Mark Byrnes and Mr. Randolph McBride as technical advisors on the Barrier Island feasibility study (to be administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources).

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

16 Sep 94

FY 94 Budget Amendments

	Amount (\$)	
Approved 1 Oct 93	- 4,207,240	4,208,180
Approved 4 Feb 94		
Public Outreach	58,900	
Video Production	38,000	
Approved 5 Apr 94*		
(Sci Advsrs)	93,000	
Approved 14 Apr 94		
(Video Production)	7,960	
Approved 14 Jul 94		
(DNR)	56,000	
Total	4,461,100	

^{*} Approved via telephone poll.

Proposed Amendments

	Amount (\$)
Approved 14 Jul 94	4,461,100
Recommended 16 Sep 94	
Aerial Photography	420,000
Byrnes and McBride	25,993
Total	4,907,093

Proposal for

TECHNICAL STUDY ADVISORS FOR THE COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT CWPPRA): LOUISIANA BARRIER ISLANDS STUDY

Submitted to

Office of Coastal Restoration and Management Louisiana Department of Natural Resources 625 North Fourth Street Baton Rouge, LA 70804

by
Coastal Studies Institute
Louisiana State University
331 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Duration: October 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995

Mark R. Byrnes, Ph.D. Co-Principal Investigator

Randolph A. McBride Co-Principal Investigator

Board of Supervisors
of
Louisiana State University
and
Agricultural and Mechanical College System
by

Dr. Charles E. Graham, Director Office of Sponsored Research

SCOPE OF SERVICES

TECHNICAL STUDY ADVISORS FOR THE COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT CWPPRA): LOUISIANA BARRIER ISLANDS STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Management of Louisiana's barrier islands has long been of interest and concern to state, federal, and local entities. Among many diverse benefits, barrier islands provide habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries, protect Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands from adverse impacts associated with storm events, and provide significant recreational opportunities for Louisiana residents. In recognition of the important role that barrier islands play in the comprehensive management, conservation, and restoration of Louisiana's coastal wetlands, the federal Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force determined that a detailed planning effort should be performed to identify barrier island restoration opportunities. In July 1994, the Task Force approved a proposal submitted by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources/Office of Coastal Restoration and Management (DNR/OCRM) to administer that planning effort.

DNR/OCRM requires the services of Technical Study Advisors during the first phase (October 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995) of the Louisiana Barrier Islands Study. The Technical Study Advisors will be required to review and assess existing information and data from pertinent sources regarding specific topics identified by DNR/OCRM such as barrier island degradation processes, alternative management and restoration techniques, modeling applications, wetland and other environmental benefits associated with island management and restoration, etc., and provide such information to DNR/OCRM, the CWPPRA Technical Committee, the CWPPRA Task Force, and any other entities deemed appropriate by DNR/OCRM. Such data and information are necessary to ensure that the decision-making processes required in the Barrier Islands planning effort are guided by sound technical and scientific information.

Specifically, and at a minimum, the Technical Study Advisors shall, through the provision of general consulting services and scientific and technical information as described above:

- Assist DNR/OCRM and the CWPPRA Task Force/Technical Committee in the development of the Plan of Work, which may include, at the discretion of DNR/OCRM, participation in interagency meetings associated with the development of such Plan of Work;
- 2. Assist DNR/OCRM in the planning of, preparation for, and execution of both Public Scoping Meetings to be held in various coastal Parishes regarding the Plan of Work, and the Barrier Island Information Transfer Workshop and/or seminars to be held for all Study participants to provide basic technical information on processes influencing barrier island systems and techniques evaluating restoration benefits;

- 3. Assist DNR/OCRM in development of any documents, reports, or memoranda that may be required regarding the Barrier Island planning effort during the Contract Term; and
- 4. Participate in any meetings associated with the Louisiana Barrier Islands planning effort, as deemed appropriate by DNR/OCRM.

DELIVERABLES

The Technical Study Advisors shall provide, to DNR/OCRM, consulting services equivalent to twenty hours per week, on average during each month of the contract term. The Technical Study Advisors shall also provide written reports or other documents as requested by DNR/OCRM (e.g., assessments of specific topics identified by DNR/OCRM).

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The Technical Study Advisors will initiate work on October 1, 1994 and complete work on March 31, 1995.

PERSONNEL

Mark Byrnes (Asst. Research Professor) and Randy McBride (Senior Research Associate) of the LSU Coastal Studies Institute will serve as Co-Technical Study Advisors for the CWPPRA Barrier Islands Study in Louisiana. Mark Byrnes will be the primary point of contact. Both Byrnes and McBride have conducted barrier island research for the past ten years along all coasts of the United States with special emphasis on Louisiana's barrier island systems. Their work has focused on coastal erosion, coastal geology, nearshore sediment transport, modeling, and the application of geographic information systems (GIS) in coastal environments. Working as a team, Byrnes and McBride will be responsible for all aspects of this project.

The Coastal Studies Institute houses all the digital historical shorelines for Louisiana's barrier islands dating back to the mid-1800s. Lisa Duvic, a CSI Research Associate with expertise in computer mapping sciences, will provide mapping and GIS support associated with document or report preparation as part of the services outlined above. Moreover, the generation of color slides and other specialty graphics for presentations and report preparation will be completed by the Cartographic Section of the Louisiana Geological Survey (Lisa Pond - cartographer). One student worker also is needed to perform daily tasks in support of the project such as copying, filing, running errands, and faxing.

Budget Technical Study Advisors - Barrier Island Feasibility Study October 1, 1994 to March 30, 1995

Salaries

Asst. Prof. (Mark Byrnes - 2 mo) Research Assoc. V (Randy McBride - 1 mo) Research Assoc. III (Lisa Duvic - 0.5 mo) Cartographer (Lisa Pond - 0.5 mo)	\$8,168 \$3,125 \$1,083 \$ 934
Total Staff Salaries Staff Benefits (23% X Total Staff Salaries)	\$13,310 \$ 3,061
Student Worker (1 X 10hrs/wk X 24 wks X \$6.00/hr)	<u>\$ 1.440</u>
Total Salaries	\$17,811
Operating Services	
Phone/Fax Postage/Federal Express Copying/Binding Computer Maintenance Misc.	\$300 \$150 \$100 \$250 \$200
Subtotal	\$1000
Supplies	
Computer mapping supplies (plotting pens and paper) Misc.	\$250 \$200
Subtotal	\$450
Travel	
 24 trips to various locations in LA coastal zone per diem (24 trips X \$21/day X 2 people) vehicle fuel (180 mi/trip X \$0.24/mi X 24 trips) 	\$1008 \$1027
Subtotal	\$2045
Grand Subtotal Overhead (22%)	\$21,306 \$4,687
Grand Total	\$25,993