

## Browning, Gay B MVN

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**From:** Podany, Thomas J MVN  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2001 12:58 PM  
**To:** Billy Hicks; Gary Rauber; Gay Browning; Gregory Miller; Jackie Purrington; John Ettinger; John Lopez; Julie Leblanc; Timothy Axtman; Tonio Ricks; Wanda Martinez  
**Subject:** FW: Aug 7, 2001 TF Meeting minutes

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rauber, Gary W MVN  
**Sent:** Friday, November 09, 2001 1:06 PM  
**To:** becker.sam@epamail.epa.gov; david\_fruge@fws.gov; don.gohmert@la.usda.gov; james.burgess@noaa.gov; lenb@dnr.state.la.us; Thomas Julich  
**Cc:** Podany, Thomas J MVN; billg@dnr.state.la.us; blehto@la.nrcs.usda.gov; gerald\_bodin@fws.gov; hill.troy@epa.gov; John Sala; randyh@dnr.state.la.us; richard.hartman@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Aug 7, 2001 TF Meeting minutes

Task Force Members,

Here are the corrected minutes from the August 7, 2001 Task Force meeting.

**IX.A. Second paragraph.Third sentence.** Removed the word "probably" between the words "would" and "be."

**VII. A. First sentence.** Removed the word "lower" and inserted the words "the Port Sulphur/Venice area of" before the words "Plaquemines Parish."

Gary Rauber / (504) 862-2543



TF080701min.doc

# Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

## TASK FORCE MEETING

August 7, 2001

### Minutes

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Thomas Julich convened the forty-third meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Act Task Force Meeting. The meeting began at 9:42 a.m. on August 7, 2001, at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The agenda is shown as enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, commonly known as the Breaux Act), which was signed to law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President George Bush on November 29, 1990.

Colonel Julich introduced the Task Force members. Dr. Len Bahr reported on the Coastal Summit. It was a very positive event and well attended. Mr. James Burgess informed the audience that he was moving on to a new position and would no longer be on the Task Force for the U.S. Department of Commerce. He wished everyone well. Colonel Julich presented Mr. Burgess with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Task Force.

#### II. ATTENDEES

The attendance record for the Task Force meeting is presented as enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members:

Dr. Len Bahr, State of Louisiana

Mr. Sam Becker, Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. David Frugé, U.S. Department of the Interior

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

Mr. James Burgess, U.S. Department of Commerce

COL Thomas Julich, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

All of the Task Force members were in attendance, except Mr. Don Gohmert who was represented by Mr. Bruce Lehto.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Dave Frugé requested that action items directed by the Task Force at their April 12, 2001, meeting concerning the Bayou Lafourche project be added to the minutes.

Motion by Mr. Dave Frugé: To approve the minutes from the April 12, 2001 Task Force meeting with the action items on Bayou Lafourche added.  
Second to motion: Dr. Len Bahr  
Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

##### **A. Complex Project Approvals**

Mr. Saia presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee regarding funding approvals for the Maurepas Swamp Diversion and Holly Beach complex projects. The Federal sponsor of the Maurepas Swamp Diversion project, the EPA, had completed the Phase 0 planning study and requested Phase 1 funding. The state cost share partner of the Holly Beach project, the LDNR, had essentially completed Phase 1 requirements with its own funds and requested along with the Federal sponsor of the project, the NRCS, partial (one half) Phase 2 funding.

Mr. James Burgess asked EPA to look for other funding sources for the Maurepas Swamp Diversion project during Phase 1. He asked Mr. Randy Hanchey, LDNR, if breakwater funding would be requested from the Task Force for the Holly Beach project at a later date. Mr. Hanchey responded that the breakwater work would be done with state money. Dr. Bahr expressed pride in the role of the state and the participation of the Task Force in the two projects. He felt that the projects exemplified the role of science in the project development process. Mr. Hanchey reported on the current status of the Holly Beach project. He stated that Phase 1 could be wrapped up in one or two months. Mr. Burgess asked whether the Technical Committee would review the required documents prior to Phase 2 approval. Mr. Lehto, NRCS, assured the Task Force that the Technical Committee would get the appropriate documentation to review. Phase 2 funds would not be allocated until the lead agency demonstrated that all Phase 1 requirements had been met. Mr. Sam Becker thanked the public for their concern about the Maurepas Swamp Diversion project.

Motion by Dr. Len Bahr: To approve funds in the amount of \$5,199,000 plus contingencies for Phase 1 Engineering and Design of the Maurepas Swamp Diversion project and \$9,626,000 for partial Phase 2 construction funding for the Holly Beach project contingent upon completion of Phase 1 requirements.  
Second to motion: Mr. Sam Becker  
Motion passed unanimously.

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The Task Force voted on the deauthorization of the Red Mud project. Letters were sent to all of the state and Federal legislators concerned with this

project in May 2001. No comments were received. Mr. Saia presented the recommendation of the Technical Committee to begin deauthorization of the Compost Demonstration project.

Dr. Bahr expressed his regrets that the program was unable to implement this project that had an industry partner.

Motion by Dave Frugè: To begin deauthorization of the Red Mud project.

Motion seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Formal Decision on Fax Vote for Coast-Wide Aerial Vegetation Survey**

On June 13, 2001, a Task Force fax vote was taken to approve an \$86,250 allocation to the LDWF and USGS/NWRC for a coast-wide wetland delineation aerial survey. The Task Force members formally recorded their votes.

Motion by Dave Frugè: To approve an \$86,250 allocation to the LDWF and USGS/NWRC for coast-wide delineation aerial survey.

Motion was seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Outreach Quarterly Report**

Mr. Scott Wilson reported on the activities of the Breaux Act Outreach Program. Project dedications are being planned. Ms. Gabriel Bodin is acting as outreach coordinator. The NMFS is going to supply an FTE for the position. Mr. Rex Caffey is preparing fact sheets on six different CWPPRA issues. Ms. Lynn Shoenberg, Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Foundation, described a proposed outreach campaign to be conducted in conjunction with the Superbowl that is being held in New Orleans in January 2002. Colonel Julich wants Ms. Sydney Coffee to provide oversight for CWPPRA. Mr. Burgess wants the public to know that with the loss of Louisiana coastal wetlands a Federal treasure is being lost. Dr. Bahr suggested providing a map of the Louisiana coast at the time of the first Superbowl. Mr. Hanchey requested that contingency money be reserved. Mr. Burgess suggested looking for private funds. Mr. Cullen Curole requested \$63,000 from the Task Force to put the campaign together. Mr. Mark Schleifstein, of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, stated that reporters covering the Superbowl would be doing stories on the city and state. Mr. Wilson stated that the outreach committee would be involved. Mr. Mark Davis urged the Task Force to try. Secretary Caldwell committed the state to providing interim financing. Mr. Becker suggested moving ahead with approval.

Motion by Dr. Len Bahr: To approve \$63,000 for the Superbowl outreach effort out of the FY01 planning budget.

Motion seconded by Mr. James Burgess  
Motion passed unanimously.

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### **A. Status Of Funds And Projects In The Breaux Act Program**

Mr. Tom Podany briefed the Task Force on the status of funds in the Breaux Act construction program. The following tables were presented:

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to be considered for inclusion on Priority Project List 12 and the planning activities that the CWPPRA agencies might pursue with the time and funds that are saved. The sum of \$5,000,000 in new funding is anticipated in FY02. The sum of \$1,728,554 is currently available in FY01. He asked the Task Force to consider future demands on the program, expediting projects, and the effectiveness of existing projects. He stated that about \$500,000,000 of Federal funding can be expected through the currently authorized life of the program. He presented a proposal to solicit 12 project nominees and select six to eight of these as candidates to be evaluated for the 12<sup>th</sup> PPL. Mr. Frugè voiced his approval of the approach and added that he would like to see projects with systemic benefits. Mr. Lehto and Dr. Bahr added support to the idea of a smaller list. Colonel Julich wants quarterly updates on the progress of the items mentioned above and directed the Technical Committee to prioritize the additional planning activities in their budget proposal for FY02. Mr. Frugè wants to focus on Coast 2050 with CWPPRA dollars. Mr. Burgess liked the project and program evaluation proposals and wanted to know the impact of priority list development on the ability to pursue other items. Mr. Podany responded with his opinion that the reduced PPL effort should allow time and resources for other pursuits. Mr. Burgess directed the Technical Committee to present alternative levels of effort in their budget proposal. Mr. Hanchey was concerned about the amount of effort spent on Phase 0 and stated that LDNR had a proposal for a redesigned Phase 0 process. Mr. Podany defended the current process stating that it has been improved every year and likely will continue to improve. Mr. Burgess cautions that quality must be assured and wants at least the current level of effort maintained. Mr. Hanchey suggested an outside report and offered to outsource through LDNR. Colonel Julich asked Mr. Hanchey to work with the Technical Committee on the idea. Mr. Burgess cautioned the Technical Committee to watch for conflicts of interest when outsourcing. Mr. Frugè urged the committee not to lose the synergy that the agencies have produced over the years working as a team. Mr. Mark Davis suggested a targeted PPL12. Each locality should not expect a project every year. He wanted to know what role CWPPRA should be playing in advancing 2050. The decision should be at the Task Force level.

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**C.** Mr. Rodney Gilbeau thanked the Task Force for approving Holly Beach. Mr. Gilbeau concluded by saying, "You can catch more bees with sugar than with salt."

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