

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

**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**23 June 2010**

**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Alvin Lee convened the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:40 a.m. on June 23, 2010 at the Estuarine Fisheries and Habitat Center, Conference Room 119, 646 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA. The agenda is shown as Enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, commonly known as the Breaux Act), which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President George Bush on November 29, 1990.

**II. ATTENDEES**

The attendance record for the Task Force meeting is presented as Enclosure 2. Listed below are the six Task Force members who were present.

Mr. Jim Boggs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Mr. Richard Hartman (sitting in for Mr. Christopher Doley), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Mr. Steve Mathies (sitting in for Mr. Garrett Graves), State of Louisiana, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities  
Colonel Alvin Lee, Chairman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Mr. Kevin Norton, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Mr. William Honker, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

Colonel Lee asked the Task Force members to introduce themselves. Mr. Honker then presented Colonel Lee with a Certificate of Commendation for exemplary service from July 2007 to July 2010 on behalf of the Task Force. Mr. Hartman presented Colonel Lee with a NOAA Aggressive Excellence in Restoration Award, Mr. Boggs presented Colonel Lee with an award on behalf of USFWS, and Mr. Norton gave Colonel Lee a gift on behalf of the NRCS.

Colonel Lee gave a few words of thanks and stated that he feels CWPPRA is moving in a positive direction for the future.

Mr. Honker noted that Karen McCormick is the new EPA representative on the CWPPRA Technical Committee.

Colonel Lee reviewed the agenda items and then opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no further comments.

*Mr. Honker and Mr. Boggs made motions to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Mathies seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

#### **IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 20, 2010 TASK FORCE MEETING**

Colonel Lee presented the meeting minutes and then opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 20, 2010 Task Force meeting.

*Mr. Norton moved to adopt the minutes from the January 20, 2010 Task Force meeting. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

#### **V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

##### **A. Agenda Item #10 – Discussion/Decision: Initial Discussion of Fiscal Year 11 (FY11) Planning Budget Development (Process, Size, Funding, etc.)**

Mr. Tom Holden, USACE, explained that at the October 28, 2009 meeting, the Task Force directed the Technical and Outreach Committees to meet and discuss the outreach budget, strategic plan, and to amend the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to pass the Outreach Committee budget through the Technical Committee (an approval path similar to that of the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee's budget). The Technical Committee recommended Task Force approval of the following change to the CWPPRA SOP:

##### **Section 6a. (1)(c):**

The responsibilities of the Technical Committee include the annual review of the outreach budget and the Public Outreach Committee's strategic plan. These efforts should be undertaken in conjunction with the review of the planning budget in the fall and winter Technical Committee and Task Force meetings, respectively.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee's recommendation to change the CWPPRA SOP language as presented. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

Mr. Holden then explained that the Task Force directed the Technical Committee to task the P&E Subcommittee to identify ways to reduce the FY11 planning budget to \$5 million or

less. The P&E Subcommittee was asked by the Technical Committee to produce its FY11 budget based on the following: 1) eliminate the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA) planning program funds in FY11, 2) return GOCA FY09 funds and possibly FY10 unexpended funds, 3) eliminate helicopter support, and 4) cancel the Lessons Learned Workshop and replace the Project Priority List (PPL) candidate results public meetings with an e-mail and *Newsflash* notifications. Mr. Holden added that input from the public would be required on item number four, particularly in southwest Louisiana.

Mr. Darryl Clark, USFWS, stated that several individuals in southwest Louisiana have been contacted regarding elimination of the public PPL results meetings and do not have a problem with their elimination.

Mr. Holden continued that there are five other areas being evaluated for budget reduction, which will be reported to the Technical Committee at its September meeting, including: United States Geological Survey (USGS) administrative management, web-based project information systems, core GIS support program, *Watermarks*, and video acquisition. Additionally, the Technical Committee has directed that the agencies maintain a FY11 P&E line-item budget estimate at or below FY10 levels. Mr. Holden then asked for additional guidance from the Task Force.

Mr. Mathies pointed out that final recommendations will be based on the outcome of the outreach strategy discussion and asked if the outreach discussions will then drive the evaluation of the presented budget reduction recommendations. Mr. Holden answered yes, but that it would be helpful if the Task Force could provide guidance.

Colonel Lee clarified that yesterday, the Task Force discussed setting up a strategic vision for CWPPRA and aligning the Outreach Program to support that vision. He added that an executive session will be held before his departure to develop the vision that CWPPRA should take beyond the 20 year mandate and into the future.

Mr. Mathies added that a reevaluation of the overall vision for CWPPRA is needed because items that were true at the Program's inception 20 years ago, may no longer necessarily be the best method. The Program needs to be evaluated on the basis of its current status in relation to other programs and events.

Mr. Honker agreed that outreach is a critical component of the CWPPRA Program and that the future needs to be viewed in terms of opportunities with other projects and events within the Gulf Coast. He stated that CWPPRA must be properly poised to be part of such opportunities. Markers established 20 years ago, such as the \$5 million cap on the planning budget, were from the old legislation and may be unduly constraining the current progress of the Program. He added that this may be an opportunity to revisit such items with Congress.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

Mr. Holden recommended that since the Technical Committee has issued guidance to the P&E Subcommittee regarding budget reduction measures and this discussion will continue at the upcoming executive session strategic meeting, no vote be held at this time, but a fax vote be held after the strategic meeting. Colonel Lee agreed.

**B. Agenda Item #11 - Discussion/Decision: Pending De-authorization of the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project**

Ms. Melanie Goodman, USACE, reported that the Task Force initiated procedures to de-authorize the Brown Lake Hydrologic Restoration Project at the October 28, 2009 meeting. De-authorization finalization is pending final notice to the congressional delegation and adjacent landowners. After the notice process is complete, a Task Force fax vote can be held for a final decision on the de-authorization.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

**C. Agenda Item #12 – Discussion/Decision: De-authorization of the Lake Borgne/MRGO Shoreline Protection Project**

Ms. Goodman reported that the Task Force initiated procedures to de-authorize the Lake Borgne/Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Shoreline Protection Project at the January 20, 2010 meeting. Notice of the intent to de-authorize was sent to Congress and the State House and Senate Natural Resources Committee chairs of the intent to de-authorize. An email vote was conducted by the Technical Committee to recommend final de-authorization of this project.

Colonel Lee clarified that the reason for this de-authorization is that the Lake Borgne reach was constructed using Hurricane Katrina supplemental funds and the MRGO reach need has been reduced/eliminated by the MRGO closure and is being evaluated under the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. Therefore, there is no longer a need for this project.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

*Mr. Boggs and Mr. Honker made motions to approve the Technical Committee recommendation for final de-authorization of the Lake Borgne/MRGO Shoreline Protection Project. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**VI. INFORMATION**

**A. Agenda Item #3 – Report: Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects**

Ms. Gay Browning, USACE, briefed the Task Force on the status of CWPPRA accounts in the planning and construction programs and overall available and projected funding in the Program.

She began with the planning program current funding. The current approved planning budget is \$5,422,186. There is a current surplus of \$540,804 and clean up of FY09 could return an additional \$1,347,847.

She then discussed the construction program current funding. Total Federal funds into the program are \$962 million. The FY10 work allowance is \$93.6 million. Total obligations to date are \$878 million; FY10 obligations are \$80.5 million; and another \$10 million will be obligated tomorrow. Expenditures to date, both Federal and non-Federal, are \$589.5 million and FY10 expenditures are \$93 million. At present, there are 148 active projects, 85 completed construction, 12 under construction, and 51 not yet started construction. Ten projects are scheduled to begin construction in FY10, four of these have a start date, one should start within the next month, and the five remaining projects are scheduled to begin between now and September; all have funding.

The current unencumbered Federal funding balance as of June 23, 2010 is \$11.8 million, with \$147 million in unobligated funds. There is a potential to get back \$22 million from cleaning up constructed or de-authorized projects, de-obligating those funds. With the FY10 Federal funding of \$79.6 and the expected \$22 million return, there will be \$10.2 million going into the next few months for approvals.

She reviewed the overall funds into the Program (including construction and planning, both Federal and non-Federal) which are \$1.1 billion. The cumulative obligations through June 2010 are \$990.7 million and the unobligated funds are \$147.5 million. Program funds set aside for the projects are \$1.149 billion and the unencumbered funds are negative \$11.8 million.

She then discussed projected funding. The total program funding, Federal and non-Federal with the previous authority, is \$1.2 billion, including \$5 million a year for planning. Based on Department of Interior projections through FY20, the total Program is estimated to be about \$2.3587 billion. The revised June projection should be available in the next couple of weeks. The total cost, at present if all projects were constructed at the current estimates, for all projects on PPL 1 to 19, including planning, is \$2.3813 billion.

Overall funding limits should be considered when approving projects for construction since once a project begins construction, the Program should provide operation and maintenance (O&M) over the 20 year life of the project. PPL 1 to 8 have funding for 20 years already set aside and all cash flow projects starting PPL 9 to present have funds set aside in increments. The total funds into the Program are \$2.3587 billion at present and 20 years of funding required for projects which have been approved for construction is \$1.4023 billion, leaving a gap of \$956.4 million.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### **B. Agenda Item #4 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report**

Ms. Susan Bergeron, USGS, presented the quarterly Public Outreach Committee Report. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Ceremony was held April 8, 2010. She thanked Paula Ouder from the Louisiana Sea Grant for taking photos at that event. The Outreach Program has conducted some legislative education; Ms. Bergeron, accompanied by Mr. Boggs, recently meet with Senator Mary Landrieu to discuss CWPPRA; and personal contact was made with each office related to the outreach event and material is provided as requested. The Outreach Committee suggests that a subcommittee be formed to decide what message the Task Force wants to express for legislative education. She asked for Task Force guidance on direction for the Outreach Committee.

Ms. Bergeron showed that CWPPRA informational materials are sent to various states around the country. She also highlighted recent events, including: an event in Alexandria working with underserved and underrepresented students; the oral history project to collect oral histories in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes for catalog in the Historic New Orleans Collection; and final review of the Portfolio of Success which will be rolled out at the commemorative event in the fall.

Ms. Bergeron thanked Task Force members for participating in the State of the Coast and Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy (CNREP) Conferences. She also explained that the Outreach Committee has been working with PBS New Orleans affiliate WYES on the Bayou Dupont Project. The Outreach Committee is trying to plan next year's media events around construction. She then gave a quick demonstration of the newly designed CWPPRA website.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Hartman asked if the oil spill is shown on the website. Ms. Bergeron answered, yes, to show the oil spill location in relation to CWPPRA projects. Mr. Hartman then asked about the number of hits the website receives. Ms. Bergeron answered, on average 1.8 to 2 million per month.

Colonel Lee expressed his appreciation of the Outreach Committee efforts and added that based on the number of website hits, the internet is the medium that the public now uses and is a really good tool to tell the CWPPRA story.

Mr. Boggs thanked Ms. Bergeron for her efforts.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### **C. Agenda Item #5 – Report: Selection of Eleven (11) Candidate Projects and Three (3) Demonstration Projects to Evaluate for PPL 20**

Mr. Holden presented the 11 projects and three demonstration projects selected by the Technical Committee at the April 20, 2010 Technical Committee meeting as PPL 20 candidates for Phase 0 analysis as listed in the table below. He clarified that the SOP specifies 10 candidate projects be chosen, but that based on the voting results, the Technical Committee unanimously recommends that all 11 projects be analyzed.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Basin</b>	<b>PPL 20 Nominees</b>
1	Ponchartrain	Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation Project
1	Ponchartrain	Unknown Pass to Rigolets Shoreline Protection
2	Mississippi River Delta	Coast-wide Planting Project
2	Breton Sound	Lake Lery Shoreline Marsh Creation
2	Breton Sound	Monsecour Siphon
2	Barataria	Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery – Marsh Creation 3
2	Barataria	Home Place Marsh Creation
3	Terrebonne	Terrebonne Bay Marsh Creation-Nourishment Project
3	Teche-Vermilion	Cote Blanche Freshwater and Sediment Introduction and Shoreline Protection Project
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration
Coast-wide	DEMO	Floating Island Environmental Solutions Biohaven©
Coast-wide	DEMO	Ecosystems Wave Attenuator
Coast-wide	DEMO	The Wave Robber Wave Suppressor Sediment Collection System

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### **D. Agenda Item #6 – Report: Task Force Vote Approvals**

Ms. Goodman reported on the following two recent Task Force fax votes:

a. Scope Change for the CWPPRA Bio-engineered Oyster Reef Demo Project – In March, the Task Force voted to approve a change in project scope to increase the CWPPRA PPL 17 Bio-engineered Oyster Reef Demonstration Project (LA-08) budget as presented by the NMFS and Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (LAOCPR) at the January Task Force meeting.

b. Construction of the CWPPRA Enhancement of Barrier Island Vegetation – In March, the Task Force also voted to approve construction of the CWPPRA PPL 16 Enhancement of Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration Project (TE-53) as requested by the EPA and the LAOCPR.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

**E. Agenda Item #7 – Report: Preliminary Report on the Monitoring Work Group Review of the Coast-wide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) and the overall CWPPRA Monitoring Program**

Dr. Jenneke Visser, Academic Advisory Committee (AAC), provided a status update on the programmatic review of CRMS and the overall CWPPRA monitoring program. Dr. Visser summarized the actions (and results) as directed by the Task Force under this review effort. The first action was to find reductions in the CRMS program cost. Dr. Visser stated that statistical analyses show that 390 stations is a bare minimum needed to analyze the coastal region. Future action is to change the analyses to incorporate minimal differences that are biologically significant.

The second action was to evaluate alternatives to improve monitoring input into decision making. The CRMS analysis team is working on the CRMS website to show information from each project in relationship to the reference stations that are appropriate for that project. Meetings with agencies have resulted in no significant suggested changes within project specific monitoring and all changes should be within existing budgets. Future action is to complete agency meetings.

The third action was to identify potential partners and level of support for sharing CRMS funding responsibility. Individuals outside of CWPPRA, in particular the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), are using CRMS station data for planning and design. If appropriated for construction, LCA projects could provide a 10 year supplement to the CRMS program and LCA would build more CRMS style stations. The LCA Science and Technology (S&T) Program is another potential source of supplemental support. Future action is to pursue potential contributions from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP).

The fourth action was to evaluate the existing level of use by various agencies. While the level of use varies by agency, most use CRMS data for planning, engineering, and design of new projects. There is currently only three years of data, but it is getting close to the point where more project related information will be on the website. Future action is to complete agency interviews.

The CRMS programmatic review report is due at the September Technical Committee meeting, but may be delayed due to oil spill response efforts.

Colonel Lee stated that it would be helpful for the agencies and State if there was a white paper discussing the overall CRMS program. He added that the oil spill has generated many requests regarding restoration and monitoring impacts.

Dr. Visser answered that there is a fact sheet. Mr. Clark added that there is a link available to the CRMS website from the CWPPRA website. Dr. Visser clarified that the fact sheet was only recently completed or may be in the final stages of development, but that she will find out.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Mathies stated that it is heartening to have the CRMS monitoring system for use in management decisions and in light of the oil spill. He explained that usually after an oil spill, there is no baseline information, but in this case, CRMS can provide prior condition information for damage assessment efforts. He added that it seems many groups are using the CRMS data which is positive since the intent of the program was to provide information for better informed management decisions.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

**F. Agenda Item #8 – Report: Project Update for PPL 11 – River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp Project (PO-29)**

Mr. Honker provided a status update on the River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp Project as it relates to the Task Force directed Plan Formulation Gap Analysis. A year ago, the Task Force directed that a gap analysis begin to evaluate additional work needed. It has taken the last year to transfer the money back from the State to the USACE to begin the gap analysis, but the analysis should begin soon.

Mr. Mathies added that the State is progressing with the design and wishes to make sure that everything is in compliance with USACE requirements before transfer to the USACE for construction. The gap analysis should be completed within the next 90 to 120 days, which will provide time for any corrective action needed before the transfer.

Colonel Lee clarified that funding from two programs can not be used simultaneously, thus there is a particular timeline for the transfer from CWPPRA to LCA. Additionally, Congress must be given a year advance notice of the transfer. The gap analysis must be completed so notice can be given to Congress and the project can proceed. The transition from CWPPRA to LCA is currently targeted for the first part of FY12.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no further comments.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

**G. Agenda Item #9 – Report: Status of the PPL 1 – West Bay Sediment Diversion Project (MR-03)**

Mr. Travis Creel, USACE, provided a status update on the West Bay Project, including development of the project closure plan and ongoing modeling work plan effort. The second half

of the 12-month study effort is currently underway. The second phase of the study is to collect more riverine data, address comments received from the peer review team, and further reduce modeling analysis uncertainties. The approved schedule for this effort was six months, but due to the oil spill, the effort will be extended to 10 months.

The closure plan scope of work is currently under development, including the following efforts: identifying and developing preliminary engineering, collection of geotechnical data for design, surveying borrow areas within the Pilottown Anchorage, and surveying the diversion structure and receiving bay. A supplemental environmental assessment (EA) also needs to be developed since the original EA only covers emergency closures.

There are currently three closure options: 1) earthen dike closure in the receiving area, 2) rock closure in the same alignment, or 3) earthen channel closure. The three options need to be evaluated for long-term effective closure and approval by the Mississippi River Commission (MRC). The plan currently includes a channel easement and a dredge disposal easement. If additional easements are required, completion of the closure plan could be extended six to nine months. The project team has discussed oil spill impacts, but are currently planning on the closure as originally directed by the Task Force.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Lee clarified that if additional real estate is required, closure will not occur this year. Mr. Creel agreed. Colonel Lee then stated that two key items to be included in the EA are the possibility of mining rock out of the MRGO jetty, if feasible, and focus on compliance and approval of the closure plan by the MRC.

Mr. Hartman asked when a cost estimate would be available. Mr. Creel responded that the survey and geotechnical data are needed, but that those activities should be completed at the end of the month. However, costs will be dependent on which alternatives are approved by the MRC.

Colonel Lee clarified that preliminary costs for the three alternatives should be available by August. Mr. Creel agreed.

Mr. Honker suggested that this project be added to the October Task Force meeting agenda for status report.

Colonel Lee asked for key milestones. Mr. Creel replied that surveys will be finished in the next month and a half, cost alternatives will be developed in August, design discussions will be held with the MRC, and by October, there should be an idea of when the closure can take place. He added that the rock closure alternative may be able to be constructed during the high water season.

Mr. Mathies asked if any money has been set aside for this closure. Ms. Browning responded that \$50.8 million is the current approved estimate, but that \$17 million needs to be funded. Mr. Mathies cautioned that the three alternatives presented will cost more than \$17

million. Mr. Holden replied that the cost is uncertain until a further level of design is conducted. He added that the money has been accounted for, but monies need to be provided from the available funds as a voting matter in the future.

Mr. Mathies then commented that the key to the closure plan is that after CWPPRA builds the structure, the project is turned over to the MRC for any and all future maintenance. Therefore, the closure design may need to be more robust than an emergency closure.

Mr. Hartman reiterated that the MRC needs to understand the future maintenance responsibilities when they approve a closure design.

Colonel Lee pointed out that recent knowledge from the MRGO closure gives a general understanding of closure costs and that he believes the funding should be sufficient.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### **H. Agenda Item #13 – Discussion: Status and Features of the LCA (Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDMAT) Program**

Mr. Bill Hicks, USACE, provided an overview of the LCA BUDMAT Program, including the process for soliciting candidate beneficial use projects. A decision of record is expected in July of this year and the program will be ready for implementation in FY11. BUDMAT acknowledges the Federal standard (which requires all maintenance activities be conducted in the least-cost, environmentally acceptable manner, consistent with sound engineering practices) and then implements disposal activities that are above the Federal standard. This allows restoration opportunities for projects outside of the Federal standard or complementation of existing ecosystem restoration projects.

BUDMAT is tied to Federally maintained navigation channels. Projects can be nominated if they meet the minimum submittal requirements and nominated projects are then screened through criteria for consideration. It is estimated that out of the nominated projects, three or four will be looked at for design each year. The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 204 process will be followed for formulating, analyzing, and justifying projects and project management plans will be developed to guide planning and design phases. It is anticipated that these projects will be designed in about a year. After projects are ready for construction, they will be ranked and then recommendations will be made to the program management team. BUDMAT has \$100 million in funding over 10 years, so it is anticipated that approximately \$10 million per year will be available which could fund two to three projects. Projects are already being evaluated for construction in FY11.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Lee asked what the cost share amount is. Mr. Hicks answered, 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal for everything above the Federal standard.

Colonel Lee commented that this is the first of multiple studies wrapping up this year that will go the Assistant Secretary of the Army's (ASA) office with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and then to Congress.

Mr. Honker summarized that if the average incremental cost to do BUDMAT for a project is \$4 million and \$10 million is available annually, then two projects can be constructed each year. He then asked if any extra money can carry over from year to year. Mr. Hicks answered, yes the money can carry over, but that there is also a planning and design aspect that is included in the cost. Mr. Honker then asked if planning and design included land rights, acquisition, and whatever else needs to be done in the receiving area. Mr. Hicks agreed.

Mr. Norton pointed out that with the 65/35 cost sharing, three projects could be included under the \$10 million. Mr. Hicks responded that there is no cost cap on projects in BUDMAT.

Mr. Honker asked for the estimated timeframe to complete the design work for a project. Mr. Hicks answered, typically one year.

Mr. Hartman clarified that the USACE will still cover the cost of the Federal standard and that this is just an extra incremental cost.

Mr. Honker asked if actual construction will be conducted in FY11 or just design. Mr. Hicks answered that they are considering existing projects that have been through the design process already for construction in FY11.

Mr. Holden stated that the USACE and the State are looking at having design agreements in place for several projects so that there is no loss of momentum if they are used for BUDMAT. He added that some of these projects are not up for dredging until FY12 or 13, but that they are looking ahead.

Mr. Honker suggested that information as to the status of BUDMAT actions be available when making decisions within CWPPRA so as to utilize opportunities for synergy between the two programs.

Colonel Lee stated that the USACE has a three year dredging program with the State and that they have been looking at opportunities or beneficial use of material before BUDMAT. He suggested linking the Federal agencies into the dredging event meetings and making sure the CWPPRA Task Force is invited so they can be up to speed on dredging events. He added that this coordination should start in the fall since the annual Environmental Dredging Conference is held in May. Mr. Holden responded that the CWPPRA Technical Committee has already been engaged in such matters, but that the Task Force can also be included.

Mr. Clark stated that there are two CWPPRA projects remaining at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge (Cycles 4 and 5) and suggested that these projects be considered for rollover into BUDMAT. Mr. Boggs added that BUDMAT could also be used to enhance such projects.

Mr. Holden stated that the USACE is already doing this and will continue to look for opportunities to improve results.

Colonel Lee opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no comments.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Mathies recognized Mr. Gerry Bodin, a retired employee of USFWS, who guided the CWPPRA Program in its early stages.

## **VIII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Albertine Kimble, Coastal Manager for Plaquemines Parish, pointed out that the West Bay Sediment Diversion is positively helping with the oil spill response and that it is a good thing the River is high.

Mr. Chad Courville, with the Miami Corporation, thanked Colonel Lee for his service. He explained that he sent a letter to the Technical Committee in November regarding the PPL 11 Grand Lake Shoreline Protection Project (ME 21a and 21b). After gaining some insight on the progress of the project, he sent another letter in May asking for Task Force action at today's meeting. The project was approved in 2002, was split in 2007 with a portion going through CIAP, at which time there was discussion of approving three years of O&M, but no O&M has been conducted because the project is still waiting to be built. He added that while he appreciates the work that has been done on the cost share agreement between the State and the USACE, in the interim this is a good, non-complicated project that is being held up in the midst of these discussions and debates. He explained that this project is caught in the crossfire and asked if there may be some reasonable alternative to get the project moving because this area continues to experience shoreline erosion. He stated that he is looking for some resolution on this matter in a reasonable timeframe and hopes for some level of comfort that he will not have to make these same comments at this time next year.

Colonel Lee responded that the State and the USACE are trying to get a final resolution on this matter and that he understands there are timing concerns. He added that while there is the bigger issue of cost share agreements that must be addressed, there is a focus to get this project moving and to reach a point where the project can move forward.

Mr. Mathies explained that the impasse between the State and the USACE is the USACE contract hold harmless clause. He added that CWPPRA exists to build projects and help things move more quickly. He stated that the State wants to open its books as to how project money is spent and wishes for the USACE to do the same. He clarified that there are larger global issues here regarding contracts between the State and USACE, but that he appreciates the public's frustration and that they are trying to find a path forward on this project because it is a zero risk, shoreline protection project.

Mr. Courville clarified that he did not intend to chastise anyone, but would like to be kept up to speed on the timeline as things develop in order to get a level of comfort that things are moving forward on this project.

There were no further public comments.

## **IX. CLOSING**

### **A. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meetings**

Ms. Goodman announced that the next Technical Committee meeting will be held on September 22, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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

Ms. Goodman also announced that the schedule for upcoming 2010 meetings as follows:

September 22, 2010	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 27, 2010	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
November 16, 2010	7:00 p.m.	PPL 20 Public Meeting	Abbeville
November 17, 2010	7:00 p.m.	PPL 20 Public Meeting	New Orleans
December 1, 2010	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

The October Task Force meeting will have to be rescheduled and will be coordinated with the Outreach Committee's next dedication ceremony. The PPL 20 public meetings in November are still on the calendar, but elimination of those meetings is one of the cost saving measures currently being analyzed; therefore, these meetings may be canceled.

Colonel Lee asked if there were any closing comments from the Task Force members.

Mr. Norton stated that in the midst of the oil spill, we look for a bright spot, and that from the NRCS perspective, there are many projects moving forward this summer which will provide some success within the CWPPRA Program despite the oil spill. The (TE-34) Penchant Basin notice to proceed is out and the contractors should start work any day; the (BA-41) South Shore of the Pen contract has been awarded, the notice to proceed given this week, and should be under construction; the (TE-39) South Lake DeCade bids are currently being evaluated; the (TV-21) East Marsh Island construction began this week; the GIWW was approved last week and should be awarded shortly; and the (BA-27c) Landbridge 3 and Cameron-Creole Vegetative Planting have been advertised.

### **C. Adjournment**

Colonel Lee called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Boggs so moved and Mr. Honker seconded. Colonel Lee adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.