

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
14 May 2015

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Richard Hansen convened the 89th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on May 14, 2015, at the Estuarine Habitat and Coastal Fisheries Center in Lafayette, 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 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 Task Force Members who were present.

Colonel Richard Hansen, Chairman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Mr. Jeffrey Weller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Mr. Kevin Norton, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Mr. Bren Haase, State of Louisiana, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
(CPRA), sitting in for Mr. Chip Kline, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
(GOCA)
Mr. William Honker, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mr. Christopher Doley, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

III. OPENING REMARKS

Colonel Hansen introduced himself, welcomed everyone, and asked the members of the Task Force to introduce themselves.

Colonel Hansen asked if the Task Force had any opening comments or changes to the agenda.

Mr. Norton stated that NRCS would like to consider the CS-20 Project ahead of the TV-09 Project in Agenda Item 7d. Also, he stated that NRCS would like to omit Agenda Item 12, the Report on the Sediment Containment for Marsh Creation Demonstration (LA-09) Project, because Mr. Ron Boustany was unable to be at the meeting. The presentation was given at the Technical Committee Meeting and is available on the CWPPRA website.

Colonel Hansen recognized Ms. Albertine Kimble, the retiring Coastal Manager for Plaquemines Parish. Colonel Hansen stated that Ms. Kimble is a model of the link between CWPPRA and the public. He thanked her for her service to Plaquemines Parish and the State.

Mr. Honker made a motion to adopt the agenda as discussed. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2015 TASK FORCE MEETING

Mr. Brad Inman, USACE, indicated that the minutes from the January 22, 2015 Task Force Meeting were sent to the Task Force members for review. Colonel Hansen asked the Task Force members if they had any comments on the minutes. There were no comments.

Mr. Norton made a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Mr. Honker seconded. Colonel Hansen declared the minutes from the January 22, 2015 Task Force Meeting adopted.

V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Agenda Item #7 – Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects

Mr. Inman reported that the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee reviewed projects that are approaching the end of their 20-year lives as required by the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The P&E Subcommittee grouped the projects into five categories according to their recommendation for end-of-life disposition.

The following projects are requesting approval for project closeout with no additional cost increase.

- a. Projects requesting approval for project closeout with no additional cost increase:

CS-22	Clear Marais Bank Protection	USACE	Mar 2017
TE-22	Point au Fer Canal Plugs	NMFS	May 2017
MR-06	Channel Armor Gap Crevasse	USACE	Nov 2017
AT-02	Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery	NMFS	Mar 2018
TE-23	West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration	USACE	Aug 2018
AT-03	Big Island Mining	NMFS	Oct 2018
PO-19	MRGO Disposal Area Marsh Protection	USACE	Jan 2019

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

Colonel Hansen asked if the years listed in the agenda are the years when the projects reach their 20-year life. Mr. Inman responded affirmatively. Mr. Inman explained that some of these projects may have final operations and maintenance (O&M) activities, but money has been set aside for these actions and at this time it is not anticipated that additional funding will be needed, based on the best projections by the State and the Federal sponsor.

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

The following projects are requesting approval to pursue project extension through a formal evaluation.

- b. Projects requesting approval to pursue project extension through a formal evaluation:

CS-04a	Cameron-Creole Maintenance	NRCS	Sep 2017
CS-17	Cameron Creole Plugs	FWS	Jan 2017

Mr. Inman reported that the Federal sponsors have presentations available if the Task Force would like to see them. No members of the Task Force requested presentations on these projects. Mr. Inman explained that a formal evaluation would consist of an assessment by the Engineering and Environmental Work Groups to determine if the projects are eligible for a 20-year extension. The Technical Committee recommended approval for further evaluation.

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

Colonel Hansen asked about the timeline for when there would be an estimate for an O&M budget. Mr. Inman responded that those estimates would likely be available at the May 2016 Task Force Meeting.

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

The following project is requesting approval for a six year no-cost extension.

- c. Projects requesting approval for a six year no-cost extension:

PO-18	Bayou Sauvage Hydrologic Restoration #2	FWS	May 2017
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Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this six year no-cost extension. This project had damages to the pump station following Hurricane Katrina and was out of service for six years. The six year extension would allow the project to complete 20 years of operations. Phase 1 of this project was approved last year for a six year no-cost extension for the same reason.

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

Mr. Doley asked if the six year timeframe correlates with the amount of money remaining in the budget. Mr. Inman responded affirmatively.

Colonel Hansen asked Mr. Darryl Clark, USFWS, about the data collection that would occur during the six year extension. Mr. Clark responded that the project team did not intend to collect more data in addition to what the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) staff already collects regarding water levels. The project team will not be performing significant monitoring, and therefore the request does not include carrying over the Monitoring budget. The O&M budget is approximately \$100,000.

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

The following projects are requesting approval for project closeout pending final O&M cost increases totaling \$1,274,877.

- d. Projects requesting approval for project closeout pending final O&M cost increases in the amount of \$1,274,877:

TV-09	Boston Canal/Vermilion Bay Bank Protection**	NRCS	Nov 2015	\$630,891
CS-20	East Mud Lake Marsh Management	NRCS	Jun 2016	\$643,986

***TV-09's path forward was not recommended for Task Force approval by the Technical Committee*

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval for the East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20) Project but not for the Boston Canal/ Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09) Project.

Mr. Troy Mallach, NRCS, presented the request for project closeout pending a final O&M cost increase of \$643,986 for the East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20) Project. Construction on this project began in 1996. It is located three miles north of Holly Beach. It consists of approximately 8,000 acres of open water and brackish marsh. The western portion of the project is Construction Unit (CTU) 1 and is passively managed; CTU 2 is located in the eastern portion of the project and is actively managed. Project structures were completed in partnership with Apache, the land owner, and CPRA. Based on the first ten years of project life, the land loss rate did not change in CTU 1. However, CTU 2 went from a -1% land loss rate before the project was constructed to a +0.2% land gain with the project in place. The total project will result in a net gain of 463 acres at a cost of a little over \$6 million. This is a very cost effective project. NRCS recommends closing out the project after repairing three structures to leave it in fit condition. Based on the current remaining funding and the cost estimate to complete this work, NRCS is requesting approximately \$640,000.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked when the money would be used. Mr. Paul responded that they would begin preparing plans and specs as soon as possible. Colonel Hansen asked for confirmation that the project would continue on schedule to be closed out in June 2016, and Mr. Paul responded affirmatively.

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

Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, presented the request for project closeout pending a final O&M cost increase of \$630,891 for the Boston Canal/ Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09) Project. This project will complete its 20-year life in November 2015. It consists of 1,405 linear feet of rock riprap dike at the mouth of the Boston Canal and 13.25 miles of vegetative shoreline plantings. During the life of this project, there have not been any true maintenance events; sediment fencing was removed at no cost to the project because it was observed that the fencing was inhibiting sediment transfer. The project has \$115,000 remaining in its budget. NRCS and

the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) would like to close out the project after performing one maintenance event to tie the sides of the project back into the shoreline to leave it in good condition for the Parish. NRCS presented this request to the Technical Committee in September 2014, and the Technical Committee did not recommend Task Force approval of this action. At the October Task Force meeting, NRCS presented more information and the Task Force remanded the issue back to the Technical Committee. In April 2015, the Technical Committee again did not recommend Task Force approval.

The construction cost of the project was just over \$1 million. The rock that is in place is still in good condition; it has not required any additional lifts. What was open water behind the rock when the project was constructed is now land. The project has created approximately 1.1 acres of land on both sides and also prevented erosion that would have occurred of about one acre on each side. The net benefits of the project are 4.7 acres over 20 years.

The problem occurs at the end of the rock on both sides of the project. The proposed work would use approximately 4,200 tons of rock to extend the dike on the east by 427 feet and on the west by 338 feet to tie the project back into the shoreline and prevent erosion from occurring behind the dike. The area is averaged six feet of erosion per year; the project area would lose an additional 1.5 acres on the east and 1.3 acres on the west over the next 20 years without this maintenance event. However, if the area is protected, additional sediment would accrete and the project would reestablish land behind the dike. The work is expected to cost approximately \$746,000; with the remaining funds in the budget, NRCS requested additional funds of \$630,891.

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

Mr. Norton stated that from NRCS' perspective, this is a much larger project than just the existing 100 feet of rock. With a relatively small amount of funding, CWPPRA could leave this project in good standing for the local sponsor to maintain. This is a good way to finish the project and leave it in good repair without extending it for another 20 years within CWPPRA. The life of the rock will be much longer than 20 years based on the performance of the existing rock.

Mr. Honker asked if a motion for this project would consist of both a budget increase and incremental funding. Mr. Norton responded affirmatively.

Mr. Doley asked Mr. Inman why the Technical Committee did not recommend that the Task Force approve this request. Mr. Inman stated that the major concern is that this is a scope change rather than a maintenance event. Mr. Rick Hartman, NMFS, added that there were questions about the cost effectiveness, with four acres of land for \$600,000 not being the best use of CWPPRA dollars. Mr. Doley asked if there was a discussion about extending the project for another 20 years. Mr. Inman responded that this was going to be a final event prior to project close out, not an extension of the project.

Colonel Hansen asked why this would not be considered a scope change, since it is an extension of the rock rather than a lift. Mr. Norton responded that it is within the original project

area, and there has been erosion at both ends. It fits within the original cost benefit of the project as originally conceived. CWPPRA has added features to other projects through the life of the project. There is active erosion, and this activity would protect the mouth of the canal. NRCS considers this an extension of an existing project.

Colonel Hansen asked about the success of the vegetative plantings. Mr. Kinler responded that it was mixed. There was good survival at first, but then several storms hit the area, primarily Lili, and some of the plantings protection was lost.

Mr. Haase announced that CPRA did vote in favor of this activity at the Technical Committee meeting but will not be voting at the Task Force meeting.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Ralph Libersat, representing Vermilion Parish, requested favorable consideration for this project from the Task Force. He stated that he would not want CWPPRA to set a precedent of releasing projects to the local sponsor that are not in good repair. This project has been successful over the years and is need of repair on each side. This is not a scope change – the scope is shoreline protection. The cost effectiveness is the additional four acres plus everything that the project has protected over its life. This project is vital to Vermilion Parish, and shoreline protection along Vermilion Bay is in the 2012 Master Plan. Vermilion Parish would like to connect this project to additional projects along Boston Canal. Project Priority List (PPL) 25 has a candidate project in the Vermilion Bay area, and Mr. Libersat expressed his hope that that project would not be in this same situation in 20 years. Mr. Libersat asked CWPPRA to leave this project in good condition so that the Parish can extend it with other projects.

The following projects are requesting approval for 20-year extensions, with budget increases of \$7,139,419 and incremental funding of \$14,794:

- e. Projects requesting approval for 20-year extension, budget increases in the amount of \$7,139,419, and incremental funding in the amount of \$14,794.

Project Number	Project Name	Federal Sponsor	Project End Date	Budget Increase Request	Incremental Funding Request
ME-04	Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection	NRCS	Mar 2015	\$3,835,646	\$14,794
ME-13	Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization	NRCS	Jun 2018	\$3,303,773	\$0

Mr. Inman reported that these two projects have been through the formal evaluation process and both are requesting a 20-year extension and budget increase, with incremental funding also being requested for ME-04. Both projects may require additional lifts, which will be scheduled in the future as needed. The Technical Committee recommended approval of this request.

Mr. Kinler presented the request for the Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04) Project. The end of its 20-year life was March 2015. It is located in Vermilion Parish on the west bank of Freshwater Bayou Canal. The project consists of approximately 28,000 linear feet of rock dike. It has had three maintenance events over the last 20 years, occurring in 2002, 2005,

and 2015. Following the 2015 event, the project will have less than \$300,000 in its budget. The formal assessment of the project's costs and benefits has shown that a 20-year extension of the project is justified. It benefits 25 acres at a cost of \$3.8 million. The request for incremental funding would cover monitoring and administration costs for the next three years, but no major maintenance event is foreseen in that timeframe. The 2015 maintenance event that is currently ongoing was paid using the original 20-year life budget.

Mr. Kinler then presented the request for the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13) Project. This project is located just north of the ME-04 Project, and its 20-year life ends in March 2018. The project consists of approximately 23,000 linear feet of foreshore rock dike. It has had two maintenance events, one in 2005 and another in 2015. Following the 2015 maintenance event, it will have approximately \$500,000 in remaining funds. The fully-funded cost for an additional 20 years of project life is approximately \$3.3 million for 22.2 net acres, producing a cost effectiveness of just under \$150,000 per acre.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked about the process of incremental funding for these projects if they are approved. Mr. Inman answered that these projects will follow the standard CWPPRA procedures; in the fall, CPRA and the Federal sponsor will conduct a field visit and formulate a cost estimate to present at the Technical Committee and Task Force meetings for approval.

Mr. Doley asked for confirmation that the funds would not actually be utilized for a few years. Mr. Kinler responded that for the cost estimate they assumed that a lift would be needed in approximately seven years. He added that the projects are inspected on a regular basis to determine whether maintenance is needed. Mr. Inman verified that this is a budget increase, but not an actual obligation of funds. Mr. Kinler clarified that the ME-04 project is requesting approximately \$14,000 in incremental funding, and that ME-13 is still in its first 20-year life budget until 2018.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Randy Moertle, Rainey Conservation Alliance, stated that the Rainey Alliance owns most of the property on both sides of Freshwater Bayou Canal. This area experiences tremendous erosion caused by wakes of offshore supply boat traffic on the federal navigation channel. Mr. Moertle is working on a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to place dredged material behind the existing ME-04 project to strengthen it and hold it in place. Hopefully that project will set a precedent regarding how to conduct this type of project. This rock will also protect a marsh creation project located on the lower end of the Canal. The Parish has spent \$12 million of Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds to place rocks along this channel. It is the biggest cancer in the parish, and rocks on both sides of the channel will protect land.

Mr. Doley made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve project closeout with no additional cost increase for seven projects. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to allow two projects to pursue project extension through a formal evaluation. Mr. Weller seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Weller made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve a six year no-cost extension for the Bayou Sauvage Hydrologic Restoration #2 (PO-18) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve a budget increase and incremental funding of \$643,986 prior to closing out the East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve a budget increase and incremental funding in the amount of \$630,891 for the Boston Canal/ Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. Mr. Honker and Mr. Norton voted in favor. Mr. Doley, Mr. Weller, and Colonel Hansen voted against. The motion was not passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Norton made a motion to close out the Boston Canal/ Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09) Project with no additional cost increase. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve a 20-year extension of the Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04) and Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13) Projects, including a budget increase of \$7,139,419 (\$3,835,646 for ME-04 and \$3,303,773 for ME-13) and an incremental funding increase of \$14,794. Mr. Weller seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

B. Agenda Item #8 – FY16 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 26 Process, and Presentation of FY16 Outreach Budget (Process, Size, Funding, etc.)

Ms. Allison Murry, USACE, presented the PPL 26 process.

- a. The Task Force will consider the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve that the PPL 26 Process include selecting four nominees in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three projects in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Teche/Vermilion Basins; and one nominee will be selected in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Ms. Murry reported that the PPL 26 process is the same as the PPL 25 process, with the same number of project nominees allowed per basin. The basins with the highest loss rates get the most project nominees. Mr. Inman added that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this request.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked about the number of projects that usually move forward through this process. Mr. Inman

responded that this year only 18 projects out of a possible 22 moved forward into the nominee phase following the Regional Planning Team (RPT) votes, due to a lack of projects in Breton Sound and the Atchafalaya Basin. The Technical Committee usually votes for ten candidate projects to move into Phase 0 analysis, but this year they recommended that 11 projects move forward due to a tie. The Technical Committee will vote to move four projects into Phase I Engineering & Design in the fall, with the final decision being made by the Task Force in January.

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

Mr. Scott Wilson, United States Geological Survey (USGS), presented the FY16 CWPPRA Outreach Committee budget request.

- b. The Task Force will consider the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the FY16 Outreach Committee Budget, in the amount of \$446,113.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee, reported that the scope and size of the requested budget are consistent with previous years. The funding will be used for fact sheets, Outreach staff, conference participation, website updates, Watermarks, and CWPPRA agency participation.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked about the one proposed change. Mr. Wilson responded that there is a small increase in the funding request compared to last year. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this request.

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

Ms. Susan Mabry, USACE, presented the FY16 Planning budget.

- c. The Task Force will consider the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the FY16 Planning Budget (includes Outreach Committee Budget), in the amount of \$5,002,132.

Ms. Mabry reported that this request includes the CWPPRA Outreach budget. Mr. Inman added that it is the same as last year, with the exception of the additional funding in the Outreach budget and removal of funds that were included last year for the creation of the 2015 Report to Congress. The Technical Committee recommended approval.

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

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

Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the PPL 26 Process. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the FY16 CWPPRA Outreach Committee budget in the amount of \$446,113. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the FY 16 Planning budget in the amount of \$5,002,132. Mr. Haase seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

C. Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for O&M Budget and Incremental Funding Increase for the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project

Mr. Paul reported that the design for the repair to the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project is complete. Unfortunately, the construction bids for this project came in high. NRCS was able to work with the contractor to get the cost within the available funding, but there is no money left for any needed modifications for this complex work. NRCS requested that \$500,000 be placed in a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) in case it is needed so that the work is not interrupted if it is needed. Mr. Inman added that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this request with the caveat that the funds not actually be spent without Technical Committee approval.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked if the \$500,000 includes supervision and administration (S&A). Mr. Paul responded that the S&A is already covered, and this \$500,000 would just be for any modifications that might be needed. Colonel Hansen asked whether a contingency is included in the cost estimate. Mr. Paul responded that the cost estimate did include a contingency, but it is a very complex project. In response to a question from Mr. Doley, Mr. Paul confirmed that if these funds are not needed, they will be returned to the Program. Mr. John Jurgensen, NRCS, stated that there is a 10% contingency; Colonel Hansen stated that 10% is a low contingency. Colonel Hansen asked for confirmation that a request to use the funds would just be made to the Technical Committee, not the Task Force, in order to expedite any modifications and avoid delay costs. Mr. Jurgensen affirmed that the Technical Committee recommendation was just to have the Technical Committee approve spending the funds, not the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked how long it would take to get Technical Committee approval; Mr. Inman estimated one or two days for an electronic vote.

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

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve the Technical Committee recommendation to place \$500,000 into a MIPR for the Black Bayou Culverts (CS-29) Project, with the caveat that the funds not be spent without Technical Committee approval. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

D. Agenda Item #14 – Decision: Scope Change Request for Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project

Mr. Mallach reported that the 30% design for the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introductions (CS-49) Project is complete. NRCS has concurrence from CPRA to move to the 95% design. Some of the proposed changes include more terracing, increasing the length of the terracing to completely cover the open water area south of the freshwater introduction structure, the addition of 18 acres of marsh creation to repair a breach in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) bankline, and a change from aluminum pipes to a sheet pile structure. These changes represent an 84% increase in cost to \$23.5 million and a 40% decrease in net acres from 433 to 263. The cost per acre is approximately \$89,000 per acre, which is comparable to the cost per acre for current projects.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked if the increase cost includes the rock protection on the GIWW. Mr. Mallach confirmed that it does include the rock protection.

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this request, with the stipulation that two designs will be evaluated, one with rock on the GIWW and one without. Mr. Hartman added that the Technical Committee recommendation included requiring NRCS to present both designs to the Technical Committee for the Technical Committee to decide which of the two designs will compete for Phase II funding. Colonel Hansen asked about the increased time and cost of the two designs. Mr. Mallach stated that the 30% design currently includes the rock protection, which has been a part of the project since it was proposed. Removing the rock protection will reduce the cost. Mr. Hartman added that based on the comments in the 30% design meeting, the need for the rock was questionable. The project has merit and the Technical Committee wants it to move forward.

Mr. Paul stated that the project should include a feature to maintain the bankline in some way. They are investigating ways to make it stable and complete without using rock. NRCS is not moving to a full blown design, but will present the costs and benefits of the project with and without the rock to the Technical Committee. The goal is to do this quickly. Colonel Hansen asked if it was feasible to have this information by the fall Technical Committee meeting; Mr. Paul responded that they plan to have it complete before then in order to request funding in the fall. Colonel Hansen asked if the comparison would include considerations of O&M requirements with and without the rock. Mr. Paul stated that there are other alternatives to maintain the bankline to reduce overtopping, so the structure won't be compromised.

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

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve the Technical Committee recommendation to change the scope of the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49) Project, provided that two designs are evaluated, one with rock along the GIWW and one without. NRCS and CPRA will present both designs to the Technical Committee, which will decide which design competes for Phase II funding. Mr. Weller seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

E. Agenda Item #15 – Decision: Request for Approval for Final Deauthorization of the PPL 19 – Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) Project

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommends approval of the final deauthorization for the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) Project because the project has secured construction funds from the Deepwater Horizon Phase III early restoration program. This motion is simply to officially remove the project from the CWPPRA Program. This project was a partnership between CPRA and NMFS.

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

Mr. Weller stated that the Report to Congress has a section about CWPPRA being an incubator for other coastal restoration programs and questioned whether “deauthorization” is the correct term to describe this action. He suggested that this is really a transfer. Mr. Inman agreed with Mr. Weller that the Program needs to quantify how many “deauthorized” projects have been constructed with other funding sources. However, since the process for deauthorization of this project has been completed, including sending out requests for public comment, Mr. Inman suggested maintaining the current language for now. The other members of the Task Force agreed that the deauthorization language may not be the most appropriate way to describe what is actually occurring and the Program should reconsider the terms used. However, this is not a transfer because there is no willing recipient with a formal request. The Early Restoration document does acknowledge CWPPRA as the designer of the project, but the steps required by the CWPPRA SOP for a transfer have not been met. The Task Force agreed to reconsider the language for future similar actions.

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

Mr. Honker made a motion to approve final deauthorization of the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) Project. Mr. Weller seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

F. Agenda Item #16 – Decision: Request for Approval for Final Deauthorization of the PPL 17 – West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project

Mr. Haase reported that the West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project is being constructed as part of the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) Project. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this item.

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

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

Mr. Haase made a motion to approve the final deauthorization of the PPL 17 – West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

VI. INFORMATION

A. Agenda Item #3 – Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects

Ms. Mabry reported on the status of CWPPRA Program funds. The CWPPRA Program estimate, including all approved and unapproved phases as if all projects were to be built today, is \$2.333 billion from inception through PPL 24. The projected total funding for the CWPPRA Construction Program is \$2.001 billion, leading to a potential gap of \$331 million in additional funding that will be needed for the CWPPRA Program in the future should all currently approved projects be constructed. The currently approved estimate is \$1.675 billion for PPL 1-24, including Phase I and II and long-term Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M). The total approved funding is \$1.527 billion for PPL 1-24.

The CWPPRA Program had a beginning balance of \$17 million in January 2015. The Program received an additional \$5.4 million in April, likely from prior years' sequestration, and \$2.9 million has been returned to the Program from project closeouts and reconciliations. Available funding for today's meeting is \$25.5 million. The agenda includes six requests for budget increases totaling \$15 million, leaving \$10.5 million for the next meeting.

The Planning Program had a carry-in of \$122,000 in January and will receive \$5 million in FY16 funding. The Planning and Outreach request is \$5.002 million, leaving the Planning Program with \$120,000 for future years.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked about the \$5.4 million in additional funding that was received. He asked if Ms. Mabry could confirm that the funds were from prior years' sequestration. Ms. Mabry agreed to contact the Department of the Interior to confirm this. She reported that OMB had questions about the CWPPRA Program, as opposed to Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), which she believes were answered satisfactorily.

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

B. Agenda Item #4 – Report: Request Approved by Task Force Electronic Vote for an O&M Budget Increase and Incremental Funding for Baratavia Waterway West Bank Protection (BA-23) Project

Mr. Inman reported that NRCS and CPRA requested funding for the Baratavia Waterway West Bank Protection (BA-23) Project at the Technical Committee meeting. The Technical Committee decided that this need was an emergency and that the Task Force should hold an electronic vote to expedite the funding. The Task Force voted to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation for an O&M Budget Increase and Incremental Funding, in the

amount of \$291,423, for Barataria Waterway West Bank Protection (BA-23) Project on May 6, 2015.

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

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

C. Agenda Item #5 – Report: Construction Update

Ms. Cecelia Linder, NMFS, presented a construction update on the Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48) and Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68) Projects. On the Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation Project, all of the marsh and ridge construction is complete. This project is associated with the Long Distance Sediment Pipeline Project, which is a CPRA project. Dredging should be complete on the southwestern portion by the end of August. The Bayou Dupont project is 370 acres in size and has an expected construction cost of \$34 million; the total Long Distance Sediment Pipeline Project will achieve 785 acres and cost \$79 million.

The Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68) Project is currently under construction and should complete dredging by June 2015. The CWPPRA construction cost is \$42 million. It is using offshore borrow to create 432 acres of marsh and 24 acres of ridge in Plaquemines Parish south of Buras.

Mr. Kevin Roy, USFWS, reported that the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) Project is approaching its third year of construction. There have been a number of shutdowns due to a high river, but the contractor is currently working and the project should be complete in two weeks.

Mr. Robert Dubois, USFWS, reported on the South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16) and Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 & 5 (CS-28-4&5) Projects. The South Lake Lery Project is just beginning construction. It was designed by NRCS but is being constructed as a USFWS project. It is located west of Delacroix, south of New Orleans. It consists of 35,000 linear feet of earthen shoreline and approximately 500 acres of marsh creation. An additional 500 acres south of the original project area has been permitted; due to favorable bids, a majority of these 500 acres will likely be constructed. The project is expected to complete construction in April 2016. The dredge has been mobilized to the area and should start construction of the shoreline restoration portion of the project shortly. The contractor is Coastal Dredging and the cost is \$21.5 million.

The Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4 & 5 (CS-28-4&5) Project is located on the Sabine NWF. It is a beneficial use project being constructed in conjunction with USACE maintenance dredging of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Cycle 4 consists of one million cubic yards and 230 acres. Cycle 5 consists of one million cubic yards and 230 acres. Construction began in January 2015 is complete for both cycles. These cycles used the permanent pipeline for

the first time and did not encounter any issues. The cost for Cycles 4 & 5 was \$3.6 million. Additionally, the Port of Lake Charles paid for pumping of about one million cubic yards into Unit 1A North south of Browns Lake. CWPPRA paid for the containment dike of Unit 1A North. It consists of approximately 215 acres. Construction began in October 2014 and is complete. CWPPRA paid for the pumping for Unit 1A South, which is another one million cubic yards and 171 acres. Construction began in April 2015 and is ongoing. Units 1A North and South cost \$3.5 million. Altogether, this project will create 873 acres of marsh and 100-200 acres of mudflats for a cost of \$7.1 million.

Mr. Kinler presented a construction update on the Barataria Landbridge Shoreline Protection Phase 3, Cycles Construction Units 7 & 8 (BA-27-7&8) and Coastwide Vegetative Plantings (LA-39) Projects. The BA-27 project is located on the lower end of Bayou Perot and north of Little Lake. All cycles of the project total 115,000 linear feet of bankline protection. The area is prone to significant erosion. This project will not protect the entire basin, but it will protect the areas behind it. The construction cost is \$13.6 M and the project will begin construction in May 2015.

Since the last presentation, the Coastwide Vegetative Plantings (LA-39) Project has completed four sites and one additional contract has been awarded. Completed projects include: The Jaws, which supplements the Sediment Trapping at The Jaws (TV-15) Project; Little Vermilion Bay, which supplements terracing near Four Mile Canal; Willow Lake, where over 26,000 plantings were planted in the fall of 2014; and Rockefeller Unit 4, where success is expected based on other plantings nearby. Green Island Bayou in Vermilion Parish is currently under construction; the plants are growing and will be planted in the fall of 2015.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen noted that it is nice to see the investment in the permanent pipeline benefiting projects. Mr. Inman added that the permanent pipeline is ready for the next time a similar opportunity is available. This project was a collaboration between CPRA, USACE, and USFWS.

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

D. Agenda Item #6 – Report: Selection of Eleven Candidate Projects and One Demonstration Projects to Evaluate for PPL 25

Mr. Roy presented the 11 candidate projects and one demonstration project shown in the tables below. Eleven candidate projects were selected instead of ten because there was a tie.

Region	Basin	PPL 25 Candidates	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	North Shell Beach Marsh Creation	USACE/EPA
1	Pontchartrain	Fritchie Marsh Creation & Terracing	NMFS
2	Barataria	Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2	EPA
2	Barataria	Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	Barataria	East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation & Terracing	FWS
2	Barataria	East Leeville Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS
3	Terrebonne	Bayou Terrebonne Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation	FWS
3	Teche-Vermilion	West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection & Marsh Creation	NRCS/EPA

Region	Basin	PPL 25 Candidates	Agency
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement	NRCS
4	Mermentau	Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Oyster Lake Marsh Creation & Nourishment	NMFS

	PPL 25 Demonstration Project Candidate	Agency
DEMO	Shoreline Protection, Preservation & Restoration (SPPR) Panel	NMFS

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen noted that all of the projects are good projects and it will be tough to select only four for Phase I funding.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Libersat spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation and Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation and Freshwater Enhancement Projects. These projects are vital to Vermilion Parish and the Parish appreciates CWPPRA's support.

Ms. Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, spoke in support of the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project. The Master Plan proposes to protect Lake Charles to the 500-year level. Without this protection, the Master Plan predicts \$23.4 billion in damages to Calcasieu Parish, and this does not take into account the economic expansion currently underway. The plants are protecting themselves, but the workers and citizens need protection as well.

Ms. Kimble spoke in support of the Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation Project. Plaquemines Parish appreciates past support for the barrier islands and the interior marsh, and now the middle part of the basin needs attention. Coastal restoration is vital for the survival of Plaquemines Parish.

Mr. Moertle stated that the Rainey Conservation Alliance controls 125,000 acres in Vermilion and Iberia Parishes. He spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation and Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation and Freshwater Enhancement Projects. As a representative of Clovelly Farms, he spoke in support of the East Bayou Lafourche Marsh Creation and Terracing Project.

Mr. Ryan Bourriaque, Cameron Parish Police Jury, supported the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment and Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation and Nourishment Projects. As a member of the Chenier Plan Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, he spoke in support of the West Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation, Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation and Freshwater Enhancement, Sweeney Tract Marsh Creation and Nourishment, and Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment Projects. Mr. Bourriaque expressed disappointment that the Southwest Louisiana Salvinia Weevil Propagation Project did not advance to the candidate stage.

Mr. Andrew Barron, Water Quality Manager of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) advocated for all five projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne

Basins. These two basins consist of the fastest disappearing land area in the world. It is an important migratory bird habitat and restoring this area will decrease overall land loss.

E. Agenda Item #9 – Report: Status of the 2015 Report to Congress

Mr. Clark provided an update on the 2015 Report to Congress. The first draft has been submitted to CWPPRA agencies. He thanked Sijan Sapkota, the primary editor from USGS; Dona Weifenbach and her staff at CPRA; Sarai Piazza from CRMS; Scott Wilson from USGS; Kelia Bingham and Nikki Cavalier from CWPPRA Outreach; and Michelle Fischer from USGS for the geographic information system (GIS) mapping. Mr. Clark reported that the format is similar to the 2012 report, with several additions, including: a description of how CWPPRA fits into the current coastal restoration landscape, as recommended by Mr. Weller and Mr. Doley; a description of the RESTORE Act; a fish and wildlife benefits section, as requested by the Angling and Boating Alliance, the prime advisor to Congress for the Sport Fish and Boating Safety Trust Fund; and infographics for each agency. Comments need to be submitted back to Mr. Clark by Friday, May 29. The second draft should be complete by July 15 and the final draft should be complete by August 15. The Report will be presented at the September Technical Committee and October Task Force meetings. If approved, publishing should be complete by January 2016.

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

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

F. Agenda Item #10 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report

Ms. Kelia Bingham, CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator, reported on public outreach activities. Some of the activities included the Sixth Annual World Wetlands Day in February 2015; the Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium; Coastal Day at the Capitol; Louisiana Earth Day; and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Earth Day event, Fete de la Terre. CWPPRA held a Wetlands Festival Kickoff event with the “I Remember...” oral history project at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in March. Marian Brister Martinez displayed oil paintings depicting coastal life residents and Lane Lefort displayed environmental portraits of coastal residents and a kiosk with their living history. The “I Remember...” exhibit will be at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve through the end of June. CWPPRA was also invited to present an overview of the Program to the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority in March.

The April 2015 issue of WaterMarks discussed the essential role of funding in coastal restoration and CWPPRA on a national level. The March/April 2015 issue of Landmarks discussed recent events and featured the New Orleans Landbridge Marsh Creation Project.

Ms. Bingham presented a new resource, the infographic mentioned by Mr. Clark in the 2015 Report to Congress. The infographic is titled “Coastal Connection: Preservation through

Collaboration” and discusses why protecting coastal Louisiana is important. Each CWPPRA agency has a front and back side page in the infographic. Ms. Bingham thanked agency committee members for their work on the infographic, particularly the CWPPRA Outreach student intern Nikki Cavalier.

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

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

G. Agenda Item #11 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report

Ms. Dona Weifenbach, CPRA, presented an overview of recent CRMS activities. CRMS is producing ten OM&M reports for 2015 and is also working on six project synopses for the Report to Congress. CRMS Roadshows are in progress, where CRMS meets with the federal agencies to discuss new CRMS products and get feedback. The current CRMS contract expires on July 31, 2015, and the new contract will be for three years. The 2015 coastwide aerial photography is scheduled for the fall. CPRA prepared 10 OM&M reports and provided narratives for the 6 projects highlighted in the draft 2015 Report to Congress. Ms. Weifenbach discussed the new Coastal Information Management Systems (CIMS) database, which is replacing the Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System (SONRIS) for CPRA data and documents. (SONRIS still exists for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and for permitting purposes.) USGS has partnered with CPRA for CIMS, which is the new database and spatial viewer that was released to the public in February 2015. The data download and document library are fully functional. The spatial viewer is still in testing but contains GIS products for CPRA restoration and protection features, Outreach projects, 2012 Master Plan products, and a Flood Risk and Resilience Viewer. Public training will be held in the summer of 2015. The database can be accessed at cims.coastal.louisiana.gov, and the points of contact are Ed Haywood with CPRA and Craig Conzelmann with USGS.

Ms. Weifenbach then provided an update on the coastwide elevation survey. Surveys at each CRMS site were staggered over several years but were all at NAVD88, Geoid 99. As of 2014, all sites are surveyed to Geoid 12a. The difference between the two geoids is different at each site and adjustments have to be made on a site-by-site basis. Both elevations will be stored in the database. New survey reports are available on the CRMS website. August 1, 2015 is the target date for the database to reflect the geoid change for all CRMS sites for marsh elevation, water level, water level range, inundation or flooding, and all summary graphics. October 1 is the beginning of the water year used in the hydrologic index and the USGS waters website. The Newsflash will notify users when the change occurs. Ms. Weifenbach showed an example of the daily mean water elevation in both geoids. Flooding is relative and will be the same in both geoids. The coastwide elevation survey was conducted using a network solution which tied all three areas (west, central, and east) into the same network. All CRMS sites are in the same geoid and are comparable to each other. The benefits of this new system will be realized in all phases of CWPPRA: planning, design, operations, and project evaluation.

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

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

VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Decision: Additional Agenda Items: Request for Approval for a Scope Change and Increment #1 Funding for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing (BA-164) Project

Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA, presented the request for approval for a scope change and Increment 1 funding for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing (BA-164) Project. This project is located in the Barataria Basin in Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes. Phase I was approved in January 2013 as part of PPL 22. The project as originally conceived consisted of 415 acres of marsh creation and nourishment in two cells. However, the original location of the Plaquemines cell conflicted with the Mid-Barataria Diversion, so that cell was split into two and relocated. Then, those two cells were changed from marsh creation to terracing to reduce costs. A scope change to 252 acres of marsh creation and 26,379 linear feet of terracing was approved by the Technical Committee and Task Force.

The Phase II request was presented in December 2014. At that time, this project ranked third out of five projects for Phase II funding. After funding the first two, \$17 million in funding remained, which was approximately half of what was needed for the full Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing Project. However, CPRA recognized an opportunity to combine this project with another project to reduce mobilization costs, and the project team began looking for ways to reduce the scope of the project to fit within the \$17 million of available funding. By reducing Cell A to 113 acres of marsh creation and nourishment, the fully funded cost was reduced to \$18.5 million. EPA and CPRA are currently requesting Increment 1 funding in the amount of \$14.22 million.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. Colonel Hansen asked if the timing was still right to take advantage of the other work occurring in the area. Mr. Crawford replied that the dredging is currently ongoing for the other project, and should be complete in the summer of 2015. CPRA believes that the sediment will be sufficient over the next few months, but they have already negotiated with the contractor to leave the pipe in place in case the sediment is not available until the spring of 2016.

Mr. Russ Joffrion, CPRA, stated that BA-48 is currently under construction and should be complete in September 2015. Construction of the Bayou Dupont project would require a change order to the existing contract with Weeks Marine, but this can be easily accomplished based on existing contractual language.

Colonel Hansen asked about the unit price. Mr. Joffrion replied that CPRA does have a reasonable estimate of what the unit price will be given the ongoing work in the same area.

Mr. Haase added that if the project is not able to be constructed with the envisioned cost savings, then the funds will be returned to the Program.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Ms. Kimble spoke in support of this action and stated that it makes good sense.

Mr. Honker made a motion to approve the Technical Committee recommendation to reduce the scope of the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing (BA-164) Project and provide Increment 1 funding of \$14,222,253. The fully funded first cost of the reduced project is \$18,119,678. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

VIII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IX. CLOSING

A. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting

Colonel Hansen announced that the next Technical Committee Meeting will be held September 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

B. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA 25th Anniversary Dedication Event

Colonel Hansen announced that a Dedication Ceremony will be held on October 14, 2015 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the CWPPRA Program. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Grand Isle, Louisiana. More details will be provided via the CWPPRA Newsflash.

C. Announcement: Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings

Colonel Hansen announced the scheduled dates of future Program meetings, shown below:

September 10, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 15, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Grand Isle
December 10, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

D. Adjournment

Colonel Hansen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Honker so moved and Mr. Norton seconded. Colonel Hansen adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.