

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

**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**15 October 2015**

**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Richard Hansen convened the 90th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on October 15, 2015, at the Grand Isle Multiplex in Grand Isle, 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. Christopher Doley, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Ms. Karen McCormick, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sitting in for Mr. Bill Honker  
Mr. Chip Kline, State of Louisiana, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA)  
Mr. Kevin Norton, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Mr. Darryl Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), sitting in for Mr. Jeffrey Weller

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

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

Colonel Hansen stated that it is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CWPPRA Program. CWPPRA is a great program that is responsible for sparking collaboration between local governments, parishes, the State, and many Federal agencies. CWPPRA is a bottom-up generator for coastal restoration and protection projects; utilizing the priority project meetings, CWPPRA proves that the public knows coastal Louisiana best to create significant and efficient projects.

Colonel Hansen explained that the public would be given the opportunity to comment on agenda items and that each commenter should provide their name and affiliation so that their comments could be included in the official record. All attendees should sign in at the entrance to the conference room.

Colonel Hansen asked if the Task Force had any opening comments or changes to the agenda. There were no comments or changes to the agenda from the Task Force.

*Mr. Norton made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Ms. McCormick seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

#### **IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM May 14, 2015 TASK FORCE MEETING**

Mr. Brad Inman, USACE, indicated that the May 14, 2015 Task Force Meeting Minutes were sent to the Task Force members and that all comments and recommended changes were incorporated.

Colonel Hansen asked the Task Force members if they had any comments on the minutes. There were no comments from the Task Force.

*Hearing no objections, Colonel Hansen declared the minutes from the May 14, 2015 Task Force Meeting adopted.*

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

##### **A. Agenda Item #5 – Report/Decision: Status of Unconstructed Projects**

Mr. Inman, representing the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee, presented the recommended paths forward for the unconstructed CWPPRA Projects. He explained that the P&E Subcommittee regularly evaluates projects that have not begun construction to determine what issues may be preventing the project moving forward. Mr. Inman presented recommendations for the North Lake Boudreaux Basin Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management (TE-32a), Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-53), and Madison Bay Marsh Creation & Terracing (TE-51) Projects.

The TE-32a project is experiencing issues acquiring the land rights agreements. Mr. Clark stated that USFWS had previously received the land rights agreements; however, the agreements are no longer valid and now the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is working to re-establish the land rights agreements. USFWS, CPRA, and Terrebonne Parish are attempting to attain new, voluntary land rights agreements by May 2016. If the agreements are not executed by May 2016, USFWS will request that the project be placed in the inactive category at that time.

The CS-53 project was initially recommended for deauthorization. Mr. Kevin Norton, NRCS, announced that since the initial recommendation, the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (Chenier Plain Authority) has expressed interest in receiving the project from CWPPRA via transfer. The Chenier Plain Authority has submitted several questions to be resolved prior to the Project's transfer. Mr. Norton recommended approving the initial deauthorization of the CS-53 Project, noting that the Project may still be transferred prior to final deauthorization if the Chenier Plain Authority resolves the outstanding issues.

Mr. Inman reported that the P&E Subcommittee recommends inactivating the TE-51 Project. The Project has a completed 95% design and will be shovel-ready in the event that it is re-activated in the future.

Mr. Rick Hartman stated that Terrebonne Parish has expressed concerns over the potential inactivation of TE-51. He has reassured the Parish that the Project can still be reactivated or transferred in the future. He added that the inactivation of TE-51 would not reflect the NMFS' position on moving forward on other projects within that part of the Terrebonne Basin.

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

Colonel Hansen noted that a transfer of the CS-53 and TE-51 Projects would still be possible even after Task Force approval of the initial vote for deauthorization or inactivation.

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

*Mr. Doley made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to initiate the deauthorization of the Kelso Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-53) Project and inactivate the Madison Bay Marsh Creation & Terracing (TE-51) Project. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

## **B. Agenda Item #6 – Report/Decision: Status of the 2015 Report to Congress**

Mr. Clark reported that the 2015 Report to Congress Final Draft has been completed and is seeking final approval from the Task Force. The task began in February 2015 and was completed on October 1, 2015. Pending approval, the 2015 Report to Congress will be published, printed, and sent to Congress. Mr. Clark thanked the Report to Congress Work Group, several CWPPRA agencies that reviewed the report, and all other representatives listed in Agenda Item 6 in the Task Force Meeting Binder. He thanked all who have provided comments and added that the Report to Congress Work Group tried to incorporate as many comments as possible. The 2015 Report to Congress follows the same format as the 2012 Report to Congress with several new sections including the addition of “How CWPPRA Fits”, the benefits to fish and wildlife habitat, infographics, and the Restore Act. The Report to Congress Work Group, hopefully, plans to have published copies of the 2015 Report to Congress available at the January 2016 Task Force Meeting.

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

Mr. Doley thanked Mr. Clark for his work. He added that the 2015 Report to Congress is a very nice product.

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

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the final edited draft of the 2015 Report to Congress. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**C. Agenda Item #10 – Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY18 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects**

Ms. Susan Mabry reported that the USACE is requesting approval for incremental funding for administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment 1 in the amount of \$24,621. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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. Clark made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the incremental funding for administrative costs for cash flow projects in the amount of \$24,634. Ms. McCormick seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**D. Agenda Item #11 – Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program’s Technical Services**

Ms. Sarai Piazza, United States Geological Survey (USGS), on behalf of Ms. Michelle Fischer, reported that USGS and CPRA are requesting FY16 budget and funding for technical services for the CWPPRA Program in the amount of \$171,410 to be used for database and website maintenance and technical GIS services. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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

Colonel Hansen asked Ms. Piazza to compare this amount to the funding requested at the October 24, 2014 Task Force meeting. Ms. Piazza responded that it was the same amount: \$171,410.

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

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the CWPPRA Program’s technical services budget and funding in the total amount of \$171,410. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**E. Agenda Item #12 – Decision: Request for a Phase I Budget Increase for the Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction Project (CS-49)**

Mr. Garvin Pittman, CPRA, explained that this request is for a total budget increase of \$64,572 to cover past overspending of \$4,572 and an additional \$60,000 to be used to perform additional duties that include a design review for the 95% design, the issuance of construction designs, and the development of the Monitoring and Operations & Maintenance (O&M) plans. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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

Colonel Hansen asked when the designs would be completed and ready for review. Mr. Pittman responded that CPRA plans to post the 95% design on October 15, 2015. Colonel Hansen asked for confirmation that the CS-49 Project will be available for consideration for Phase II funding at the December 2015 Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. Norton responded affirmatively.

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

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for a Phase I Budget Increase for the Cameron Creole Fresh Water Introduction (CS-49) Project in the total amount of \$64,572. Mr. Kline seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**F. Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for a Phase I Budget Increase for the Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16) Project**

Mr. Pittman, CPRA, reported that this request is for a total budget increase of \$55,140.28 to cover past overspending of \$49,799.12 and an additional \$5,341.16 to be used for construction administration duties through the Construction Phase of the Project. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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

Colonel Hansen noted that \$5,341.16 is a relatively low amount for Supervision and Administration (S&A) and asked about the construction duration. Mr. Pittman responded that CPRA is expecting to complete construction by the end of December 2015. Mr. Norton concurred.

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

*Mr. Kline made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for a Phase I Budget Increase for the Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16) Project in the total amount of \$55,140.28. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**G. Agenda Item #14 – Decision: Request for Transfer of Funds from PPL 6 Delta-wide Crevasses (MR-09) Operations and Maintenance to Monitoring and Long-term S&A**

Mr. Stuart Brown, CPRA, reported that CPRA and NMFS are proposing to reallocate funding from the O&M budget to the Monitoring budget in the amount of \$241,500 and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Long-term S&A budget in the amount of \$40,000. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for a transfer of funds from the PPL6 Delta-wide Crevasses (MR-09) Project O&M budget to the Monitoring budget in the amount of \$241,500 and Long-term S&A in the amount of \$40,000. Mr. Kline seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**H. Agenda Item #15 – Decision: Request for Transfer of Funds from PPL 2 Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22) Operations and Maintenance to Monitoring**

Mr. Inman reported that the CS-22 Project will reach the end of its 20-year life in March 2017. This is a request to reallocate funding from the O&M budget to the Monitoring budget in the amount of \$47,100. The reallocated funding will be used for a final report. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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. Clark made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for a transfer of funds from the PPL 2 Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22) Project O&M budget to the Monitoring budget in the amount of \$47,100. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

## **I. Agenda Item #16 – Decision: Request for O&M Incremental Funding and Budget Increases**

Mr. Brown requested approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$7,509,630 and O&M budget increases in the total amount of \$3,048,600 for the following PPL 9+ projects:

- a. PPL 9+ projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$4,469,751 for the following projects:
  - GIWW - Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30), PPL 9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,539
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL 9, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$120,478
  - North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration, (TE-44), PPL10, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$400,000
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection/Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake (BA-37), PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$600,000
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL 11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$2,086,556
  - Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System – Bayou Dupont (BA-39), PPL 12, EPA  
Incremental Funding amount: \$7,200
  - South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL 12, USACE  
Incremental funding amount: \$8,315
  - West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, TE-52), PPL 16, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$7,259
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,188,080
  - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18), PPL 9, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$6,267
  - Barataria Barrier Island Complex: Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chalant Pass Restoration (BA-38), PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$12,428
  - Pass Chalant to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BA-35) PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$9,653
  - Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48), PPL 17, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$10,218
  - Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68), PPL 18, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,758

Mr. Brown gave a brief description of the larger projects within Agenda Item 16a. The Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b) Project O&M funding is a recurring cost and is used

for tail bounty incentives, supervision and administration, and contingency. The Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39) Project O&M funding is also a recurring cost; the \$1,188,080 will be used for plants and administrative support. The Little Lake Shoreline Protection/Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake (BA-37) Project is a \$600,000 request to be used to degrade a shoreline protection rock feature. During the 2008 hurricane season, the shoreline behind the rock feature eroded and the rock feature is below water level in some areas, rendering the feature a navigation hazard. This request is well within the O&M budget. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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. Brown requested approval for FY18 incremental funding for the following PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$227,361:

- b. PPL 1-8 projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$227,361:
  - GIWW to Clovelly Hydrologic Restoration (BA-02), PPL 1, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$28,751
  - Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21), PPL 2, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$23,867
  - Sabine Refuge Structures (CS-23), PPL 3, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$43,709
  - Lake Chapeau Sediment Input and Hydrologic Restoration, Point Au Fer Island (TE-26), PPL 3, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$10,094
  - Brady Canal Hydrologic Restoration, (TE-28), PPL 3, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$103,716
  - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration, (CS-27), PPL 6, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$17,224

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. Brown requested approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$3,048,600 and FY18 incremental funding in the amount of 2,812,518 for the following PPL 9+ project:

- c. PPL 9+ project requesting approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$3,048,600 and FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$2,812,518:



- Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation, (TE-48), PPL 11, NRCS  
Budget increase amount: \$3,048,600  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,812,518

Mr. Norton asked Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, to make a brief presentation on the TE-48 Project.

Mr. Kinler reported that the Task Force previously approved combining the TE-29 and TE-48 Projects. TE-29 was a demonstration project, and therefore did not have an O&M budget. By combining these projects, the TE-48 O&M and Monitoring budgets could be used for TE-29 maintenance events. The current request is for a maintenance event for TE-29 and TE-48 Project features.

The TE-29 and TE-48 Projects included 16 total breakwaters, 58 acres of marsh creation, 9,769 linear feet of earthen containment dikes, of which 4,620 linear feet of the containment dike is protected by geotextile cover, and 400 linear feet of geotextile tubes. The TE-29 Project included breakwaters #0 to #7 and the TE-48 Project included breakwaters #8 to #14. The TE-48 Project also constructed a groin that connected breakwater #0 to the island. The requested budget increase will fund a maintenance event that will remove the geotextile tubes and geotextile cover on the containment dike. These features provided support and are no longer needed. The maintenance event will also lift all of the breakwaters that have settled under both the TE-29 and TE-48 segments. Additional features of the maintenance event include vegetative plantings in 2016 and 2018, settlement plate surveys, and two additional surveys as needed after tropical events.

Prior to the construction of the Project, Raccoon Island was projected to be lost by 2006. Since the breakwaters have been installed, shoreline erosion on the Gulf side has been virtually eliminated. Raccoon Island hosts on average 4,500 nesting pairs of pelicans each year and is home to approximately 14 other species of nesting birds. The preservation of this island is important to coastal Louisiana.

If approved, the Engineering and Design (E&D) of the maintenance event will be initiated in fall 2015 and construction will be completed by the end of 2016. The construction cost will be approximately \$1.9 million, including approximately \$1.8 million for the rock and placement of the rock. The maintenance event, including E&D and other administrative support, is expected to have a total cost of \$2,308,538. The Project has an O&M funded amount of \$86,000, which has been overspent by \$9,308. The proposed O&M budget for FY16 includes the maintenance event, a vegetative planting event, and past over expenditures for a total incremental funding request of \$2,812,518. The estimated O&M expenditure for the entire life of the Project is \$3.4 million; there are some monies available within the O&M budget leading to a budget increase request in the amount of \$3,048,600. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

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

Colonel Hansen asked what activities, other than vegetative planting, make up the \$500,000 portion of the request. Mr. Kinler responded that \$415,000 of the funding will be used

for two separate vegetative planting events, and the remaining \$85,000 will be used for E&D and other supporting costs.

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

*Mr. Doley made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the O&M incremental funding for PPL 9+ projects in the total amount of \$4,469,751. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force*

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the O&M incremental funding for PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$227,261. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the O&M budget increase in the amount of \$3,048,600 and O&M incremental funding in the amount of \$2,812,518 for the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (TE-48) Project. Mr. Kline seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

#### **J. Agenda Item #17 – Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding and Budget Increases**

Mr. Brown requested approval for Monitoring FY18 incremental funding and budget increases for the following PPL 9+ projects in the amounts of \$11,454,315 and \$1,783,381 respectively:

- a. PPL 9+ projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$337,671 for the following projects:
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection (BA27c), PPL 9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$4,689
  - Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11), PPL 10, USFWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$55,201
  - Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (TE-48), PPL 11, NRCS.  
Incremental funding amount: \$44,353
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b) PPL 11 NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$96,695
  - West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52), PPL 16, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$57,262
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$79,471

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

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. Brown requested approval for Monitoring FY18 incremental funding for the following PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$153,898:

- b. PPL 1-8 projects requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$153,898:
  - Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Increment 3 (CS-28-3), PPL 8, USACE/USFWS  
Incremental funding request: \$90,000
  - Clear Marais Bank Protection (CS-22), PPL 2, USACE  
Incremental funding request: \$47,100
  - Naomi Outfall Project (BA-03c), PPL 5, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$16,798

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

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. Brown requested approval for Monitoring FY18 incremental funding for the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Program in the total amount of \$10,197,109.

- c. CRMS requesting approval for FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$10,197,109:
  - Incremental funding (FY18): \$10,197,109

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

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. Brown requested approval for Monitoring budget increases in the total amount of \$1,246,966 and FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$592,219 for the following PPL 9+ Projects.

- d. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$1,246,966 and FY18 incremental funding in the amount of \$592,219 for the following projects:
- Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (TE-40), PPL 9, EPA  
Budget increase amount: \$55,889  
Incremental Funding amount: \$41,250
  - Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42), PPL 15, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$240,354  
Incremental Funding amount: \$120,418
  - Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48), PPL 17, NMFS  
Budget increase amount: \$445,577  
Incremental Funding amount: \$73,326
  - South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16), PPL 17, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$196,816  
Incremental Funding amount: \$48,265
  - Non-Rock Alternatives to Shoreline Protection Demonstration (LA-16), PPL 18, NRCS  
Budget increase amount: \$308,960  
Incremental Funding amount: \$308,960

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

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

Colonel Hansen reiterated that all of the budget increases and incremental funding requests in Agenda Item #17 were for Monitoring budgets.

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

Mr. Brown requested approval for budget increases in the total amount of \$536,415 and FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$173,418 for the following PPL 1-8 Projects.

- e. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for budget increases in the total amount of \$536,415 and FY18 incremental funding in the total amount of \$173,418 for the following projects:
- Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Increments 4 and 5 (CS-28), PPL 8, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$455,015  
Incremental Funding amount: \$48,458
  - Channel Armor Gap Crevasse (MR-06), PPL 3, USACE  
Budget increase amount: \$81,400  
Incremental Funding amount: \$124,960

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. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve incremental funding for PPL 9+ projects in the total amount of \$337,671. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve incremental funding for PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$153,898. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the incremental funding for CRMS in the total amount of \$10,197,109. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the budget increases in the total amount of \$1,246,966 and incremental funding in the total amount of \$592,219 for the PPL 9+ projects. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Doley made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the budget increases in the total amount of \$536,415 and incremental funding in the total amount of \$173,418 for the PPL 1-8 Projects. Ms. McCormick seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**K. Agenda Item #18 – Report/Decision: Request to Increase Operation and Maintenance and Monitoring Budgets for PPL 14 – East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21)**

Mr. Norton reported that the TV-21 Project has excess funding in the total budget beyond what is needed to complete the Project. The Project will be returning \$288,020.58 of Phase I funding to the Program. This request is a realignment of the budget that will ultimately return \$994,868.31 of Phase II funding to the Program for a total return of Phase I and Phase II funding of \$1,282,888.89.

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

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.

*Ms. McCormick made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve a budget increase in the amount of \$786,112 (including \$515,342 O&M increase, \$272,274 Monitoring increase, and \$1,504 Corps Admin decrease) and an incremental funding increase in the amount of \$703,819 (including \$605,884 O&M, \$92,804 Monitoring, and \$5,131 Corps Administration) for the PPL 14 - East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21) Project, which will result in \$1,282,888.89 of Phase I and Phase II funding returned to the CWPPRA Program. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**L. Agenda Item #19 – Decision: Request to Combine Budgets and Reports for CWPPRA Projects: Isle Dernieres Restoration Phase 0 East Island (TE-20), Isle Dernieres Restoration Phase I Trinity Island (TE-24), and Whiskey Island Restoration (TE-27)**

Mr. Brown reported that CPRA and EPA are proposing to combine the Monitoring efforts and final Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M) reports for the TE-20, TE-24, and TE-27 Projects.

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.

*Ms. McCormick made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to combine budgets and reports for three CWPPRA Projects: Isle Dernieres Restoration Phase 0 East Island (TE-20), Isle Dernieres Restoration Phase I Trinity Island (TE-24), and Whiskey Island Restoration (TE-27). Mr. Clark 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 presented the status of CWPPRA Program funds and projects. The CWPPRA Construction Program estimate is \$2.257 billion from inception through PPL 24. The CWPPRA Construction Program estimate considers the cost to construct every project that has been approved. CWPPRA's Construction Program revenues are expected to total \$1.988 billion in total funding from FY 1990 to FY 2019, leaving a gap of \$269 million if all approved projects are funded. CWPPRA Program funding revenues fluctuate annually because it depends on annual Sports Fish and Boating Safety Trust Fund tax revenue and the Construction Program balances.

The currently approved Construction Program estimate is \$1.675 billion for PPL 1-24, including Phases I & II and long-term O&M for 20 years. The total currently funded Construction estimate is \$1.537 billion, which includes Construction, O&M and Monitoring.

The Technical Committee's recommendation for budget increases includes Phase I approvals of \$119,713, O&M of \$3,562,438, and Monitoring of \$2,055,655, for a total budget

increase of \$5,737,806. The Construction Program Technical Services requested funding of \$171,410. If approved, the total project estimate will be increased to \$2.263 billion.

The Program had a balance of \$9,805,356 from May 2015. NMFS has returned a total of \$15,652,977 from six projects and EPA has returned a total of \$1,575,432 from two projects. The Program has received a funding estimate from the Department of the Interior, in the amount of \$69,647,851, for total available FY16 funds of \$96,681,616.

The incremental funding requests total \$199,713 for Phase I approvals, \$8,311,563 for O&M, and \$11,552,250 for Monitoring, for a total requested amount of \$19,983,528. If approved, the Project will be left with available FY16 funds of \$76,698,088.

The CWPPRA Program currently has 204 total projects. The 149 active projects include 22 in Phase I, 21 in Phase II, and 101 constructed. There are five supporting projects, four projects have been transferred, four are inactive, and 47 have been deauthorized.

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

Mr. Clark stated that he appreciates EPA and NMFS returning funds to the Program and added that USFWS plans to return approximately \$3 million upon completion of the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) and Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycles IV and V (CS-28-4&5) Projects.

Colonel Hansen stated that there was a lengthy discussion in May 2015 regarding the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery – Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing (BA-164) project in an effort to fund the project. He asked Ms. Mabry if the \$9.8 million that was brought forward from the May 2015 meeting considered the cost of funding the BA-164 Project or if the cost of the BA-164 Project is still to be deducted from that amount. Ms. Mabry responded that the approximately \$9.8 million brought forward from May 2015 is the amount remaining after the BA-164 Project has been deducted.

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

## **B. Agenda Item #4 – Report: Construction Update**

Mr. Inman, representing the P&E Subcommittee, reported that the CWPPRA agencies would present information to the Task Force and the public on the types of projects being constructed across the State. Agency representatives provided reports on projects that are currently under construction and projects that have been recently completed.

Ms. Cecelia Linder, NMFS, presented an update on the Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48) Project. The BA-48 Project is rebuilding the Caminada Headlands, which were shown at the CWPPRA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Event. The BA-48 Project is just west of BA-39, the first Bayou Dupont project, and to the northeast of the Long-Distance Sediment Pipeline (BA-43) Project. BA-48 will be followed by BA-164 to the northeast. BA-48 was designed by

Moffatt & Nichol and constructed by Weeks Marine. The contractor is currently mobilizing for the next increment of the Project. BA-43b and BA-48 total nearly 800 acres of restoration; the CWPPRA portion of BA-48 is 370 acres. The total cost of these projects was \$79 million; CWPPRA contributed approximately \$35 million to BA-48. NOAA is currently working to collect soil samples on the ridge. The BA-48 Project is the first CWPPRA Project to incorporate a major ridge restoration. Soil samples will help refine the Monitoring and O&M estimates, as well as confirm salinity levels, which will refine the Ridge Woody Vegetation Planting Plan for future CWPPRA Projects.

Ms. Linder also presented on the Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68) Project. The Project completed heavy construction in August 2015. It was designed by CPRA and constructed by Weeks Marine. This Project has created and nourished over 400 acres of marsh and three miles of ridge. It is located to the east of Bayou Grand Liard and used 2.7 million cubic yards of material from the Bayou and an offshore source in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as some in situ sediment in the project area. Due to the good source material and high production rates, the project was able to afford some construction downtime, which was used to allow the project to settle for the multi-lift design. There was a challenge involving an abandoned Chevron pipeline in the project area, but it was successfully removed and did not significantly impact the Project. The high production rate afforded this project approximately \$3 million in construction savings.

Mr. Roy presented an update on the South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16) Project. USFWS is the Federal sponsor, but NRCS performed the E&D and is overseeing the construction. The Project includes marsh creation and shoreline restoration on the southern and western rims of Lake Lery, west of Delacroix. The Project is 20% complete; it began in March 2015 and is expected to finish construction in May 2016. The shoreline stabilization feature and retention dikes are complete, the marsh creation features are on-going, and the Federal sponsors hope to begin pumping dredged material in November 2015. The contractor is Coastal Dredging and the sub-contractor is Weeks Marine. The total construction contract amounted to \$21.6 million. The borrow material is being sourced from within Lake Lery.

Mr. Roy then presented on the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) Project, which was recently completed after nearly 3.5 years of construction. Due to favorable bids and a combination of several funding sources, this project was able to be expanded significantly and now also encompasses NRCS's West Point a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project. The total project is over 1,000 acres, with the CWPPRA portion including nearly 800 acres of marsh creation and 6,300 linear feet of shoreline restoration, using material from the Mississippi River. The project includes 212 acres of marsh creation from other funding sources, including State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Coastal Management (OCM) mitigation funding, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) mitigation funding, and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Early Restoration funding.

Mr. Roy presented an update on the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycles 4 and 5 (CS-28-4&5) Project. The project is located on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. It was completed in May 2015. Due to several factors, including a favorable bid, a funding contribution from the Port of Lake Charles, the beneficial use of USACE maintenance dredging material, and the close proximity to the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 2 (CS-28-2) Project,



additional marsh creation acres were able to be added in Units 1A and 1B. The project created 874 acres of marsh within Cycles 4 and 5. Including Units 1A and 1B, dewatering overflow material, and marsh nourishment, the total project created and nourished approximately 1,000 acres and is extremely cost effective at around \$6,900 per constructed acre. Mr. Inman added that the CS-28-2 Project, which is also referred to as the Permanent Pipeline was also funded by CWPPRA. This project coordination helped the project to be so cost effective and is a great example on how the CWPPRA Program is able to coordinate with many other agencies and programs.

Mr. Kinler presented an update on the Barataria Landbridge Shoreline Protection Phase 3 (BA-27c) Project, which is located in Lafourche Parish. NRCS issued a Notice to Proceed for the construction of Units 7 & 8 in September 2015. The contract includes a 445-day construction period leading to an expected construction completion date of December 2016. The total project is expected to cost \$16.8 million addressing about 21,000 feet located in the Little Lake and Bayou Perot portion of the Project. At the completion of Units 7 and 8, the Barataria Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization Projects, including BA-27, BA-27c, and BA-27d, for a total of about 115,000 linear feet, will all be complete. In the past, a fairly minor storm event could result in 25-50 feet loss of shore line and this restoration was much needed.

Finally, Mr. Kinler presented on the Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39) Project. Since the last Task Force update, the LA-39 Project has completed two additional sites: the Pointe-Aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Green Island Bayou. The Green Island Bayou site is the Project's largest planting to-date, including almost 32,000 plants, and was completed in September 2015. The Pointe-Aux-Chenes WMA site is the Project's smallest planting to-date, including just fewer than 4,000 plants, and was completed the first week of October 2015.

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

Mr. Clark commented that the USACE was a great partner for the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycles 4 and 5 (CS-28-4&5) Project.

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

### **C. Agenda Item #7 – Report: Outreach Committee Report**

Ms. Kelia Bingham, CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator, reported on activities of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee since the May 2015 Task Force Meeting.

CWPPRA Outreach participated in both formal and informal educational activities. The Committee attended a curriculum workshop for non-formal educators, put on by the Youth Wetlands Program at the LSU Agricultural Center. It included field work with the educators that focused on wetlands, as well as combination arts and science activities. A WETSHOP training event was held at the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Marine Lab in Grand Isle, LA. It was a weeklong, dynamic training session sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Marine Lab, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), and

DNR for teachers from across the State. The teachers complimented the *Treasure of Sediment* Video, and were excited to bring information back to their classrooms.

CWPPRA Outreach participated in the Acadian Culture Center Summer Camp held during June and July at the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve in Lafayette, LA. They presented an activity called “What’s in the Box?” where children learn about wetlands habitats through touch. Additionally, CWPPRA Outreach participated in the Water Quality Teacher Workshop held during July in Lafayette Parish. The workshop was funded by EPA and was coordinated by the Smithsonian. CWPPRA Outreach also attended the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association Symposium in Lafayette, LA on September 11, 2015, where Mr. Norton was a guest speaker. Finally, CWPPRA participated in a National Hunting and Fishing Day event in Woodworth, LA. The event included over 3,400 participants. The CWPPRA Outreach booth showcased different types of coastal wetlands habitats and children tossed beanie baby animals into their habitats as they learned about each exhibit.

Ms. Bingham presented a new issue of *WaterMarks*. Issue #52 stresses the importance of mapping coastal Louisiana and features an article from Mr. Mark Schleifstein of The Times Picayune. Volume 2 Issue #4 of *LandMarks* was issued this summer, and the September/October issue should be released shortly. *WaterMarks* is the CWPPRA magazine and *LandMarks* is the CWPPRA Outreach Committee newsletter.

Ms. Bingham encouraged the audience to read an article written by Mr. Schleifstein on the CWPPRA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Event and field trip available at [www.nola.com](http://www.nola.com).

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

Mr. Norton stated that he attended two events where he was able to witness Ms. Bingham and the CWPPRA Outreach Committee in action. He added that there is a tremendous amount of effort put forth and that he appreciates the work of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee. They focused on the children and did a wonderful job at both events. He thanked Ms. Bingham for her efforts.

Ms. McCormick added that she also appreciates the CWPPRA Outreach Committee’s efforts and that it is important that everyone involved with CWPPRA mimic their attitude every day. She complimented Ms. Bingham on the success of the October 14, 2015 CWPPRA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Event. Ms. Bingham thanked everyone who spoke and participated at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication Event.

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

#### **D. Agenda Item #8 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System Report**

Ms. Dona Weifenbach provided a report on CRMS. Ten OM&M reports were completed this year. The majority of the reports have been submitted to the corresponding Federal sponsors; some reports are currently delayed as CRMS is waiting on land:water or contractor products.

CRMS participated in the National Academy of Science (NAS) workshop and completed the Coastwide Elevation Survey of the 390 CRMS sites. The results of the survey will be added to the database soon. The CRMS coastwide aerial photography will be flown in November, and Ms. Weifenbach expects to have a timeline for when the results will be ready at the January 2015 Task Force meeting. CRMS is currently working on the Forested Floristic Quality Index (FQI), and a new three-year contract with Coastal Estuary Services began on August 1, 2015.

There will be a Monitoring Work Group event on October 21, 2015 in Lafayette, LA. At the event, the Work Group will work to create a new budget template for projects; Ms. Weifenbach noted that it is difficult to develop a 20-year budget and the Monitoring Work Group will be working with the Federal agencies and the Engineering Work Group to produce something new. The Monitoring Work Group will also look at the automated method for collecting project-specific land:water analyses and how to readdress the programmatic and project-specific goals, as well as standardizing the Monitoring Plan data collection.

Ms. Weifenbach was able to make a field visit to the East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21) Project to collect vegetation and accretion data. This Project created 373 acres and nourished 797 acres of marsh. CRMS installed two project-specific, CRMS-like stations at the Project, one in the containment and one in the nourishment area, so that data can be compared to the data of the ten existing CRMS stations on Marsh Island.

Ms. Weifenbach presented a graph created by Ms. Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA. It shows that there was significant quality vegetation in 2011, but nutria damage caused the marsh cover to decrease dramatically in 2012. CRMS contacted LDWF and they increased nutria trapping in the area. As a result, vegetation increased in 2013. The growth was largely due to a growth in spike rush, which is not a quality vegetative plant; however, the spike rush was replaced with high quality vegetation in 2014. Ms. Weifenbach stressed the importance of adaptive management policies and applying the monitoring data collected by CRMS to identify problems and work to correct them.

The first ten years of the CWPPRA Program's data collection efforts were based on project-specific needs and the Program was not always getting the necessary data. CWPPRA identified this problem and designed CRMS as a solution. Once CRMS was created, the value of data collected improved significantly. Ms. Weifenbach stated that she hopes CRMS will remain an integral component of the CWPPRA Program as it moves forward.

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

Colonel Hansen asked Ms. Weifenbach to explain the difference between a CRMS station and a CRMS-like station. Ms. Weifenbach explained that a CRMS station is a part of the original 390 stations and that a CRMS-like station is essentially the same type of station that was not part of the original set. CRMS-like stations usually collect data for fewer years to reduce the costs.

Mr. Kline announced that Ms. Weifenbach is retiring after 20 years with the State. He presented an overview of Ms. Weifenbach's career and accomplishments and noted that Ms. Weifenbach has led CRMS through three governors and five hurricanes. Ms. Weifenbach has been a generous manager who worked with her staff to support their strengths. She has held the

CWPPRA Program above all else. On behalf of CWPPRA, Governor Bobby Jindal, and the residents of coastal Louisiana, Mr. Kline thanked Ms. Weifenbach for her time and effort.

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

#### **E. Agenda Item #10 – Report: Coastwide Nutria Control Program – Annual Report**

Ms. Jennifer Manuel, LDWF, provided the annual report on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. The program is funded by CWPPRA through NRCS and CPRA and is administered by LDWF and Coastal Environments Incorporated (CEI). The program extends the length of the entire coast south of Interstates 10 and 12. The goal of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program is to significantly reduce the herbivory damage by encouraging the harvest of nutria through a tail bounty. The program uses an application process to track nutria hunters/trappers, who are paid \$5 per tail of nutria removed during Nutria Control Program season, which runs from November 20 to March 31. Trappers report the number of nutria removed by area by scanning a participation card barcode at collection stations across the State. Collection stations are located in Morgan City, Slidell, St. Bernard, Abbeville, Houma, and Berwick.

In 2014-2015, 266 active participants turned in 341,708 tails worth \$1,708,540. The number of nutria harvested was less than the prior year, but remains above the program average.

January and February were the most active months, which is typical because this is when the marsh dies back and nutria are easier to spot. Most nutria were harvested in freshwater marsh, but harvest also occurs in other areas such as crawfish ponds, swamp areas, duck leases, and other properties. 106 participants each harvested over 800 tails each. Many people hunt specifically for nutria. The most common method of take is rifle; however, there has been a significant increase in the use of traps in recent years. The increase in trapping could be due to increased trapping education or due to land managers promoting trapping for safety and liability reasons. Terrebonne Parish had the highest harvest, followed by Plaquemines and St. Mary Parishes. Nighttime hunting is allowed in the month of March with landowner consent. The majority of land owners do not allow nighttime hunting due to the liability, and no State properties or WMAs allow nighttime hunting.

The program performs an annual coastwide Survey of Nutria Herbivory Damage to examine for damage and count nutria from the air. The program is able to collect real-time polygon data of damage sites during the survey. This year, the survey consisted of 155 transect lines and included over 2,345 miles of flying completed over two weeks. The survey identified twelve nutria damage sites, including ten sites with prior damage, one recovered site, and one new site, totaling 1,602 acres, in May 2015. The increase in total damaged acres is largely a result of one damage site with restricted access, Site #120. There were over 300 nutria observed at this damage site; it was the densest population of nutria of all sites observed. The majority of the damage sites are on private property where either the landowner restricts access or there is no easy access to the site. Another contributing factor to the growth in damaged acres could be that the survey was completed in May after consistent rain; muddy edges on damage sites are more difficult to survey and may have been recorded as slightly larger than they are.

LDWF extrapolated the survey results and estimated that there are 6,008 acres of nutria damage coastwide, which is an increase from the 2014 estimate of 4,181 acres. There was one 14-acre site that recovered in 2014-2015. In the 2012-2013 season, four trappers harvested over 6,000 nutria from Marsh Island.

During the nutria program surveys, LDWF continues to also see damage from feral hogs. The hogs contribute to the damage at nutria damage sites, which can make the damage sites larger than they would be otherwise. In previous years, as high as six damage sites included hog damage; this year there was only one site with hog damage in addition to nutria damage. Many of the trappers and hunters also harvest pigs when hunting nutria. The annual report, maps, and data are available to the public on the program's website [www.nutria.com](http://www.nutria.com).

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

Mr. Clark thanked Ms. Manuel for her presentation.

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

## **VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Colonel Hansen reminded the audience that 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the CWPPRA Program and noted that several people have left the program in better shape thanks to their efforts. Colonel Hansen announced that Ms. Susan Mabry, Mr. John Jurgensen, and Ms. Dona Weifenbach will all be leaving the Program.

Colonel Hansen reported that Ms. Mabry, who manages the Program budget, has been with the Program since 2012. Managing 150 active, cost-shared projects is quite difficult. Ms. Mabry has improved and fixed the accounting on every project. She is leaving CWPPRA with a very solid financial program and clean balance sheets on all of the projects.

Mr. Norton, Mr. Clark, Ms. McCormick, and Mr. Doley all thanked Ms. Mabry for her service to the CWPPRA Program. Ms. Mabry thanked each of the Task Force members, the Technical Committee members, and all others who have helped make the CWPPRA Program a success. Ms. Mabry is accepting a post as the Chief of Budget in Camp Zama, Japan.

Mr. Norton announced that Mr. Jurgensen has taken a position as the State Conservation Engineer for NRCS Louisiana. Mr. Norton noted that the bulk of Mr. Jurgensen's service with NRCS has been with the CWPPRA Program. Mr. Jurgensen has served on the P&E Subcommittee and in the field. He has served the Technical Committee well and has also been a great spokesperson for NRCS at Task Force meetings. Mr. Norton is pleased to announce that those achievements have brought him to the position of State Engineer.

Ms. McCormick and Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Jurgensen for his service to CWPPRA.

Mr. Kline reported that Ms. Weifenbach has been a part of the CWPPRA Program from January 1993 to January 2016. She has given over two decades of service to the CWPPRA Program

and CRMS. Mr. Kline added that her efforts will contribute to the Program and to the restoration of coastal Louisiana for many years to come.

Colonel Hansen presented Ms. Mabry, Mr. Jurgensen, and Ms. Weifenbach with Certificates of Appreciation signed by the Task Force, and presented Mr. Jurgensen with an additional Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Technical Committee.

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

Mr. Norton announced that Ms. Amy Robertson has been selected as the new State Public Affairs Specialist for NRCS. In this role she will become the editor of *WaterMarks* and will work with the CWPPRA Outreach Committee.

There were no public comments.

## **IX. CLOSING**

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

Mr. Inman announced that the next Technical Committee Meeting will be held December 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The next Task Force Meeting will be held January 14, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

Mr. Inman announced the scheduled dates of future Program meetings, shown below:

December 10, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
January 14, 2016	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
January 26, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team	Lafayette
January 27, 2016	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team	Gray
January 28, 2016	8:00 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team	Lacombe

### **C. Adjournment**

Colonel Hansen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Norton so moved and Mr. Clark seconded. Colonel Hansen adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.