

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
22 January 2015

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Richard Hansen convened the 88th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:34 a.m. on January 22, 2015, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex (Big Branch) in Lacombe, 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. Jerome Zeringue, State of Louisiana, 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 explained that the objective of the meeting is to present the candidate projects for Priority Project List (PPL) 24 and make key funding decisions for Phase I and Phase II PPL 24 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.

Mr. Norton stated that the Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration (CS-29) Project has received a Notice to Proceed. Construction is expected to begin shortly.

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

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM October 23, 2014 TASK FORCE MEETING

Mr. Brad Inman, USACE, indicated that the minutes from the October 23, 2014 Task Force Meeting 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.

Mr. Norton made a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Mr. Honker seconded. Colonel Hansen declared the minutes from the October 23, 2014 Task Force Meeting adopted.

V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

A. Agenda Item #5 – Decision: Request for a Change in Scope and Name Change for the PPL 22 – Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 Project (BA-164)

Mr. Brad Crawford, EPA, prepared a presentation regarding the scope and name change for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 Project (BA-164). Mr. Honker suggested that the Task Force proceed without the presentation.

Hearing no objections, Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for a change in scope and name change for the BA-164 Project. The change in scope will avoid a conflict with the proposed Mid-Barataria Diversion Project. The proposed scope change includes additional marsh creation and terracing. The Project will cost \$34 million and will produce 384 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life.

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

Mr. Zeringue and Colonel Hansen asked for the proposed name of the project. Mr. Inman replied that the proposed name is the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing (BA-164) Project.

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 a change in scope and name change for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh

Creation #3 (BA-164) Project. Mr. Zeringue seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

B. Agenda Item #6 – Report/Decision: 24th Priority Project List

Mr. John Jerguson, NRCS, presented the four candidate projects recommended by the Technical Committee for PPL 24 Phase I approval. The projects are:

- New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization & Marsh Creation, USFWS, \$1,942,143
- Shell Beach South Marsh Creation, EPA/USACE, \$3,176,569
- West Fourchon Marsh Creation & Marsh Nourishment, NMFS, \$3,201,929
- No Name Bayou Marsh Creation & Nourishment, NMFS, \$2,724,524

The New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization & Marsh Creation Project is located between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake St. Catherine near Slidell and New Orleans, Louisiana. The Project will include sediment fill centered on the two existing landmasses, as well as two smaller areas. The Project will total 271 acres of marsh creation and will net 161 acres over the 20-year project life through the utilization of two borrow sources located in Lake Pontchartrain and Lake St. Catherine. The Project has a total cost of \$17.5 million.

The Shell Beach South Marsh Creation Project is centered between Lake Borgne and the Mississippi River. Fill material will be obtained from a borrow site in Lake Borgne, north of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO). The Project will include 634 acres of marsh creation, which will net 344 acres over the 20-year project life at a total cost of \$28.1 million.

The West Fourchon Marsh Creation & Marsh Nourishment Project will complete a system of existing marsh creation projects in the adjacent areas. It will utilize fill material from the Gulf of Mexico to create marsh in open water areas. The marsh nourishment and creation portions of the Project will utilize the same target elevation to build 304 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life. The Project has a total cost of \$29.4 million.

The No Name Bayou Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project is located in Cameron Parish using an adjacent Calcasieu Ship Channel dredged material upland disposal site. The Project Team hopes to use the existing site, which will lower the cost of marsh creation. The Project will create 533 acres of marsh creation and will add 10,000 linear feet of tidal creeks. Vegetative plantings will be also be added to accelerate marsh creation. The total project will yield 497 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life and will have a total cost of \$28.3 million.

Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the PPL 24 Phase I projects. The four projects have a total Phase I funding cost of \$11,045,165.

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.

Mr. Ryan Bourriaque, Cameron Parish Administrator, stated that the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority would appreciate favorable consideration from the Task Force in their request to consider funding the 5th ranked, Southeast Pecan Island Marsh Creation & Freshwater Enhancement Project, should funding allow.

Mr. Dean Marullo, resident of the New Orleans landbridge, expressed his concern that the amount to be voted on was much lower than the estimated construction cost for the New Orleans Landbridge Project. Colonel Hansen replied that the Technical Committee is only considering Phase I, which consists of engineering and design, of each project. He added that the Project will compete for construction funding after Phase I is complete.

Prahngar Draper, member of the Fort Pike Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), stated that he has been a resident of Lake St. Catherine since 2002. He has personally experienced erosion of the marsh and floodwaters that are more quickly encroaching on his backyard. He thanked all parties who have worked to bring the New Orleans Landbridge Project for consideration. The Fort Pike VFD and the Lake St. Catherine Civic Association appreciate the work completed and give the Project their full support.

Cheryl Kelly, a resident of Venetian Isles, stressed that the New Orleans Landbridge Project would help many residents in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. Ms. Kelly works in the insurance industry and stated that the insurance model, RMS 11, is currently projecting floodwaters to approach inland areas that were not historically affected. The residents of the area appreciate the CWPPRA program and are hopeful that the Project will be approved. If approved, the Project has the potential to change the projection of the RMS 11 model and will allow residents to continue affording their flood insurance. Ms. Kelly added that Highway 90 is a hurricane evacuation route. The land adjacent to Highway 90 has eroded rapidly since Hurricane Katrina and floodwaters are quickly approaching the wall that protects the 9th Ward. If the landbridge does not receive nourishment, she has concerns that Highway 90 will no longer be an effective hurricane evacuation route.

Leo Richardson, a property owner on the New Orleans landbridge, thanked the Task Force for considering the New Orleans Landbridge Project. He added that a similar project was submitted eight years ago, but was not approved. Since that time, there has been an increase in erosion on both sides of the eastern end of the landbridge. He stressed that the objective of CWPPRA is to protect the habitats of Louisiana. The New Orleans Landbridge Project protects habitats in Lake Pontchartrain, which should motivate the Task Force to move the Project forward. The landbridge provides value to the residents and habitats surrounding Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas and should remain a high priority.

Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization & Marsh Creation, Shell Beach South Marsh Creation, West Fourchon Marsh Creation & Marsh Nourishment, and No Name Bayou Marsh Creation & Nourishment Projects for Phase I Engineering & Design (E&D) with a total Phase I cost of \$11,045,165. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

C. Agenda Item #7 – Report/Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding

Colonel Hansen reported that presentations were available for the projects recommended for Phase II authorization. He suggested that the Task Force proceed without presentations.

Hearing no objections, Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request for the Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54) and Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration (CS-59) Projects for Phase II Increment 1 funding totaling \$54,402,318. The amount includes funding for the first 3 years of Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M).

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.

Mr. Bourriaque, Cameron Parish Administrator, stated that the Parish fully supports the Technical Committee recommendations. The Parish appreciates the Task Force's consideration of all projects. He added that Cameron Parish is currently constructing \$30 billion of economic development and is forecasted to construct an additional \$14 billion of economic development in the upcoming years. The requested candidate projects will help protect this investment.

Ms. Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish, stated that there was not sufficient funding to approve the third ranked, Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery – Marsh Creation #3 (BA-164) Project. The Jefferson Parish Council submitted a resolution to scale the Project to fit within the remaining CWPPRA budget for consideration. The Project would be sequenced with the Mississippi River Long Distance Sediment Pipeline (BA-43) and Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48) Projects, which are currently under construction.

Mr. Honker made a motion to approve the Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54) fully funded cost \$26,330,899 and Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration (CS-59) fully funded cost \$28,071,419 for Phase II Construction and Increment 1 funding totaling \$54,402,318. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

Mr. Honker recognized that following the approval of \$54 million for the Phase II Increment 1 funding for the Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation and Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration Projects there is \$17 million remaining in the CWPPRA budget. The EPA worked with State and local staff to reduce the scope for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery - Marsh Creation #3 Project. It was determined that the Project could be accomplished within the allowable funding. The reduced scope allows the Project to create 118 acres of marsh. Mr. Honker made a motion for the Task Force to approve the environmental and engineering work groups to begin an analysis on the updated scope and provide feedback within 30 days. The motion also proposed that the Task Force would consider the findings and provide

a recommendation with regard to funding within an additional 30 days. The proposed motion would have a total time of 60 days prior to a recommendation by the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen clarified that the Task Force would consider the recommendation virtually and would vote without a physical meeting.

Mr. Crawford stated that if the recommendation was available sooner than 60 days, it would be beneficial to the project schedule. The Long Distance Sediment Pipeline (BA-43) Project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2015. The BA-164 Project will need time to complete contracts and cost share agreements.

Mr. Norton clarified that the funding recommendation should be made within 60 days of January 22, 2015.

Colonel Hansen stated that the remaining \$17 million budget is based on estimated federal funding. If CWPPRA does not receive an estimated \$68 million dollars from the Department of the Interior, there may not be a balance of \$17 million for the Project. Last year, there was a balance of \$11 million which was carried over to the current budget. If the Task Force chooses to approve the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery - Marsh Creation #3 Project, it should be noted that it may limit the amount of funding to be allocated next year. Despite the obstacles, there is an opportunity to move a project forward that may create synergy with existing projects.

Ms. Susan Mabry stated that it is unlikely that the CWPPRA program will receive confirmation on the \$68 million funding allocation within 60 days; however, the information will be requested.

Mr. Honker made a motion to approve the analysis of the updated scope for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery - Marsh Creation #3 (BA-164) Project. Mr. Norton seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

D. Agenda Item #10 – Report/Decision: Status of 2015 Report to Congress

Mr. Darryl Clark, FWS, reported that the FWS, US Geological Survey (USGS) and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) are currently working to create the Draft 2015 Report to Congress. The Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee, Technical Committee, and Task Force will be asked to comment once the draft is complete.

The 2015 Report to Congress will include an updated outline consisting of project information for Phase I and Phase II approved projects, RESTORE Act, Deep Water Horizon, Civil Penalties, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and BP Early Restoration information, as well as a section on how CWPPRA fits into the current Louisiana coastal restoration landscape vision. The projects highlighted by the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) monitoring results will be East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20), Bioengineered Oyster Reef Development Project (LA-08), East Marsh Island Marsh Creation Project (TV-21), North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44), Bayou LaBranche Wetland Creation Project (PO-17), and the Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System – Bayou Dupont Project (BA-39).

The Draft Report will include the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- CWPPRA Overview
- How CWPPRA Fits
- CWPPRA Program Planning and Implementation
- CRMS
- Project Monitoring Highlights
- Current CWPPRA Program Developments
- CWPPRA Conclusion
- References
- Abbreviations
- Appendices

The 2015 Report to Congress is expected to be similar length to the 2012 Report to Congress, which was 38 pages long. The draft will be sent to the Task Force, Technical Committee, and P&E Subcommittee for review in May 2015. The semi-final draft will be sent in July, the Technical Committee will consider the final draft for approval in September, and the Task Force will consider the final draft in October. USGS will provide final document editing, and the Report is expected to be published and distributed in January 2016.

Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the 2015 Report to Congress outline and schedule as presented by Mr. Clark.

Colonel Hansen stated that the Task Force has previously discussed the 2015 Report to Congress and the appropriate information to be included. It will be beneficial to highlight projects originally approved for Phase I funding that have been transferred to other agencies for construction.

Mr. Weller asked for clarification on the consideration at hand. Colonel Hansen replied that the Task Force is approving the initial outline and schedule for the 2015 Report to Congress. The Task Force will have the opportunity to make further comments prior to the final draft.

Mr. Doley made a motion to approve the 2015 Report to Congress outline and schedule as presented. Mr. Weller seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

E. Agenda Item #11 – Decision: Request for Approval for Final Deauthorization of the PPL 3 – West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management Project (BA-04c)

Mr. Garvin Pittman prepared a presentation for the final deauthorization of the West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management Project; however, Mr. Zeringue proposed that the Task Force proceed without the presentation.

Hearing no objections, Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve final deauthorization for the West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management Project.

Colonel Hansen stated that the benefits of the Project are being accomplished by existing projects, and the Project Team reported that it would be more cost-effective to proceed with other 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.

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve final deauthorization of the PPL 3 – West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management Project (BA-04c). Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

F. Agenda Item #12 – Decision: Request for Approval for Transfer of the PPL 16 – Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Nourishment and Protection Project (ME-24)

Colonel Hansen reported that the cost of the Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Nourishment and Protection (ME-24) Project has doubled since the original proposal. The Technical Committee had recommended approving initial deauthorization of the Project in December 2014. Since that time, the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority has requested a transfer of the Project so that they may pursue alternative 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.

Randy Moertle, Rainey Conservation Alliance, represents Vermilion Corporation, the project area landowner. The Vermilion Corporation is a subcomponent of the Rainey Conservation Alliance and is in full support of having the Project transferred.

Mr. Honker made a motion to approve the transfer of the PPL 16 – Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Nourishment and Protection (ME-24) Project to the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

G. Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for Approval to Initiate Deauthorization of the PPL 19 – Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project (BA-76).

Ms. Cecelia Linder presented the request for initial deauthorization of the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) Project. The Project will be funded by BP Early Restoration Phase III under the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. The Project remained active in the CWPPRA budget as a precaution during the BP Early Restoration funding negotiations. Funding has been received and the Project can now be deauthorized.

Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the initial deauthorization of the PPL 19 – Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project.

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. Doley made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve initial deauthorization of the PPL 19 – Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project (BA-76). Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.

H. Agenda Item #14 – Decision: Request for Approval to Initiate Deauthorization of the PPL 17 – West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation Project (BA-47).

Colonel Hansen presented the request for initial deauthorization for the West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47) Project. The Project is currently being constructed as a component of the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) Project due to a surplus of construction funding.

Mr. Inman presented the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the initial deauthorization of the PPL 17 – West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation project.

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

Mr. Zeringue stated that the State is working to ease the burden of the CWPPRA Program. Colonel Hansen replied that the use of the remaining construction funds is appreciated and that flexibility can produce a greater combination of synergistic projects with CWPPRA funding.

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 initial deauthorization of the PPL 17 – West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation Project BA-47. Mr. Norton 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 Program estimate is \$2.229 billion from inception through PPL 23. The projected funding for the CWPPRA Construction Program is \$2.043 billion from inception to PPL 23. CWPPRA has \$2.038 billion in total funding (from 1991 to 2019); leading to a gap of \$186 million in additional funding that will be needed to fund all approved CWPPRA Program projects to date (PPLS 1-23). The currently approved estimate is \$1.611 billion for PPL 1-23, including Phase I and II and long-term OM&M. The total approved and obligated funding is \$1.47 billion for PPL 1-23.

The CWPPRA Program had a beginning balance of \$10,691,742 in December 2014. The Technical Committee recommended four projects for Phase I funding totaling \$11,445,166 and two projects for Phase II funding totaling \$53,202,610. There may be \$2,568,702 returned to the program from deauthorized projects. It is estimated that the CWPPRA Program will receive approximately \$73 million from the Department of the Interior; \$5 million will be allotted for planning activities, leaving available FY15 funds of \$17,148,668, should the Task Force approve all Technical Committee recommended projects.

The CWPPRA Program status includes 200 total projects. The 148 active projects include 29 in Phase I, 18 in Phase II, and 101 constructed. Four projects have been transferred, four are inactive, and 44 have been deauthorized.

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

Mr. Norton thanked Ms. Mabry for a thorough and informative presentation.

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, presented the projects currently under construction. The four projects currently under construction are as follows:

- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48)
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68)
- Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42)
- Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycles 4&5 (CS-28-4&5)

Ms. Linder presented an update on two of the projects currently being constructed.

The Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48) Project is currently under construction near the Alliance Refinery, southeast of Lafitte, Louisiana. The Project is located in Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes. Since October 2014, the Project has begun hydraulic

dredging from the Mississippi River. The CWPPRA portion of the Project will create 370 acres of marsh at a cost of \$34 million, which will be complimented by an additional 785 acres of marsh from the Long Distance Sediment Pipeline (BA-43) Project. The total project costs for all agencies totals \$79 million. The CWPPRA Program has experienced significant cost savings by operating electrically fueled equipment rather than diesel fueled. The Project Team hopes to create additional acreage of marsh creation due to the cost savings.

The Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-68) Project is located in Plaquemines Parish, south of Triumph, Louisiana. The Project consists of 432 acres of marsh creation and 24 acres of ridge habitat utilizing offshore borrow sources. Construction of containment dikes will begin in July 2015. The containment dikes will include partial sheet pile sand closures, which will allow sediment to navigate across the containment in certain areas. The current dredging cycle will complete construction inside the marsh creation cell and the Project is near containment completion. Inspections of the Project are expected to occur in February 2015.

Mr. Clark presented an update on the remaining two projects currently being constructed.

The Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42) Project is a CWPPRA success story that has nearly doubled in size. The Project is located in Plaquemines Parish west of West Pointe a la Hache. Construction of the Project began in 2012 and will continue to March 2015. Two years of construction has been necessary to complete the large-scale project. The marsh creation fill material has been sourced from the Mississippi River. The CWPPRA portion of the Project was originally 550 acres; it was expanded to 795 acres of marsh creation at a cost of approximately \$35 million. An additional 212 acres of marsh are under construction through BP Early Restoration and State funding. The total project includes 1,007 acres of marsh creation funded by multiple sources.

The Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation (CS-48) Project is a partnership of USFWS, USACE, CPRA, CWPPRA, and the Port of Lake Charles. The Project is utilizing dredged material from the Calcasieu Ship Channel to restore marsh on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Unit 1A, which includes 1 million cubic yards of material funded by the Port of Lake Charles, has been completed including a retention dike. Portions of Cycles 4 and 5 have also been completed, which will create 230 and 232 acres of marsh, respectively. The retention dikes have been constructed in Cycle 5 and additional fill will begin in January 2015. Unit 1B, which consists of 171 acres, will be the last portion to be completed. The Project proposed to create 874 acres. Due to cost decreases, the Project Team hopes to achieve 1,000 acres of marsh creation upon construction completion.

Colonel Hansen thanked Ms. Linder and Mr. Clark for their presentations.

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

Mr. Inman stated that Cycles 4 & 5 of the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project will utilize the permanent pipeline, which allowed for a cost savings.

Colonel Hansen asked if the permanent pipeline will remain in place. Mr. Inman responded that the pipeline is expected to remain.

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

C. Agenda Item #8 – Report: Outreach Committee Report

A CWPPRA Outreach Committee video titled “The Treasure of Sediment” was presented. The video described the rich sediments found in the Mississippi River and the land that is emerging as a result of the beneficial use of dredged material.

Mr. Cole Ruckstuhl reported on activities of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee since the October 2014 Task Force Meeting.

The CWPPRA Outreach Committee participated in the Wild Things event presented by USFWS. The October 2014 event was a family fun day in Lacombe, Louisiana which featured paintings and coastal restoration Jeopardy for approximately 800 children and families. The Outreach Committee attended Ocean Commotion held at the Louisiana State University (LSU) Pete Maravich Assembly Center. Children identified objects related to wetlands through touch at the event which was open to approximately 1,500 Kindergarten to 8th grade students from the Greater Baton Rouge area. The Restore America’s Estuaries Conference was held in Washington, D.C. in November 2014. The CWPPRA Outreach Committee presented the oral history “I Remember” Project. Many attendees appreciated the presentation.

The CWPPRA Outreach Committee has released two publications this quarter. There were two editions of Landmarks digitally released. One edition displayed the current CWPPRA Outreach Committee events and the other regarded the CWPPRA Program’s 25 years of coastal restoration, which is approaching at the end of 2015. The second publication is a children’s book, which has been printed and is available. The book was created by the CWPPRA Outreach Committee interns in association with coastal restoration scientists.

The new Public Outreach Coordinator is Ms. Kelia Bingham. The CWPPRA Outreach Committee looks forward to her participation.

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

Mr. Doley stated that he has recently had the opportunity to participate in restoration in the Northeast and Midwest. He added that there is not an Outreach Committee that is as valuable as CWPPRA’s. He is very proud of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee and their work.

Mr. Honker thanked Mr. Ruckstuhl for the report and welcomed Ms. Bingham as the new CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator. He also thanked Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron and congratulated her on a new position as the Director of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

Mr. Norton acknowledged Ms. Testroet-Bergeron for her outstanding work with CWPPRA and congratulated her on her new position.

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

D. Agenda Item #9 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report

Ms. Weifenbach provided a report on CRMS. A meteo-tsunami hit Cameron Parish on November 25, 2014 at approximately 3 am. There were several people camping on Rutherford Beach that were awoken due to their floating campers. The meteo-tsunami was created by storms generated off the Texas coast. CRMS sites in the Cameron-Creole Watershed displayed the spike in water levels at slightly over 2 feet. CRMS sites throughout Cameron Parish registered the event. Sites in the open water areas closest to the event experienced rapid water level changes while marsh sites displayed a gradual decrease. The Cameron Parish Shoreline Protection (CS-33) Project sand fencing was collapsed by the event and needed to be replaced. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development cleared roadway debris.

There are plans to produce 10 CRMS Reports in 2015. The CRMS Program will also be working on the 2015 Report to Congress.

The 2014 Coastwide Elevation Survey has been completed. It is currently under quality review and is scheduled to be published on the CRMS website by March 2015. The 2015 Coastwide Elevation Survey has been scheduled for next fall.

A Frequently Asked Questions tab has been added to the CRMS website. The CRMS contract will expire July, 31 2015. The new contract will begin in August and will last for 3 years.

CRMS website public training will be held at the LaSalle Building in Baton Rouge on March 31, 2015. The CRMS Roadshows are in the process of being scheduled with federal sponsors. The Roadshows will explain the website and will address data needs.

The State is moving to a new database. The existing SONRIS system will be transferred to the new Coastal Information Management System (CIMS). The change should be seamless for all users. Existing data and products will be available on CIMS, which is sponsored by USGS. The update will likely occur in February 2015; advertisement and training will occur in the spring.

Ms. Weifenbach presented an update of the latest OM&M Reports from the CRMS website.

The Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery System (BA-39) Project was constructed in 2009 and is expected to settle to a target elevation of 1.3 feet NAVD88. The Project consists of intermediate brackish marsh dominated by *Spartina patens*. The CRMS Report displays the project-specific vegetation and the Floristic Quality Index. The Report shows how flood

percentage and salinity affect a vegetation group. The Project has a positive trajectory from 2012 to 2013. The CRMS Report also displays the marsh platform, how long the platform is flooded, and at what depth.

The Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project (CS-28) was featured in the CWPPRA Outreach Committee “The Treasure of Sediment” video. The Project includes the Sabine Marsh Creation Project Cycles 1 and 3, funded by CWPPRA, as well as Cycle 2, an additional marsh creation component funded by the State. Cycle 1 was constructed in 2001 and Cycle 3 was constructed in 2008. The Project’s target fill elevation was 1.2 feet NAVD88, and the southern end of the Project has settled to that elevation. There is a CRMS site within Cycle 1. The CRMS Report shows that the Project is doing better than expected based on the reference site; however, it is doing poorly when compared to other projects across the State. It is important to note that the elevation change of the Project is stable and gaining elevation while the reference area is losing elevation over time. Cycle 3 project vegetation has grown as quickly as Cycle 1 from the seed bank alone. This is successful vegetation and should be considered for future plantings.

The North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44) Project north of Lake Mechant was constructed in 2010 with a target fill elevation of 3.5 to 4 feet NAVD88. The Project is slightly above the target elevation and is still settling. The project area is currently a saline marsh with vegetation. The percent land change from 1980 to project construction was steadily decreasing; however, once the Project was completed in 2010, the land change has begun to increase.

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

Mr. Doley commented that the presentation was very nice.

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

VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additional agenda items.

VIII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Albertine Kimble, Plaquemines Parish Government, stated that she is pleased that the CWPPRA Program is seeking additional funding. The Parish would appreciate the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery – Marsh Creation #3 (BA-164) Project and thanks the Program for their flexibility.

Mr. Zeringue recognized State Representative Garofalo for his attendance. He is an advocate for coastal restoration.

Mr. Honker acknowledged the CWPPRA Program’s accomplishment of working to restore Coastal Louisiana for a quarter century.

Mr. Inman asked all attendees to sign in and stated that copies of the PPL 25 process are available at the sign-in table. He added that the Regional Planning Team meetings, where projects can be nominated for PPL 25, are scheduled for January 27-29, 2015. Coastwide Electronic Voting will occur February 24, 2015.

IX. CLOSING

A. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting

Mr. Inman announced that the next Technical Committee Meeting will be held April 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

B. Announcement: Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings

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

January 27, 2015	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Lafayette
January 28, 2015	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Houma
January 29, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
April 16, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
May 14, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
September 10, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 15, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 10, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

C. Adjournment

Colonel Hansen thanked Mr. Weller and USFWS for hosting the Task Force meeting and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Honker so moved and Mr. Zeringue seconded. Colonel Hansen adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.