

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

**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**18 October 2016**

**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Michael Clancy convened the 92nd meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:37 a.m. on October 18, 2016, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Assembly Room (DARM), 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA. The agenda is shown as Enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, commonly known as the Breaux Act), which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President George Bush on November 29, 1990.

**II. ATTENDEES**

The attendance record for the Task Force Meeting is presented as Enclosure 2. The Task Force members introduced themselves as follows:

Col. Michael Clancy (USACE)  
Mr. William “Bill” Honker (EPA)  
Mr. Chris Doley (NMFS)  
Mr. Michael Ellis (CPRA) sitting in for Johnny Bradberry  
Mr. Britt Paul (NRCS) sitting in for Kevin Norton  
Mr. Darryl Clark (USFWS) sitting in for Jeffrey Weller

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

Colonel Clancy introduced himself, expressed appreciation for those in attendance, and asked Task Force members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Ellis expressed his commitment to support (along with Mr. Bradberry) CWPPRA from a private industry/ business perspective.

Colonel Clancy expressed his appreciation to local, parish, and state organizations for support of CWPPRA.

Mr. Doley welcomed Colonel Clancy to the Task Force during “pivotal” times.

**IV. AGENDA and MINUTES**

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

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

Colonel Clancy explained that the public would be given the opportunity to comment on each agenda item 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.

Brad Inman presented the edited minutes from the May 12, 2016 Task Force meeting, which were previously provided to the Task Force for review. He recommended that the Task Force adopt the minutes.

Colonel Clancy called for any changes/ objections to the minutes; none were proffered, so minutes were adopted.

## **V: TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

### **Agenda Item #6 – Report/ Decision: Status of Unconstructed Projects**

Brad Inman (USACE) was called upon to present an update of Unconstructed Construction Projects. He reported that the Planning & Evaluation Committee met to review projects which were not constructed to determine obstacles and possible ways to move them forward. The Technical Committee performed a subsequent review and makes the following recommendations:

- North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management (TE-32a) to be inactivated due to unresolved regulatory and land-rights issues, and pointed out the projects age (20 years), originally in PPL 6.
- Terrebonne Bay Marsh Creation/Nourishment (TE-83) to begin deauthorization process due to poor geotechnical conditions and questionable constructability.
- Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement (TE-66) to be transferred and incorporated into another project (RESTORE) by another agency.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy then called for a motion to accept the Technical Committee's recommendations to inactivate TE-32a, initiate deauthorization procedures for TE-83 and initiate transfer procedures for TE-66. Mr. Honker made the motion, which Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

### **Agenda Item #10 – Report/ Decision: Upcoming 20-year Life Projects**

Brad Inman (USACE) was called upon to present projects approaching their 20-year life.

Project No.	Project Name	Agency	20-Year Life Date	Fully Funded Cost	Incremental Funding Amount
CS-04a	Cameron-Creole Maintenance	NRCS	Sep 2017	\$7,251,302	\$504,794
CS-17	Cameron-Creole Plugs	FWS	Jan 2017	\$871,104	\$0

The Technical Committee recommends approval of the 20-year extension of two projects –Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04) and Cameron-Creole Plugs (CS-17) – and budget increases in the amount of \$8,122,406 with incremental funding requests of \$504,794. Furthermore the Technical Committee recommends approval for the transfer of CS-17, with all remaining funds, to CS-04a.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments. Nedra Davis, representing Cameron Parish, spoke in favor of the motion to combine and extend both projects.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Ellis made the motion to approve budget increases in the amount of \$8,122,406 and incremental funding in the amount of \$504,794 for the 20-year extension of two projects – (CS-04) Cameron-Creole Maintenance and (CS-17) Cameron-Creole Plugs, and to transfer CS-17, with all remaining funds, to CS-04a. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #11 – Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY19 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects**

Jernice Cheavis (USACE) was called upon, and on behalf of the Corps of Engineers, requested \$24,873 to be allocated for administrative costs for several cash flow projects for FY 2019:

- Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS)  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,000
- Brady Canal Hydrologic Rest, (TE-28), PPL-3, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,371
- Sabine Refuge Structure Replacement - Hog Island (CS-23), PPL-3, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,000
- Four Mile Canal (TV-18), PPL-9, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,011
- South Lake DeCade (TE-39), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,720
- Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Phase 4, (BA-27d), PPL-11, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,133
- Dedicated Dredging on the BB Landbridge (BA-36), PPL-11, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,708
- Little Lake Shoreline Protection/ Dedicated Dredging, (BA-37), PPL-11, NMFS

- Incremental Funding amount: \$1,169
- West Lake Boudreaux Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation, (TE-46), PPL-11, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,046
- South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL12, COE  
Incremental funding amount: \$1,337
- Whiskey Island BB (TE-50), PPL-13, EPA  
Incremental Funding amount: \$910
- South Shore of the Pen (BA-41), PPL-14, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,720
- West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, (TE-52), PPL-16, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,398
- Bayou Dupont Ridge Creation & MR (BA-48), PPL-17, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,347
- South Lake Lery Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection (BS-16), PPL17, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,668
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68), PPL-18, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$1,335

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Doley made the motion to allocate funding in the amount of \$24,873 for FY19 administrative costs for the cash flow projects listed above. Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent*

**Agenda Item #12 – Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program’s Technical Services**

Michelle Fischer (USGS) was called upon and requested funding for the Technical Services Project for FY 2017.

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval of FY17 Technical Services in the amount of \$171,410 and noted that this amount is unchanged from last FY.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Clark made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$171,410 for the Technical Services Project for FY 2017. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for Transfer of Funds from PPL2 Projects Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery (AT-02) and Big Island Mining (AT-03) Operations & Maintenance category into the Monitoring category to cover anticipated costs of scheduled 2016 monitoring activities.**

Stuart Brown (CPRA) was called upon and requested the transfer of funds in the amount of \$74,800 from PPL2 Project AT-02 and \$48,800 from PPL2 Project AT-03 from the O&M categories to the Maintenance category.

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$74,800 from PPL2 Project AT-02 and \$48,800 from PPL2 Project AT-03 from the O&M categories to the Maintenance category. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #14 – Decision: Request for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding and Budget Increases**

Stuart Brown (CPRA) was called upon and made the following requests, with details provided on projects with large requests.

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$4,713,606 for the following projects:
  - Black Bayou Culverts Hydrological Restoration (CS-29), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$353,698
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL-9, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$14,760
  - South Lake Decade Freshwater Introduction (TE-39), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$40,000
  - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18), PPL-9, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,485
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection (BA-37), PPL-11, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$550,000
  - Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (TE-48), PPL-11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$26,216
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL-11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$2,119,813

- Barataria Barrier Island Complex (BA-38), PPL-11, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$161,168
- Pass Chalard to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline (BA-35), PPL-11, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,627
- South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL-12, USACE  
Incremental funding amount: \$8,481
- East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21), PPL-14, EPA  
Incremental funding amount: \$20,655
- West Bell Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52), PPL-16, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$7,435
- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-48), PPL-17, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$153,389
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68), PPL-18, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$35,414
- Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL-20, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$1,209,465

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Clark made the motion to approve FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$4,713,606 for PPL 9+ Projects listed above. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Stuart Brown (CPRA) was called and made the following requests, with no large requests:

- b. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for FY-19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$117,162:
  - Cameron-Creole Plugs (CS-17), PPL-1, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$36,660
  - Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21), PPL-2, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$25,085
  - Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23), PPL-3, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$45,020

- Lake Chapeau Sediment Input and Hydrologic Restoration (TE-26), PPL-3, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$10,397

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$117,162 for the PPL 1-8 Projects listed above. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Stuart Brown (CPRA) continued with the following requests:

- c. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$6,214,065 and FY19 incremental funding in the amount of \$6,027,698 for the following projects:
  - Barataria Bay Waterway West Shoreline Protection (BA-23) PPL-4 NRCS  
Budget increase amount: \$64,218  
Incremental funding amount: \$62,727
  - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration (CS-27), PPL-6, NOAA Fisheries  
Budget increase amount: \$6,149,847  
Incremental funding amount: \$5,964,971

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; Mr. Doley requested the opportunity to view a presentation on the CS-27 project, which Darrell Pontiff (CPRA) facilitated.

Colonel Clancy again called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Doley made the motion approving a budget increase in the amount of \$6,214,065, and approval of incremental funding for FY19 in the amount of \$6,027,698 for PPL 1-8 Projects. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #15 – Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding and Budget Increases**

Stuart Brown (CPRA) was called and made the following requests, with no large requests:

- a. PPL 9+ Project requesting approval for FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$322,340:
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection (BA27c), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$4,844
  - GIWW – Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$5,003
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL-9, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$11,000
  - West Lake Boudreaux Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (TE-46), PPL-11, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$64,456
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL-11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$119,431
  - Goose Point/Pointe Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33), PPL-13, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$36,704
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL-20, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$80,902

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$322,340 for PPL 9+ Projects listed above. Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Stuart Brown (CPRA) continued with the following requests:

- b. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$129,464:
  - Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery (AT-02), PPL 2, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$74,800
  - Big Island Mining (AT-03), PPL 2, NOAA Fisheries  
Incremental funding amount: \$48,800
  - Naomi Outfall Project (BA-03c), PPL-5, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$5,864



On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Paul made the motion to approve FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$129,464 for PPL 1-8 Projects listed above. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Stuart Brown (CPRA) continued with the following requests:

- c. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) requesting approval for FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$9,917,129:
  - Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) (LA-30) USGS Incremental funding amount: \$9,917,129

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; Mr. Honker observed that this request is for FY19, which is the last year CWPPRA is authorized. Therefore, if CWPPRA is de-authorized in 2019, funding for CRMS will cease unless alternate source(s) can be secured.

Mr. Clark was pleased to hear that RESTORE Council is using CRMS as a model.

Colonel Clancy then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$9,917,129 for the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS). Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Stuart Brown (CPRA) continued with the following requests with details of justification:

- d. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for a budget increases in the amount of \$803,435 and FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$265,063 for the following projects:
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection/Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake (BA-37), PPL-11, NOAA Fisheries  
Budget increase amount: \$74,320  
Incremental funding amount: \$35,124
  - Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration Project (TE-72), PPL-19, FWS

Budget increase amount: \$499,130

Incremental funding amount: \$126,941

- Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation (PO-104), PPL-20, USFWS  
Budget increase amount: \$229,985  
Incremental funding amount: \$102,998

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval with clarification that minutes for the next meeting will reflect line item approvals.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve a budget increase in the amount of \$803,435 and FY19 incremental funding in the total amount of \$265,063, for PPL 9+ Projects listed above. Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

## **VI. INFORMATION**

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

Jernice Cheavis (USACE) made a presentation of the CWPPRA accounts as follows: She began with CWPPRA Construction Program Funding, stating that the grand estimated grand total of all funds approved to date since the inception of CWPPRA (PPLs 1-25 – all phases) is \$2,391 (in billions). Projected funding expected to be received thru 2019 from DOI & state matching is \$2,011 (in billions), leaving a gap of \$380 (million) in order to construct all authorized projects. Currently approved by the Task Force is \$1,756 (in billions). Currently funded by the Task Force is \$1,640 (in billions).

Ms. Cheavis then presented a Summary of Funding of today's Action Items (if approved), starting with the estimated grand total above which is \$2,391,396,254. Three projects that the Technical Committee will ask either to deauthorized, transfer or deactivate will result in a decrease of that estimate of \$38,746,470. There are requested budget increases for O&M and Monitoring in the amount of \$14,955,030. There is also a request for funding of the Construction Program Technical Services for FY17 in the amount of \$171,410. If these action items are approved, the resulting will total program estimate will be decreased to \$2,367,776,224.

Ms. Cheavis outlined a Summary of Available Funds including today's Action Items (if approved). The balance carried forward is \$9,432,685. FY17 expected funding from DOI is \$76,884,571, making the available balance a total of \$86,317,256. Potentially closed projects will return \$22,114,026 to program. Requests for O&M & M and 20-year extensions total \$22,378,415. The anticipated closing at today's meeting, therefore is \$86,052,867.

Ms. Cheavis then presented a summary of all authorized projects – 210 authorized, 153 active, 108 constructed, 23 in Phase 1, 17 under construction, 5 support, 47 deauthorized, 5 transferred, and 5 inactivated.

Mr. Clark observed that the proposed expenditures and proposed closures result in a net decrease in available funds of about \$200,000. He also commended Ms. Cheavis for her efforts.

Likewise, Mr. Honker commended Ms. Cheavis and observed that the expected requests for funding are largely offset by the expected recommendations for three project closures.

Colonel Clancy called for public comments, but none were proffered.

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

Brad Inman, (USACE) reiterated that 17 projects are currently under construction. He introduced Quin Kinler (NRCS) who then presented progress on three of them -- Barataria Land Bridge Project, Grand Lake Shoreline Protection at Tebo Point, and LA 39 Coast-wide Vegetative Plantings.

Darryl Clark presented updates on two FWS projects – South Lake Lery Shoreline Restoration and Marsh Creation, and Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation projects.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

**Agenda Item #5 – Report: Draft 2017 State Coastal Master Plan Update**

Mr. Bren Hasse (CRPA) was called upon to provide an update of the State Master Plan. He commended CWPPRA for its program implementation and support of other programs like CIAP and implementing the Master Plan. He reported that CPRA is utilizing scientific and predictive models to evaluate projects in order to develop the 2017 Master Plan, the draft of which is expected in January 2017. While new projects will be proposed in the 2017 Master Plan, CPRA is suggesting that both the 2012 and draft 2017 State Master Plan projects be considered as consistent for the CWPPRA PPL 27 nomination process. A series of public forums will be held as an opportunity to learn about potential project areas and obtain more information regarding the 2017 Master Plan.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered.

Colonel Clancy then called for public questions or comments. Randy Moertle, representing Point Au Fer Island commented that there is a map on the CPRA website which indicates areas of consideration for proposed 2017 projects. Mac Wade (Port of Morgan City) expressed support for a project at Point Au Fer. Mr. Hasse was given a chance to respond, and reiterated that while the map is a good resource for those who

want to propose projects, it provides only a general representation of the draft plan, which will not be ready until January.

Colonel Clancy again called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered.

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

Nikki Cavalier (USGS) was called upon and reported on the following activities by the Outreach Committee within the last five months.

Bug Blitz – K-12 education and outreach

Delcambre Seafood and Farmers Market – partnered with The Water Institute of the Gulf for a community mapping workshop -- an opportunity for public to voice concerns.

Bayou Vermilion Festival and Boat Parade – public education and awareness

State of the Coast Conference – exhibit booth with live animals and poster backdrops

Vermilion Parish Coastal Day – public education about Vermilion Parish projects and successes

WET Shop – week long teacher workshop to inform about CWPPRA and offer resources to educators

Marsh Maneuvers – 4-H camp to present CWPPRA and resources for students

Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association (BVPA) – symposium participation – exhibit/ table of information

Girl Scout – table with education outreach.

Keep LA Beautiful Conference – table with publications

Ms. Cavalier then presented information on several recent publications.

Ms. Cavalier also introduced the new outreach coordinator (who was not present) – Mirka Zapletal, PhD candidate at UL-L.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

**Agenda Item #8 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring**

Leigh Anne Sharp (CPRA) was called upon to present a CRMS update. She reported that the Vegetative Volume Index tool is published and online. It is a tool useful for determining bulk, three-dimensional density as compared to the Floristic Quality Index, which is useful for determining vegetative species. A new tool anticipated is the Spatial Aggregation Index which will be useful in assessing and predicting aggregation or disaggregation of wetland vegetation. Also anticipated is the Forested Floristic Quality Index which will be useful to determine the health of a forested swamp based on canopy and other indicator species.

Ms. Sharp introduced the Marsh Stability Model, which is being developed to incorporate all CRMS data into one model in order to predict land loss. USGS intends to

further develop this tool to incorporate restoration states, which will capture the collective impact of restoration.

CRMS model of data collection was cited in the National Academy of Science publication entitled Effective Monitoring to Evaluate Ecological Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico.

NRDA and RESTORE Councils are incorporating CRMS modeling into their monitoring and adaptive management strategies.

There are continual website updates and training available to agencies and the public. Training can be tailored to specific agency requirements. Over 30,000 users have accessed this web data this year.

Ten real-time gauges are used to monitor recent flooding events, and expansion of that network is being considered.

Coastwide flights are currently being conducted to obtain quality imagery.

O&M reports are being processed and as reviews are completed those reports are available online. Other annual reports are being drafted, or have been submitted.

Ms. Sharp then presented an example of how CRMS data is being used to monitor restoration efforts, citing the Sabine Structures Replacement project (CS-23).

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – Report: Coastwide Nutria Control Program – Annual Report**

Catherine Normand (LDWF) was called upon to deliver the annual report on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP). She began by stating that March 2016 marked the end of the fourteenth season of the program.

She then presented graphical evidence indicating that nutria harvest historically fluctuated with the market value of the pelts (i.e. declining harvest when pelt prices drop.) With the inception of the CNCP nutria harvests have remained relatively steady.

The goal is to remove at least 400,000 nutria each season which opens from November 20 – to March 31 each year. Trappers and hunters along the entire Louisiana gulf coast are given a monetary incentive of \$5 per tail, once they complete the application process to participate. The 2015-2016 season resulted in 349,235 tails collected and over \$1.7 million dollars in incentive payments disbursed.

Approximately 50% of harvest occurred in environments other than fresh, intermediate, brackish, or salt marshes. The “other” category includes forested swamp, swamps, mixed forests and agricultural lands. January and February are months of highest harvest rates. Several slides indicating hunting efforts and lease statistics were presented.

Ms. Normand also presented damage assessment details, asserting that there were no new damage sites observed in 2016, but pointing out that six of the eleven existing damaged areas did increase in size. The number of damaged acres, therefore, increased from 6,008 acres in 2015 to 6,496 acres in 2016.

Since the CNCP inception, more than 4.7 million nutria have been harvested. Ms. Normand iterated the success of CNCP in the dramatic decline in damaged acres from approximately 82,000 acres in 2002 to just less than 6,500 acres in 2016.

Mr. Clark commended that program and asked why Ms. Normand thought that the majority of nutria harvest occurred in the “other” category rather than various marsh

habitats. She responded by saying that generally those areas are located in public lands like the Atchafalaya Basin, and that those areas are more accessible to hunters and trappers.

Colonel Clancy called for public questions or comments.

Nedra Davis with Chenier Plain Authority asked if the number of nutria in the westernmost parishes has declined. Ms. Normand answered affirmatively, stating that (likely) a storm event resulted in a reduced population; damage assessment evidence suggests that the population has not rebounded.

Randy Moertle, who represents several landowners, participates in the program and is concerned about feral hogs. He asked if any surveys have been conducted with regard to feral hog damage. Ms. Normand answered negatively, stating that they will record severe damage if they happen to see it, but that no official tracking or survey has been conducted. Mr. Moertle commends the program because it helps to sustain the generational trapping culture.

Chris Doley inquired about how feral hog damage differs from nutria damage. Ms. Normand described hog damage as the appearance of tilled land, whereas damage from nutria looks like browning of vegetation, which results in the denuding of the marsh, and then nutria trails can be visualized.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; no more were proffered.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no additional agenda items.

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

Colonel Clancy announced the end of formal agenda items, and called for any additional questions or comments of the CWPPRA Task Force. None were proffered.

## **IX. CLOSING**

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

Brad Inman (USACE) was called upon to iterate upcoming CWPPRA meetings and business, which he did as follows:

December 7, 2016      9:30 a.m.      Technical Committee      Baton Rouge  
(Voting on PPL 26 recommendations)

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

January 12, 2017      9:30 a.m.      Task Force      New Orleans  
(PPL26 recommendations will be finalized)

January 31, 2017	12:30 p.m.	Region IV RPT	Abbeville
February 1, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Region III RPT	Morgan City
February 2, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Region I&II RPT	Lacombe

(Projects will be recommend utilizing the 2012 and draft 2017 master plans)

\*Dates are subject to change. Please check back with lacoast.gov for the latest calendar.

Colonel Clancy called for any additional public of committee comments or questions regarding upcoming business or the schedule.

Nedra Davis expressed her gratitude for those in attendance at the CWPPRA briefing in October, and appreciates that the Region IV RPT meeting is scheduled in Abbeville.

### **C. Adjournment**

Colonel Clancy called for any closing remarks from the Task Force members; none were proffered. With no further business, Colonel Clancy called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Honker made the motion, which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.