

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

TASK FORCE MEETING
11 May 2017

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Michael Clancy convened the 94th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on May 11, 2017, at the Estuarine Habitats and Fisheries Center, Conference Room 119, 646 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA. The agenda is shown as Enclosure 1. The Task Force was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, commonly known as the Breaux Act), which was signed into law (PL 101-646, Title III) by President George Bush on November 29, 1990.

II. ATTENDEES

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

Col. Michael Clancy (USACE)
Mr. Jeffrey Weller (USFWS)
Mr. William "Bill" Honker (EPA)
Mr. Brian Lezina (CPRA) sitting in for Johnny Bradberry
Mr. Kevin Norton (NRCS)
Mr. Chris Doley (NMFS)

III. OPENING REMARKS

Colonel Clancy welcomed those in attendance, introduced himself, and asked Task Force members to introduce themselves. Colonel Clancy asked if the Task Force had any opening comments; none were proffered.

IV. AGENDA and MINUTES

Colonel Clancy asked if the Task Force had any changes to make to the agenda. No comments or changes to the agenda were proffered by the Task Force or the public. He then stated that he had an agenda item to add as the first item, in order to present an award. He asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Honker made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Norton; the motion carried without dissent. The agenda was thus adopted.

He reviewed procedures for public comment, and reminded attendees to sign in.

Colonel Clancy proceeded with the first agenda item by introducing Mr. Loland Broussard, a charter member of the CWPPRA, who is retiring from the NRCS. Mr. Norton was called on, and made comments regarding Mr. Broussard's long professional career with the NRCS, praising

his commitment to coastal restoration efforts. Mr. Broussard received a certificate of recognition for exemplary service as the NRCS representative in the CWPPRA Engineering Workgroup.

Mr. Broussard made a brief statement regarding his career, expressing his privilege and pleasure as part of the program.

Mr. Brad Inman was asked to review the minutes. He stated that the minutes from the January Task Force meeting had previously been sent to Task Force members for review and comment, so recommended that the Task Force approve the minutes. Colonel Clancy invited further comment from the Task Force and the public, but none were made; he then asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Honker made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weller; the motion passed without dissent.

V: TASK FORCE DECISIONS

Agenda item #7 - Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects (Brad Inman, USACE)
Task Force considered the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve the paths forward for projects nearing the end of their 20 year lives (includes demonstration projects which have less than a 20 year life).

Mr. Inman iterated the rationale for evaluating projects as they near their 20 year lives, utilizing a matrix at the 15-year mark, the purpose of which is to determine appropriate paths forward for each project, i.e. potential funding needed, maintenance events required, whether to transfer, etc. He presented the following projects for consideration:

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

CS-28-1	Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle 1	COE	2022
---------	--------------------------------------	-----	------

Mr. Inman began by describing the above-reference project as complete, successful and requiring no maintenance to date. He recommended that the Task Force accept the path to closeout.

Col Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to accept the path forward to closeout. Mr. Norton made the motion, which Mr. Honker seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

b. Projects requesting approval for project closeout, feature removal, and cost increase:

TE-45	Terrebonne Bay Shoreline DEMO	FWS	2015
-------	-------------------------------	-----	------

Mr. Inman described the above-referenced project as a demonstration project, which is also considered successful, but which contains features that must be removed. He recommended that the Task Force approve the path forward to closeout, after further evaluation, and determining additional funding required for feature removal and monitoring.

Col Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to accept the recommended path forward to closeout. Mr. Weller made the motion, which Mr. Norton seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

Agenda Item #8 -- Decision: Request for a No-Cost Time Extension for the East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20) Project (Stuart Brown, CPRA) NRCS and CPRA would like to request a no-cost time extension for the East Mud Lake Marsh Management project to December 2020.

Stuart Brown began by explaining that the project was approved for closeout in 2015, but that the final maintenance event was delayed due to land rights issues which have now been resolved. Thus a no-cost time extension is being requested to execute the final maintenance event.

Col Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to accept the recommended no-cost time extension. Mr. Honker made the motion, which Mr. Norton seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

Agenda Item #9 -- Decision: FY18 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 28 Process, and Presentation of FY18 Outreach Budget (Process, Funding, etc.) (Brad Inman, USACE) The P&E Subcommittee presented their recommended FY18 Planning Program Budget development, including the PPL 28 Process.

Kaitlyn Carriere (USACE) presented the first item by iterating that the Process presented today is unchanged, but that the PPL 28 projects must comply with the 2017 State Master Plan. She presented a slide indicating the number of nominees in each CWPPRA basin. She also noted that the PPL 28 Process includes language inserted which establishes the procedure for breaking a tie in the electronic voting. She read that language aloud for the assembly.

- a. The Task Force considered the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve that the PPL 28 Process to include up to four nominees in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three projects in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Tech/Vermilion Basins; one nominee in the Atchafalaya Basin, and one in the coastwide category.

Col Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to accept the recommended PPL 28 Process. Mr. Honker made the motion, which Mr. Norton seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

- b. The Task Force voted on a recommendation to approve the FY18 Outreach Committee Budget, in the amount of \$452,113.

Scott Wilson (USGS) presented the budget request in the amount of \$452,113 for the FY18 Outreach Program. He iterated typical Outreach Committee activities, such as support of agency participation in outreach, staff, Watermarks publication, website maintenance, printed communications, conference attendance and exhibits. He asserted that this is unchanged from previous years, except for a \$6,000 increase in the Watermarks contract.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to accept the Outreach budget as requested. Mr. Norton made the motion, which Mr. Honker seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

- c. The Task Force voted on a recommendation to approve the FY18 Planning Budget (includes Outreach Committee Budget), in the amount of \$5,118,132.

Mr. Inman presented the FY18 Planning Budget, which includes the Outreach Budget. He pointed out an increase of \$110,000 for development of the Report to Congress in 2018.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to approve the FY18 Planning Budget in the amount of \$5,118,132 as presented. Mr. Honker made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

Agenda Item #10 -- Decision: Request for Project Expansion (Garvin Pittman, CPRA) .

Due to favorable bids, the USFWS and CPRA requested expansion of the TE-72 project.

Kevin Roy (FWS) reminded the assembly that he had provided an update on construction of this project earlier in the meeting. He then presented rationale for expansion of the Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration project (TE-72), citing favorable bids, and a contribution from the LDNR Office of Coastal Management. Total available funding now is about \$8,861,395. Therefore, the request is to spend an estimated \$7,252,592 to create an additional 245 acres of contained marsh, by adding containment dikes, removing an abandoned pipeline, for additional dredging and additional surveys. The cost of each of those actions was itemized. Based on these estimates, a sum of about \$1,575,468 would remain for contingencies.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force and public questions or comments; none were proffered. He then called for a motion to approve the project expansion as presented. Mr. Weller made the motion, which Mr. Honker seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

VI. INFORMATION

Agenda Item #3 -- Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Sarah Bradley, USACE)

Sarah Bradley (USACE) made a presentation of the CWPPRA accounts pointing out that the numbers in the first slide are rounded. She began stating the total estimate of CWPPRA Program funding from its inception through 2019 (PPLs 1-26 – all phases) is \$ \$2,445 (in billions). Funding received to date as well as what is expected from DOI through 2019 is \$2,115 (in billions), leaving a gap of \$330 (in millions) needed to construct all authorized projects. Currently approved by the Task Force is \$1,836 (in billions) for projects in Phase I and Phase II. Currently funded by the Task Force, i.e. obligated to state agencies to begin work on approved project phases, is \$1,719 (in billions).

Ms. Bradley then presented a Summary of Funding of today's Action Items (if approved), starting with the estimated grand total above which is \$2,444,547,429. The balance carried forward from January 2017 is \$9,120,159. There are no funding requests expected at this meeting, leaving the \$9,120,159 available for carry-over to the October meeting.

Ms. Bradley presented the FY18 Planning Program Budget Recommendation beginning with available funds carried over from previously approved budget totaling \$238,124. Anticipated DOI funds (as every year) total \$5,000,000, resulting in a total of \$5,238,124 to

approve for the FY18 Planning Budget. Requests will be made to approve \$4,666,019 for the Planning Budget and \$452,113 for the Outreach Budget. If approved, remaining funds to be carried over into FY19 would total \$119,992.

Ms. Bradley then presented a summary of all authorized projects. Total number of authorized CWPPRA projects is 214; of those, 154 are currently active. There are 23 in Phase I Engineering & Design, 18 in Phase II Construction; 108 have been constructed. Additionally, 8 projects have been transferred, 6 are in-active and 46 have been de-authorized. Lastly, 5 project support programs are ongoing.

Colonel Clancy asked the Task Force and the public for questions or comments; none were proffered.

Agenda item #4 - Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals (Brad Inman, USACE)

Mr. Inman reported that a rapid response was needed on two issues that came up since the last Task Force meeting, so the electronic voting process was utilized on March 28, 2017.

The first issue was whether or not to approve project expansion for the Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration project (CS-59). Due to lower-than-estimated bids, the project could be expanded by 132 acres. The decision was unanimous to approve that project expansion.

The second issue involved Environmental Banking. In the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) [or so called the Water Infrastructure for the Nation Act (WIIN Act)] of 2016, there was an addition to the language asking the CWPPRA Task Force to develop regulatory guidelines for Environmental Banking. The Task Force voted unanimously to move forward with that action. Mr. Inman further reported that each agency has appointed a representative and each agency is providing \$10,000 toward that effort. A meeting has already been held with CPRA for consultation, as CPRA has done similar work on NRDA mitigation banks; that consultation is expected to continue.

Colonel Clancy asked the Task Force and the public for questions or comments; none were proffered.

Agenda item #5 -- Report: Construction Update (Brad Inman, USACE)

Mr. Inman called upon Kevin Roy to present construction updates on behalf of the FWS. Mr. Roy provided overviews and progress details for the South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Creation project (BS-16), the Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation Project (PO-104), and the Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration project (TE-72). Mr. Roy will be requesting approval for expansion of the latter.

Mr. Inman called on Quin Kinler to present construction updates on behalf of the NRCS. Mr. Kinler highlighted details of the Barataria Landbridge Shoreline Protection-Phase 3 (BA-27c), the Grand Lake Tebo Point Shoreline Protection project (ME-21), both of which are nearing completion. He also gave an account of the Coastwide Vegetative Plantings project (LA-39), which are in various states of being completed or let out for bid.

Mr. Inman called on Adrian Chavarria to present projects on behalf of the EPA. He highlighted project features and progress regarding the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery/ Marsh Creation #3 project (BA-164).

Mr. Inman called on Donna Rogers to present construction updates on behalf of the NMFS. Ms. Rogers highlighted details about the Oyster Bayou Marsh Creation Project (CS-59) in Cameron Parish, and spoke of project expansion with an anticipated completion date of November 2017.

Mr. Inman thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to highlight progress of projects under construction.

Colonel Clancy asked for comments or questions from the Task Force and the public; none were proffered.

Agenda Item #6 -- Report: Selection of Ten Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 27 (Kevin Roy, FWS) At the April 27, 2017 meeting, the Technical Committee selected ten projects as PPL 27 candidates for Phase 0 analysis as listed in the table below. The Technical Committee also voted that no demonstration projects move forward.

Region	Basin	PPL 27 Candidates	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	Point aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection and Terracing	FWS
1	Pontchartrain	Bayou Cane Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Breton Sound	Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West)	NMFS
2	Breton Sound	East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing	NMFS
2	Breton Sound	Mid Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation and Terracing	FWS
2	Barataria	Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation and Critical Area SP	NRCS
2	Barataria	Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Creation	FWS
3	Terrebonne	North Bayou DeCade Ridge and Marsh Creation	NRCS
3	Terrebonne	East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Terracing	FWS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Sabine Marsh Creation Cycles 6&7	FWS

Mr. Kevin Roy was called upon to present an overview of each of the projects being considered. He presented a slide show beginning with a map of all project areas being considered. He then highlighted the prominent features (including location, acreage affected and estimated costs) of each project. These ten candidate projects will be evaluated in the coming months by Engineering and Environmental Work Groups.

Col. Clancy asked for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public.

Eric Zollinger (Biloxi Marshland Corporation) approached the microphone and expressed his appreciation to the FWS for proposing the Pointe aux Marchettes project, as the Corporation owns the property. He stated that they will be working closely with the FWS during the evaluation phase.

Agenda Item #11 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Nikki Cavalier, USGS)

Ms. Nikki Cavalier presented the Public Outreach Committee report as follows:

In February the Outreach committee participated in World Wetlands Day (outreach to local 3rd graders), the LA Environmental Education Symposium (for teachers and environmental educators), and at the Episcopal School of Acadiana (high school outreach). In March outreach activities included the Lafayette Family Adventure Day hosted by Healing House in partnership with FWS, the Audubon Zoo Earth Festival, and the LA Green School Youth Summit. Outreach Committee activities received recognition in the USGS Sound Waves news bulletin. In April the Outreach Committee participated in the Leeville Art & Heritage Festival (public awareness), the ULL's Fete de la Terre (student outreach), and at the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival (children's activities). Most recently the Outreach Committee participated in the Coastal Day at the Louisiana Legislature in order to provide information to elected officials. Additionally, two *Landmarks* newsletters have been printed. Other products being produced are an addition to #protectourcoast on social media, giving the public a forum for discussion, and Parish Fact sheets which will inform residents of local projects. Ms. Cavalier then noted several staff changes, including the introduction of Chelsea Vidrine – the new Outreach Intern. Former CWPPRA Outreach Intern, Victoria Sagrera has been crowned Miss Louisiana, thus will raise awareness of coastal issues via a new platform. Outreach Coordinator Mirka Zapletal will be out for the next six weeks after giving birth to a son.

Colonel Clancy asked for comments or questions from the Task Force and the public; none were proffered.

Agenda item #12 -- Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report (Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA)

Ms. Sharp began by summarizing discussions held at the most recent Monitoring Work Group meeting. Her slide show listed several subjects for which Ms. Sharp provided detail, including surface elevation trends, report progress, field challenges, spatial data availability, website usage/ survey, FY20-FY40 budgetary and projections, Phragmites scale insect issue, etc. She recommended that all agencies try to attend the CRMS website training session in the fall, as her staff does, in order to optimize agency planning. The CRMS budget has been approved through FY19. The FY20-FY40 budget is being drafted, and the staff is willing to hear questions and concerns regarding the numbers therein.

Colonel Clancy asked for comments or questions from the Task Force.

Mr. Honker recommended that the CRMS staff meet with agency representatives collectively rather than individually, which would lend itself to brain-storming and idea generation more efficiently. Ms. Sharp requested that the session occur in early August and stressed her desire that it be in person, rather than by phone. Mr. Weller offered his assurances toward that effort, as did Mr. Honker and Mr. Lezina.

Colonel Clancy asked the public for questions or comments; none were proffered.

Agenda item #13 – Additional Agenda Items (Col. Clancy, USACE)

Colonel Clancy announced the end of formal agenda items.

VIII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Colonel Clancy opened the floor for any further public comments; none was proffered.

IX. CLOSING

Mr. Inman was called upon to iterate the following schedule of meetings:

A. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting (Brad Inman, USACE) The Technical Committee meeting will be held September 14, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Louisiana Room), 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

B. Announcement: Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings (Brad Inman, USACE)

September 14, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 12, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 7, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

Mr. Inman reminded the assembly that between now and the fall meetings, various work groups will be evaluating the ten projects recently approved for Phase 0, and that at the December 2017 meeting those will be narrowed down to four (4) projects that will move to consideration for Phase 1, Engineering and Design.

C. Adjournment

Colonel Clancy called for any closing comments from the Task Force; none was proffered.

Colonel Clancy called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Honker made the motion which Mr. Norton seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m. without dissent.