

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

**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**12 October 2017**

**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Michael Clancy convened the 95th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:37 a.m. on October 12, 2017, 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. Jeffrey Weller (USFWS)  
Mr. Chris Doley (NMFS)  
Mr. Michael Ellis (CPRA) sitting in for Johnny Bradberry  
Mr. Britt Paul (NRCS)  
Mr. William "Bill" Honker (EPA)

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

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

**IV. AGENDA and MINUTES**

Colonel Clancy asked if the Task Force had any opening comments or changes to make on the agenda. Mr. Inman requested a modification to a motion in agenda item four, which will reflect a change in funding. The Task Force had no objection.

Mr. Honker made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Paul 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 11, 2017 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**

### **1. Agenda Item #11 – Decision: Request for a No Cost Increase Time Extension for the Point au Fer Canal Plugs Project (TE-22)**

Brad Inman explained that the project is at the end of its 20-year life, but there is still work to be completed. Thus the Technical Committee is recommending that The Task Force approve a no cost increase time extension for the TE-22 project.

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 approve the no-cost time extension increase, for the TE-22 project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

### **2. Agenda Item #12 – Report/Decision: Request for early closeout and budget increase to reconcile O&M costs for the Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration Project (CS-21) (Darrell Pontiff, CPRA) 11**

Darrell Pontiff began his request with a brief report on the history and status of the project. He pointed out several project features, and provided photographic evidence of the projects success and acreage gained. In order to reach the 20-year mark, project sponsors considered renewing agreements with (80) current landowners. That was deemed imprudent because of the time and cost involved, with the result being such a short time remaining before project closeout. Project agencies also considered extending the project for another 20 years at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million, but opted not to request that from CWPPRA. Thus, they are requesting an early close-out of the project in 2018, with structures that would remain in place (flap gates left open.) Due to a budgetary deficit, \$226,851.34 is being requested to reconcile the budget and cover the cost of close-out. 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.

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval of the request for early closeout and the budget increase of \$226,851.34 for the CS-21 project.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Paul made the motion to approve the budget increase of \$226,851.34 which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent*

**3. Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for Initial Transfer of the Shell Beach South Marsh Creation Project (PO-168)**

Brad Inman presented the request on behalf of EPA and CPRA for the initiation of the formal transfer procedures for the Shell Beach South Marsh Creation Project (PO-168.) The project is to be included into a larger project funded by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group as Final Restoration Plan #1 as part of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlement. Therefore, the Technical Committee recommends the Task Force approve this request for the initial transfer of the Shell Beach Marsh Creation Project.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion, which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**4. Agenda Item #14 – Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for FY20 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects (USACE)**

Jernice Cheavis presented the request on behalf of The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding in the amount of \$34,083 for administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment 1.

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman recommended approval, pointing out that a cost breakdown has been provided in the binders for review.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion for approval of \$34,083 for administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment I, which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**5. Agenda Item #15 – Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program’s Technical Services**

Brad Inman presented the request on behalf of The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and CPRA are requesting funding for technical services for the CWPPRA program in the amount of \$171,410, pointing out that the amount has not changed from previous years. On behalf of the Technical Committee, he recommended approval.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$171,410 for technical services, which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**6. Agenda Item #16 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System**

Leigh Anne Sharp (CPRA) began with an update on CRMS equipment and infrastructure in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, asserting that expected damage

would be minimal. She assured the committee that transient post-storm effects on the coast would be captured at real-time sites and through reference network data collection. She declared that big land change would be captured when comparing anticipated 2018 coastwide flight data with 2015-16 coastwide flight data. Storm surge data is also expected as long as the sondes are in place and still functioning. Ms. Sharp then informed the committee that CRMS contractors are assisting LSU with their Phragmites Scale study by collecting data at CRMS sites, and sometimes collecting tissue samples while they are onsite. She expressed gratitude for responses she has received from CWPPRA regarding the first basin scale report, which should be published shortly.

Ms. Sharp continued by illustrating how important CRMS data is during the life-cycle of CWPPRA projects, and provided justification for the number of CRMS sites required to monitor coastal change. She reminded the committee that the CRMS system was recognized by the National Science Foundation as a model for other Gulf states to employ.

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

**7. Agenda Item #17 -- Decision: Request for a Project Extension and Budget Increase for the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) for FY 2020 to FY 2039**

Ms. Sharp presented her budgetary request starting with the 20-year extension totaling 281 – 282 billion. She iterated her understanding that CWPPRA members did not respond favorably to that total, and that it is CWPPRA’s desire to not be the sole funding source for CRMS. Therefore, after meeting with CWPPRA representatives, she modified her request and is now requesting funding in the amount of \$202 million to fully fund the CRMS 5 contract, and to continue funding for FY20 – FY39, with a \$10 million funding cap annually by CWPPRA.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions or comments.

Michael Ellis inquired about long-term impacts to the CRMS program if funding is reduced. Ms. Sharp reiterated the commitment to finding other funding sources, asserting that the budget had already been trimmed.

Mr. Ellis expressed his value of the program, and offered assurances that CWPPRA committee members who serve on other boards (RESTORE and NRDA were mentioned) would help support efforts to fill the funding gap.

William Honker agreed on the value of the system, and recommended that the Task Force periodically review the 10-million-dollar cap in case it could be reduced further, and those funds reallocated to project design and construction.

With no other Task Force comments, Brad Inman made the recommendation on behalf of the Technical Committee that the Task Force approve full funding for the

CRMS 5 contract, and thereafter capping funds at a \$10 million a year for FY 20—FY39 at a total of \$202,300,476.16.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Paul made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$202,300,476.16 which Mr. Honker seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

**8. Agenda Item #18 – Decision: Request for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding**

Stuart Brown (CPRA) was called upon and made the request for a total of \$3,013,954 for incremental funding for the following projects. He began by stating that the funding for these projects has already been approved, and that he is asking for incremental funding to perform the associated tasks. He highlighted only the projects requesting more than \$100,000. The request applies to the following projects:

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY20 incremental funding in the total amount of \$2,818,707 for the following projects:
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL-9, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$15,056
  - Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration (CS-29), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$34,899
  - GIWW - Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30) PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$13,733
  - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18), PPL-9, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,710
  - Barataria Barrier Island Complex (BA-38) , PPL-11, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$12,184
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection (BA-37), PPL-11, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$8,878
  - Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Island Restoration, (BA-35), PPL-11,  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,767
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL-11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$1,443,703
  - South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL-12, USACE  
Incremental funding amount: \$8,651
  - East Marsh Island Marsh Creation (TV-21), PPL-14, EPA  
Incremental funding amount: \$14,568
  - West Bell Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, (TE-52), PPL-16, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$7,085

- Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation, (BA-48), PPL-17, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$7,067
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration, (BA-68), PPL-18, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$7,004
- Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL-20, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$1,232,402

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

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman made the recommendation that the Task Force approve \$2,818,707 in incremental funding for PPL 9+ projects

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$2,818,707 which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Mr. Brown presented the request for the following PPL-1-8 projects:

- b. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for FY20 incremental funding in the total amount of \$195,247:
  - Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04), PPL-2, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$11,645
  - Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a), PPL-3, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$102,166
  - Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23), PPL-3, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$ 49,849
  - Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13), PPL-5, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$11,645
  - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration (CS-27), PPL-6, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$19,942

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman made the recommendation that the Task Force approve of \$195,247 in incremental funding for PPL-1-8 projects.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$195,247 which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

## **9. Agenda Item #19 – Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding**

Mr. Brown began the request with the following projects:

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY20 incremental funding in the total amount of \$625,849 for the following projects:
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection (BA27c), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$5,003
  - GIWW – Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30), PPL-9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$5,169
  - Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16), PPL-9, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$11,000
  - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18), PPL-9, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$50,000
  - Timbalier Island Marsh/Dune Restoration (TE-40), PPL-10, EPA  
Incremental funding amount: \$49,934
  - North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration (TE-44), PPL-10, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$81,818
  - Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip (BS-11), PPL-10, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$39,808
  - East Sabine Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-32), PPL-11, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$61,636
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL-11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$92,233
  - Dedicated Dredging on the Barataria Basin Landbridge (BA-36), PPL-11, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$50,384
  - Goose Point/Pointe Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33), PPL-13, USFWS  
Incremental funding amount: \$45,071
  - West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52), PPL-16, NMFS  
Incremental funding amount: \$37,134
  - Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL-20, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$96,659

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman made the recommendation that the Task Force approve \$625,849 in incremental funding for PPL-9+ projects.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$625,849 which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Mr. Brown presented the next request as follows:

- a. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for FY20 incremental funding in the total amount of \$6,017:
  - Naomi Outfall Project (BA-03c), PPL-5, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,017

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman made the recommendation that the Task Force approve \$6,017 in incremental funding for PPL-1-8 projects.

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$6,017 which Mr. Doley seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

Mr. Brown's final request was made as follows:

- b. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) requesting approval for FY20 incremental funding in the total amount of \$11,953,827.62:
  - Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) (LA-30) USGS  
Incremental funding amount: \$11,953,827.62

On behalf of the Technical Committee, Brad Inman made the recommendation that the Task Force approve \$11,953,827.62 in incremental funding for CRMS. In response to a question posed by Mr. Honker, it was clarified that this is consistent with the previous approval of funding (Agenda Item #7).

*Colonel Clancy called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Honker made the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$11,953,827.62 which Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion passed without dissent.*

## **VI. INFORMATION**

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

Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE, presented an overview of CWPPRA funds. The fully funded total program estimate since its inception to 2019 is \$2.44 billion. Total projected funding received from Department of the Interior (DOI) as well as state funding is \$2.115 billion, leaving a potential gap of \$329 million. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II and O&M totals \$1.836 billion. Authorized funding for each agency as requested currently totals \$1.719 billion.

The project program estimate currently is at \$2,444,423,093 for PPL's 1 through 26. There's one project (CS-21) with a budget increase request on the agenda totaling \$226,851. Two support projects – Construction Program Technical Services and CRMS program – are also requesting budget increases which total \$202,471,886. If approved,



these budget increases bring the total program estimate to \$2,647,121,830.

The CWPPRA Program has \$9,120,159 of funding carried from the May meeting. The Program has received expected DOI funding, and has earmarked \$72,782,034 for construction projects. The total available remaining funds thus total \$81,902,193. If the aforementioned budget increase is approved, available funds would be reduced by \$226,851. Routine incremental requests will be presented individually at this meeting, totaling \$15,805,141. If all budget requests are approved, the Program will move forward with available funds totaling \$65,870,201.

CWPPRA has authorized 214 projects. There are 154 active projects including 23 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 18 in Phase 2 Construction, and 108 projects which have been constructed and are now in O&M phase. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 46 projects, transferred 8 projects, and placed 6 in the inactive category.

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 #4 – Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals**

Mr. Inman briefly explained the occasional need for electronic voting and reported that on June 23, 2017 the Task Force approved support of the LSU Extension Service (in the amount of \$100,000 from the monitoring contingency fund) to monitor distribution and range expansion of the Roseau scale along the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

On September 5, 2017 the Task Force approved the motion to select a contractor that put together a proposal intended to bring the CWPPRA Task Force in compliance with Section 5014 of the WIIN Act by January 3, 2018, requiring the Task Force to issue guidelines for the use, maintenance and oversight of environmental banks in Louisiana. The original budget request was \$100,000, but has been amended to \$130,000. This budgetary amendment requires a vote today by the Task Force.

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

Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the amended item; Mr. Paul seconded and the motion carried without dissent.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Report: Construction Update**

Brad Inman, (USACE) explained that the projects to be presented are nearly completed and called Darryl Clark (FWS) to expound.

Darryl Clark began by presenting the Bayou Bonfouca Marsh creation project, located south of Slidell on the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain. He provided details regarding acreage, cost, methodology, features and positive results.

He then presented the Cam-Creole Watershed Marsh Creation Project, CS-54, which consists of 616 acres within the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge and on Miami Corp. property. He reported that dike construction has begun, dredging will likely occur in November, with expected completion in December 2018, although there may be a request to expand the project.

Mr. Clark concluded with the Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration project, which comprises 465 acres of marsh creation and 30,000 acres of terraces. An expansion area of 245 acres was previously approved by the task force. He reported that dikes and three of the five (planned) water-control structures have been constructed, and that dredging will likely be completed by mid-2018.

Mr. Inman introduced Quin Kinler (NRCS) for the next presentation. Mr. Kinler began with a summary of the Grand Lake Shoreline Protection Tebo Point project. It consists of a 5,680 foot rock dike, which was completed in July 2017 at a cost of \$4 million. He pointed out that the dike had to be placed offshore in order to avoid (and incidentally protect) an archeologically significant site.

Mr. Kinler then presented the Coastwide Vegetative Project. He presented a summary of which plantings had been completed and which are pending, and provided photographic evidence of plantings in various locations, specifying acres, plant species and numbers, and areas conducive to expansion.

Mr. Inman next introduced Adrian Chavarria (EPA) to present Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh #3 and Terracing Project, located in both Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish. Construction was completed this past June at a final project cost of 18.1 million. The project features include marsh creation, a terracing field and dredging (utilizing an existing pipeline). He illustrated project synergy with other previously constructed projects in proximity. He provided photographic evidence of the marsh re-vegetating on its own, and asserts that now vegetative plantings are only planned for the terraces.

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

Mr. Inman reported that an annually-held conference call occurred with the members of the P&E subcommittee to review the entire list of projects awaiting construction. The lists were provided to the Task Force. This year it was determined that no significant issues exists, and that no projects should be placed on a critical watch list, so the projects as a whole are moving forward satisfactorily.

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

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Report: Land Area Change in Coastal Louisiana**

Mr. Brady Couvillion was called upon to make the presentation. He introduced himself and initially provided imagery which illustrated the extent of marsh loss since

1973. He illustrated the inadequate and inaccurate conclusions of simple pre-and-post-date land rate analysis, and provided reason for multi-date linear analysis to better assess land-loss rates through time. He then described in detail how the most recent report utilizes improved temporal resolution and improved statistical analysis. Overall results indicate a slowing of land loss since the early 1980's, and estimate a total of 5,197 sq. kilometers of wetland loss along Louisiana's coast since 1932. He presented graphs of all nine basins as visual representation of wetland loss rates and trends; the Atchafalaya Basin is the only delta experiencing wetland gains. Mr. Couvillion then presented a graph which illustrated overall wetland loss rates, and asserted that statistics indicate decreased wetland loss rates since the late 1970's/ early '80s. When rates vary, causal mechanisms are considered – subsidence, sea level rise, storms, sediment deprivation, shoreline erosion, and salt-water intrusion. Mr. Couvillion then discussed several possible factors contributing to the decrease in wetland loss rates. The wetlands remaining may be less susceptible to loss, oil and gas production peaked in 1969, and there is possibly current reduced coastal tectonic activity. Couvillion stated that coastal restoration projects could also be a reason for some of the land loss decrease. He emphasized that the recent downward trend in loss rates do not predict future trends, and that wetland loss is still a serious problem. Finally, Mr. Couvillion presented future plans, which primarily include the utilization of new satellite technology. He then opened the floor for questions.

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

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Report: Roseau Scale and Roseau Cane Die-Off**

Dr. Ian Knight (LSU Extension Service) was called upon to make the presentation. He introduced himself and began with an explanation of the relationship between Roseau cane die offs and the invasion of the Roseau cane scale, asserting that this is the first time the phenomenon has occurred in North America. He then discussed the ongoing research efforts to understand the scale and the die offs, beginning with a statewide survey to determine distribution of the scale in the state of Louisiana and to determine extents and rates of invasion. At this point the scale invasion is almost entirely limited to phragmites, so other efforts include exposing different plant species to the scale in order to assess the potential risk of host jumping. Preliminary data suggests that other wetland species and agriculturally important plants are not at risk. Chemical management options are being explored, but have thus far been ineffective. Yet another project is experimentation exposing different phragmites genotypes to the scale to measure their response and get a better idea of the role the scales are playing on the die-offs. Dr. Knight concluded by discussing outreach efforts to raise awareness and encourage public participation. Information is available in print form and on the LSU AgCenter website. An online survey which the public can take is being finalized, the data from which will aid in determining extents, distribution and spread of the scale throughout the state.

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

Randy Moertle approached the microphone and spoke on behalf of Clovelly Management and the McIlhenny Company. He asserted that the scale had invaded every patch of Roseau Cane on their 25,000 acre property in Lafourche Parish. In contrast, on Avery Island, where annual controlled burns are conducted, there was no evidence of the scale. While burning is a known effective management option, it may not be practical in areas where oil and gas facilities are located. He concluded with the recommendation that CWPPRA fund this as a Coastwide project.

Woody Crews, and avid hunter at the Birds Foot Delta, approached the microphone with a plea that the Task Force absolutely understands the gravity of this potential die-off. He asserted that he has never seen Roseau Cane destroyed until now, and is concerned that navigational channels will be compromised as the cane die-offs occur. He posed a question to Dr. Knight about the spread of the scale westward.

Dr. Knight responded by saying that the scale seems to be limited to phragmites communities, and that the worst infestations are concentrated in the Eastern parishes. He stated that it seems adept at spreading.

Randy Moertle spoke again commenting that the scale can be transferred by hunters who cut and move cane from one location to another for duck blind construction, and by alligator egg collectors who neglect to clean their airboats as they drive from one area to another, thus making distribution control very difficult.

Dr. Knight responded that information and instruction to the public about transfer mechanisms and prevention practices will be put on the website.

Lauren Averill with Jefferson Parish Coastal approached the microphone and expressed her disappointment that the website had not been updated with relevant data and information, and that printed materials had not been provided for public distribution prior to the start of duck season, and asked when they could expect it in order to help with those outreach efforts.

Dr. Knight explained reasons for the perceived delay, citing his newness at the full-time position, and his newly assigned management of several projects. He offered assurances that the data for the website and fact sheet should be finished by next week and submitted to the AgCenter for publication. He insisted that this is high on their priority list, and extended his direct availability for anyone with questions or suggestions.

Colonel Clancy thanked Dr. Knight and suggested that he be in contact with CWPPRA's outreach coordinator, so that Roseau Cane scale information can be included at CWPPRA's outreach activities. He also stated that CWPPRA has already voted to contribute \$100,000 to the LSU AgCenter efforts, and that the Task Force indeed comprehends the severity of the problem.

Jason Smith expressed his concern that one of the distribution maps was deceptive, insisting that the scale is more extensive in west Jefferson Parish than it appears.

Leslie Suazo with Ducks Unlimited requested a simplified version of AgCenter material in pdf. format, and offered to print and distribute it at upcoming Ducks Unlimited events.

Chris Doley addressed Dr. Knight, urging him to coordinate in the near term with organizations and entities that are clearly willing to help disseminate information.

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

**Agenda Item #9 – Report: Outreach Committee**

Mirka Zapletal highlighted Outreach Committee activities over the last few months as follows:

- Terrebonne Parish Coastal Day provided CWPPRA project information to public and political leaders.
- Public airing of an interview with Nikki Cavalier (previous community education specialist) regarding nutria control.
- Attended LDWF Wetshop, a weeklong teachers' wetland education program to enhance classroom instruction.
- Attended meetings with entities for the development of new science curriculums in response to new state science standards for primary education.
- Participated at the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association Symposium, an annual networking event to enhance efforts along Bayou Vermilion.
- Provided educational game at the National Hunting and Fishing Day in Woodworth, LA
- Publication of Landmarks, Volume 4, Issue 3 and Watermarks issues 55 and 56.

Ms. Zapletal concluded with an introduction of the new community education specialist, Sinead Borchert, emphasizing her educational and professional experience.

Colonel Clancy called for Task Force questions and comments.

Michael Ellis suggested coordination between CWPPRA Outreach and CPRA outreach/ education efforts, with which Ms. Zapletal agreed.

Colonel Clancy called for public questions and comments; none were proffered. He reiterated to Ms. Zapletal instructions to coordinate with Dr. Knight for information dissemination regarding Roseau Cane scale.

Colonel Clancy then called a brief recess. The meeting resumed at 11:13.

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

Catherine Normand began with a brief history of the program, and an explanation of the program process. The most recent season is the program's 15<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Normand provided harvest results by marsh type, by participant numbers, and by month. She reported that during the most recent season more than 216,000 nutria tails were turned in, which is about 100,000 less than in previous years. Participant surveys revealed the primary reason for the reduction – a mild winter during which the vegetation stayed high, so the nutria could stay camouflaged. Other reasons were also cited. She reported a 91% satisfaction rate among participants and stated that night harvesting will be permitted throughout the coming season, but only on private lands. Post season aerial surveys revealed 16 damage sites, 10 of which are old, 6 of which are new. The most severely damaged site was in brackish marsh; all other damage was in freshwater marsh. Some had increased in size, but most had decreased, one site had recovered completely. Overall damage in terms of acreage decreased since the previous season. Total number of nutria tails harvested since program inception is nearly 5 million. Acres of coastwide damage have decreased from 82,000 to between 4,000 – 7,000. Private landowners are being recruited to participate, which would give current participants more land on which they could harvest.

Colonel Clancy called for questions from the task force.

He posed a question about how many of the existing damage sites were on private property. Ms. Normand replied that all of them were, and provided a map to indicate where the leases exist.

Colonel Clancy called for questions from the public.

Robert Spears with Plaquemines Parish CZM inquired about the difference between nutria damage and muskrat damage and expressed his concern about a noticeable increase in muskrat damage. Ms. Normand replied that muskrats build huts and nutria leave trails. She further explained that muskrat populations and the corresponding damage are cyclic.

Skip Haller with Madison Land questioned how landowners could verify nutria harvest numbers that their leasing hunters report. Ms. Normand replied that information by hunter is available to private landowners through the website or by contacting her directly.

**VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Inman briefly mentioned that the recommendation to potentially closeout project TE-45 has been deferred until the next Technical Committee meeting, due to a request for more information.

He then requested that a few committee members be recognized.

Colonel Clancy first recognized retiring member, Rick Hartman (NMFS/NOAA) as a charter member of the CWPPRA Task Force, and lauded his extraordinary contribution to the program. Mr. Doley and Mr. Honker offered their own words of commendation. Mr. Hartman then expressed his pleasure as having been part of the program.

Colonel Clancy then recognized retiring member William Honker (EPA) for his twelve-year tenure on the Task Force, extolling his contribution to the Program and to the USACE, New Orleans district. Mr. Doley, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Paul each voiced their appreciation of Mr. Honker. Mr. Honker responded with words of gratitude and encouragement.

## **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, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
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### **B. Announcement: Scheduled Dates Of Future Program Meetings**

December 7, 2017	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
January 25, 2018	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	TBD
January 30, 2018	1:00 p.m.	Region IV RPT	Grand Chenier
January 31, 2018	9:30 a.m.	Region III RPT	Morgan City
February 1, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Region I&II RPT	TBD

\*Dates are subject to change. Please check back with [lacoast.gov](http://lacoast.gov) for the latest calendar.

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

### **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 12:15 p.m.