

The draft minutes were well prepared. Only minor comments are included. D. Clark

## **BREAUX ACT**

### **Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act**

#### **TASK FORCE MEETING**

**09 May 2019**

#### **Minutes**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Mark Wingate (sitting for Colonel Clancy) convened the 97th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on May 9, 2019, at the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal 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)  
Ms. Patty Taylor (EPA) sitting in for Charles Maguire  
Mr. Greg Grandy (CPRA)  
Mr. Britt Paul (NRCS) sitting in for Kevin Norton  
Mr. Chris Doley (NMFS)  
Mr. Jeffrey Weller (USFWS)

### **III. OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Wingate welcomed those in attendance, introduced himself, and asked Task Force members to introduce themselves. Mr. Wingate explained Col. Clancy's absence, declaring that the colonel is nearing the end of his three-year appointment with CWPPRA. A change of command ceremony is to occur June 11, 2019, during which incoming commander Colonel Steven Murphy will be commissioned. He further explained that today Col. Clancy is attending mandatory training at Ft. Polk in advance of his anticipated deployment to Afghanistan. Mr. Wingate asked if the Task Force had any opening comments; none were proffered.

### **IV. AGENDA and MINUTES**

Mr. Wingate asked if the Task Force had any changes to make to the agenda. Mr. Inman requested that a presentation be added as an item; Dr. Ian Knight, LSU, is prepared to present a research

update regarding Roseau Cane scale. CWPPRA has targeted financial support toward this LSU Ag Center research, and thus requires periodic updates. Mr. Wingate asked for a motion to add the presentation to the agenda. Mr. Doley made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weller; the motion carried without dissent. The item was thus added to the agenda, and with no further changes, the agenda was thus adopted.

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

## **V: TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

### **Agenda Item #7 -- Report/Decision: Approval of the CWPPRA Environmental Bank Guidelines (Brad Inman, USACE)**

Mr. Inman began with a history of the regulations (enacted in 2016) requiring CWPPRA Task Force to issue guidelines for Environmental Banking in Louisiana. He presented a brief timeline highlighting activities in development of the guidelines; he summarized several key points of the guidelines, including definitions, principles, tracking and stipulations. On May 3, 2019, a small workgroup comprised of representatives from each CWPPRA agency, after much consultation and deliberation, submitted to the Task Force a revised draft of the guidelines for review. Thus, a request that the Task Force approve the final draft of *Guidelines for Environmental Banking in Coastal Louisiana* was made, with an indication that further agency review may become necessary prior to publication.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Doley asked for a clarification about whether this was a request for approval of the draft document. Mr. Inman answered affirmatively. Mr. Doley then spoke in appreciation of the efforts that contributed to the guideline development, and expressed his eagerness to hear public response.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the public; none were proffered.

*Mr. Wingate called for a motion to approve the guidelines. Mr. Weller made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

### **Agenda Item #8 -- Decision: Request to Increase the Incentive Payment for the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP / LA-03b) (Quin Kinler, NRCS)**

Mr. Kinler began with a brief history of the CNCP, which began in 2002. The initial incentive payment was set at \$4.00/ tail; initial harvest rates were around 300,000/ year. Due to a decline in the harvest in 2005-2006 following Hurricane Katrina, the incentive payment was raised to \$5.00 beginning in 2006-2007. Following that increase, there was a sharp increase in harvest and a decrease in nutria related damage. In more recent years, another decline in harvest has been noted. For that reason, and because of inflation, sponsoring agencies are requesting an increase in the incentive payment to \$6.00/ tail beginning in 2019-2020 (Program Year 18). As a point of clarification, Mr. Kinler declared that this is not a request for an increase in budget for the CNCP, since incentive increases were built into the approved project estimate as contingency funds.

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

*Mr. Wingate called for a motion to increase the CNCP incentive payment to \$6.00/tail. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Weller seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #9 -- Decision: Final Deauthorization of the Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration Panel Demonstration Project (LA-0280) (Brandon Howard, NMFS)**

Mr. Howard presented the request for final deauthorization for the Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration Panel (LA-0280) demonstration project on behalf of the sponsoring agencies. He began with background information, including the process of selecting optimal sites for the project, SPPR panel design, and an unanticipated increase in panel cost. In order to compensate for the cost increase, the academic advisory group was consulted, and adjustments were made to the project size and number of repetitions. Most recent meetings with the vendor resulted in a revised cost estimate. Mr. Howard presented a slide to compare the estimated cost of this demonstration project to the cost of other projects that utilized rock or other non-rock alternatives. Current estimates indicate that the SPPR panels do not represent a cost-effective alternative to rock/ riprap, in keeping with project goals; instead, the estimates (as presented) indicate very similar costs. Mr. Howard added that the estimate indicated does not include contractor profit. Deauthorization of the LA-0280 project would allow any unused Phase 1 funds to be returned to the CWPPRA program – an estimated \$2.5 million. The Task Force approved initiation of deauthorization procedures in October 2018, and the Technical Committee recommended final deauthorization in April 2019; today’s decision achieves the final step in the deauthorization process.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Task Force; none were proffered.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the public. Mr. Ralph Libersat spoke in opposition to the deauthorization of LA-0280, as a representative the Vermilion Parish Coastal Committee, and as chairman of the Chenier Plain Authority. He urged the Task force to allow the project to proceed to an actual bid in order to procure an accurate cost estimate. He also expressed concerns about a “dangerous trend,” beginning with the deconstruction of existing demonstration projects (specifically LA-16) and now (with LA-0280), not even allowing bidding or construction of demonstration projects. He encouraged the Task Force to examine that trend, and asked that the request for final deauthorization be denied.

No other public comments were proffered.

*Mr. Wingate called for a motion to deauthorize LA-0280. Mr. Doley made the motion, which Mr. Grandy seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #10 -- Report: 20-Year Life Project Impact Analysis (Brad Inman, USACE)**

Ms. Kaitlyn Carriere summarized efforts toward development of a process to assess project risks as they approach their end-of-life (15-20 year) status, a task with which the Technical committee was assigned in October 2018. The P&E subcommittee has developed a risk assessment matrix tool/ spreadsheet, which makes uniform the evaluation process for all agencies. The spreadsheet has been project-tested, and further revised; this document was provided in the Task Force binders. At the spring 2020 Task force meeting, when recommended paths forward for projects at year 15 are typically presented, the P&E Committee plans to present projects utilizing the

spreadsheet. Discussion regarding permanent signage at project sites (i.e. navigational hazard) is ongoing, and details such as this may result in further revisions to the evaluation matrix.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Doley expressed his appreciation of the effort involved in developing this risk assessment tool, and iterated importance to ensuring that CWPPRA projects are left in good stead.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the public; none were proffered.

**Agenda Item #11 -- Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects (Brad Inman, USACE)**

The project sponsors presented, for Task Force approval, the Technical Committee’s recommended paths forward for projects nearing the end of their 20-year lives as follows:

Projects requesting approval for *early* project closeout with no additional cost increase:

CS-30	GIWW-Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization	NRCS	31-Jul-22
CS-11b	Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS	2-Oct-22

Mr. Kinler (NRCS) presented the first projects, beginning with the GIWW – Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30) project, with a 20-year life ending in July 2022. Original project features included a rock dike, shallow water terraces (vegetatively planted), and an earthen plug at a breach in the spoil bank. With \$328,000 remaining in the project, and land rights having expired, or expiring soon, a request for a single and final maintenance event (on the earthen plug) and early closeout was made.

Mr. Kinler then presented the Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-11b) project, with a 20-year life ending in October 2022. Original project features include a rock embankment on the north side of the GIWW, and vegetative planting on earthen terraces. No maintenance events occurred or are being planned for the rock structure; the planted terraces were deemed unsuccessful, and no longer exist. He approximates \$490,000 remaining in the project budget. With land rights having expired or beginning to, he requested early close-out with no additional cost.

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

*Mr. Wingate called for motion to accept the recommended paths forward for early close-out with no additional costs as outlined by Mr. Kinler. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Weller seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

Projects requesting approval for closeout with a cost increase:

PO-22	Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection	COE	17-Dec-21
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Mr. Inman reported that this project was part of the recently revised close-out matrix process, and for which closeout approval with a \$2.35 million cost increase is being sought. The cost increase is for a single and final O&M event, which includes a rock lift and materials needed to restore the dike to its original design elevation. The event would also include specified navigational signage. Mr. Inman clarified that the actual request for funding of this request will

not be made until the fall CWPPRA meetings; thus, approval of today’s request is an approval of the recommended path forward, rather than approval of the specified cost increase.

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

*Mr. Wingate called for motion to accept the recommended path forward for early closeout of PO-22 with a cost increase. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Grandy seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

Projects pursuing project extension through formal evaluation:

LA-03b	Coastwide Nutria Control Program	NRCS	30-Aug-22
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Mr. Kinler began the proposal for the extension of CNCP (LA-03b) by iterating the purpose and historical benefits of the project, which has reached its 15-year status, and is thus subject to formal evaluation. He pointed out that the program has spent approximately \$32 million thus far, and resulted in a total protection of nearly 15,000 acres that would have been lost to nutria herbivory. That translates to a very efficient cost of \$2,200/ acre, compared to an average of almost \$90,000/ acre for typical (Phase I) CWPPRA projects, and \$106,000/ acre for Phase 2 projects. He further asserted that without the incentive program, an estimated 2,300 acres would be lost annually, a total of 46,000+ acres over the next 20 years. If the program is extended however, he estimates that 40% of those acres would be saved. According to preliminary evaluation, transfer of the project is not a viable option because an alternative funding entity/ mechanism has not been identified. Projected future costs (for years 20-41), allowing for inflation and incentive increases, are an estimated \$80 million. Since unused (i.e. previously approved) funding carries over each year within the CNCP, Mr. Kinler expects to request about \$67 million to extend the program for 20 years; funding requests have been and will be made annually. He hereby requested approval for the pursuit of project extension, subject to formal cost/benefit evaluation of the project between now and the fall CWPPRA proceedings, which may result in cost estimate revisions. Therefore this was not presented as a request for funding of the extension.

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

*Mr. Wingate called for motion to accept the recommended path forward for pursuit of project extension through a formal evaluation process. Mr. Grandy made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #12 -- Decision: FY20 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 30 Process, and Presentation of FY20 Outreach Budget (Process, Size, Funding, etc.) (Brad Inman, USACE)**

A) Ms. Carriere presented the request for the Task Force to approve the Technical Committee’s recommendation of the PPL 30 Process including selecting four project nominees in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three project nominees in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees (each) in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Tech/Vermilion Basins; one nominee in the Atchafalaya Basin; and one coastwide project nominee. She noted that there are no recommended changes to the PPL process verbiage since the RPT meetings.

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

*Mr. Wingate called for motion to accept the PPL-30 process as presented. Mr. Weller made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

B) Mr. Inman presented the request for The Task Force to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation of the FY20 Outreach Committee Budget in the amount of \$452,113, which is the same as last year (with a few line-item changes.)

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

*Mr. Wingate called for motion to accept the FY20 Outreach Committee budget as presented. Mr. Grandy made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

C) Ms. Cheavis presented the request for The Task Force to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation of the FY20 Planning Budget in the amount of \$5,008,132, which is the same as last year (and includes the Outreach Committee budget.)

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

*Mr. Wingate called for motion to accept the FY20 Planning Budget as presented. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

## **VI. INFORMATION**

**Added Agenda Item – Report – Dr. Ian Knight reported on the role of Roseau Cane scale and its coastwide impacts.** Dr. Knight began by explaining that until 2017 no studies had been conducted, and very little data was available. *Phragmites australis* (delta haplotype), commonly referred to as roseau cane, is the dominant species found within the Mississippi River Delta; the (European) haplotype is considered invasive in other regions. In 2015 and 2016, widespread weakening and die-off were noted; research began in order to determine the role of scale in that phenomenon. Gulf-wide surveys indicate scale populations are primarily located in the thirteen easternmost parishes along the Louisiana Gulf Coast. Restrictions are now in place to prevent its transmission across state lines. Population changes are monitored in transects across the delta; initial data suggests that heavy infestations in an area do not always occur year after year, and (unexpectedly) no significant scale population increases have been observed. For example, in one of the most heavily infested areas, where Roseau cane die-off was most severe last year, vegetative regrowth was observed this spring, with low infestation rates. Dr. Knight summarized the seasonal life-cycle of scale; May – August is when “explosive increases” in scale populations have been noted. Ongoing research (which involves international collaboration through the USDA) includes evaluating the role of non-native parasitoids and their role in inhibiting native scale populations. The use of chemical insecticides is not a viable alternative for several reasons cited, but primarily because of the sensitive ecology of wetland systems. Host-range testing was conducted to determine whether or not scale populations would “jump” from host species to other wetland grasses or agricultural crops; early indications are that, while it may “feed” on other vegetation, it does not seem to develop fully. Finally, Dr. Knight summarized results of controlled (increased salinity) studies conducted on three *Phragmites* haplotypes – Delta,

European (previously mentioned) and Gulf (found primarily in the western Gulf Coast parishes). The European haplotype exhibited different growth habits and more resistance to scale, although all three haplotypes exhibited premature senescence when infested with scale. Further studies are anticipated in order to analyze the effect of abiotic stressors (salinity, early prolonged flooding, and changes in soil chemistry) as they relate to the susceptibility of scale. Federal funding has been allocated; studies will ensue to determine optimal plant species for restoration, and to observe naturally emergent vegetation at die-off sites. Dr. Knight reiterated that printed materials, the power point for this presentation, and an upcoming webinar are (or will be) available for further information.

Mr. Wingate called for Task Force questions or comments. Mr. Weller inquired about access to the presentation; Ms. Carriere committed to sending it to Task Force members.

Mr. Wingate called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

## **Agenda Item #2 -- Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Jernice Cheavis, USACE)**

Ms. Jernice Cheavis, USACE, presented an overview of the status of CWPPRA funds as follows: The fully funded total program estimate since its inception through PPL 1 – 28 is \$2.941 billion. Total projected state and federal sources of funding (through FY21) for all authorized projects in addition to projected Department of the Interior (DOI) funds is \$2.104 billion. A potential gap of \$837 million remains if the Program were to construct all projects to date. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II and O&M totals \$2.112 billion. Authorized funding obligated to each agency for approved project phases currently totals \$1.812 billion.

Ms. Cheavis continued with an overview of funding as it relates to the electronic Task Force vote in February 2019, which authorized PPL-28. As a result of that vote, four projects – Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Creation, East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing, Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West), and Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation – were authorized for Phase I funding, at a total of \$13,239,163. The Task Force also authorized two other projects for Phase II, Increment I funding – New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation (PO-169) and Bayou DeCade Ridge and Marsh Creation (TE-138), at a total estimate of \$43,725,099. A project scope change and budget increase for Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation (BA-171) was also authorized (in April 2019), and increased the program estimate by \$5,588,553. Thus, the total program estimate is \$2,946,939, 486. Remaining available program funds (as of April 2019) total of \$11,328,246; no new funding requests are expected at these proceedings available for today's proceedings.

A request for approval of the FY20 Planning Program budget is on the agenda. A total of \$111,860 has been carried over from the last Task Force meeting. Added to that is the expected allocation of \$5,000,000 for Planning activities; total available funding is \$5,111,860. Today's funding request for FY20 Planning and Outreach totals \$5,008,132. If approved, a surplus of \$103,728 would remain.

Ms. Cheavis then presented a pie chart summarizing projects as follows: CWPPRA has authorized 222 projects. There are 162 active projects including 30 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 15 in Phase 2 Construction, 95 projects that have been completed and are now in Operations, Maintenance and/ or Monitoring phase, 17 completed projects (i.e. reached the 20-year life mark), and 5 support projects. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 46 projects,

transferred 8 projects, and placed 6 in the inactive category.

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

### **Agenda Item #3 – Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals (Brad Inman, USACE)**

Mr. Inman began by explaining that the electronic vote became necessary in lieu of the January Task Force meeting, which was cancelled due to the partial federal government shutdown. While not ideal because such actions preclude public comment, they become necessary under such circumstances to avoid delays in project advancement. Mr. Inman reported out on recent requests approved via electronic vote as follows:

- A) January 2019 – Approval of the transfer of funds totaling \$182,233 from Monitoring to Operations and Maintenance for East Mud Lake Marsh Management (CS-20), and approval to increase the project’s O&M budget by an additional \$194,034 for continued maintenance until the expected end of project in December 2020.
- B) February 2019 – Approval of all items recommended by the Technical Committee (i.e. PPL 28 projects recommended for Phase I and Phase II funding as iterated in the budget report previously presented.)
- C) April 2019 – Approval of the recommendation to combine the Caminada Headland Back Barrier, Increment 2 project (BA-193) with the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Increment 1 project (BA-171), which has already been approved for Phase II construction. The request includes a corresponding increase in the BA-171 Phase II budget that would provide enough funding for the construction of both projects (the BA-193 project will ultimately be deauthorized.) Budget increase totals \$5,588,553; the incremental request will be presented at the fall meeting.

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

### **Agenda Item #4 – Report: Construction Update (Brad Inman, USACE)**

The CWPPRA agencies provided a reported on a few projects that are currently under construction and projects that have recently completed construction.

Mr. Quin Kinler began with a report of the Coastwide Vegetative Plantings (LA-39) projects. The Joyce WMA cypress tree-planting project (Tangipahoa Parish) consists of one and two year-old bare root seedlings, planted with and without predator guards, in order to gauge variations in success rates. The Big Branch & Little Vermilion Bay bulrush planting projects (in St. Tammany and Vermilion Parishes) were begun in 2018 and completed earlier this year. Planned for the near future is the Joe Madre Marsh Planting project within the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. No questions or comments were proffered.

Mr. Darryl Clark presented the Cameron Creole Watershed – Grand Bayou Marsh Creation (CS-54) project. He commended project manager, Angela Trahan, for her contribution. The project consists of an 18”diameter dredge pipe within Calcasieu Lake, and two marsh creation areas, totaling 617 acres. With additional incentives from LADNR through it’s in lieu fee mitigation program, and the state beneficial use program, an expansion of 126 acres is expected. The northernmost marsh creation cell was completed in June 2018; revegetation was evident in



photos. Within the southernmost marsh creation cell, dredge material deposition is ongoing; dredge production is an estimated 5,000 – 10,000 cubic yards per day. Completion is projected for December 2019; a small expansion request may be forthcoming. No questions or comments were proffered.

Mr. Kevin Roy provided a report on the Lost Lake Marsh Creation & Hydrologic Restoration (TE-72) project. The project was approved for Phase II funding in 2013, but a series of land rights issues precluded construction until January 2017. Project features include 465 acres of marsh creation, 30,000 linear feet of terraces and five water control structures (to replace plugs or fixed-crest weirs and allow for freshwater and sediment introduction into the cells.) Favorable bids (\$8-9 million lower than estimated) allowed for a proposed 245-acre expansion, which was subsequently approved by the Task Force. Addition funding from LDNR allowed for further project expansion. Mr. Roy provided photographic evidence of project construction features and marsh resurgence. His final slide detailed total acreage created/ nourished and ultimate construction costs. No questions or comments were proffered.

Ms. Donna Rogers reported on the Oyster Bayou Marsh Restoration (CS-59) project, which was completed in January 2019. At a cost of \$23.5 million, final construction design (with an approved expansion) included 836 acres of confined marsh creation, 109 acres of unconfined marsh creation and/or nourishment, 9,000 LF of terraces. Construction also included containment for three ponds and associated trenasses, and created a permanent pipeline crossing under LA Hwy 27/82. No questions or comments were proffered.

Ms. Rogers continued with a report on the Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18) project. At an estimated cost of \$28.2 million, construction began in May 2018, and is subject to a 700-day contract time. Design of the breakwater includes a lightweight aggregate core (LWAC), geotech lining, bedding stone, and armor stone capping installed to a +3.5 elevation. The original 3-mile design (subsequently expanded by one-mile) also incorporates three demonstration areas of LWAC breakwater, rock breakwater and (LA-08) Oyster Ring; the actual construction alignment had to be adjusted because of ongoing erosion. Unsuccessful tie-in to the rock breakwater demo area resulted in its deconstruction; the rock was repurposed for use as armor stone. Ms. Rogers concluded by presenting statistics regarding type and quantities of materials used, and declared that the project is nearly 2/3 completed. No questions or comments were proffered.

Mr. Brad Miller presented a report for the Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63) project. Currently under construction, the project features include 415 acres of marsh creation and 9 water control structures. The marsh creation component is complete, and marsh vegetation therein is already rebounding. Just as crucial is the hydrologic restoration portion of the project; the water control structures – a series of culverts designed with one-way check valves – allow water in (from the northern area of the marsh creation), and out on the southward side. The one-way check valves (heavy duty rubber) are a new technology for CWPPRA projects, and they seem to be functioning as designed. Project completion is expected in August 2019. No questions or comments were proffered.

Mr. Inman offered final comments regarding the number of projects which are in various phases of authorized activity, assuring the public that funding is thus being spent as intended.

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

### **Agenda Item #5 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Jennifer Guidry, USGS)**

Mr. Wingate welcomed the new Outreach Coordinator for the CWPPRA Program; Ms. Jennifer Guidry presented the Public Outreach Committee report as follows:

In February the Outreach committee participated in World Wetlands Day (local school outreach), and in Cook-off for the Coast (public outreach/ education). In March outreach activities included the Lafayette Family Adventure Day hosted by an area non-profit for children and families experiencing grief, and a Math and Science Day event at the Green T Linden elementary school. In April the Outreach Committee participated in the Ebb and Flow Festival (benefitting the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge), in the Migrating Bird Festival in Grande Isle (family/ public outreach), UL-L Fete de la Terre (student outreach). In November 2018, Outreach Committee members visited BA-34-2 with several project sponsors/ agency representatives to observe restored hydrologic functionality and tree protectors; invasive species and wildlife were also identified. To procure photographs at project sites to document and convey project progress, the Outreach Committee expressed the desire to continue those site visits. Ms. Guidry introduced Kaci Wright as the new Community Outreach Specialist, with assurance of a smooth transition. Recent publications include *Landmarks* (digital), *Watermarks* #58 & #59, a vintage-style Project Poster series. Other efforts include social media exposure via Instagram, building a video library that can be utilized via a virtual reality headset, and planned participation in various upcoming events.

Mr. Wingate welcomed the new Outreach Committee staff and commended their efforts.

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

### **Agenda Item #6 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report (Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA)**

Ms. Leigh Anne Sharp provided an update on CRMS services. She began by summarizing the purpose and productivity of recent USGS “Roadshows”, wherein CRMS website features, analytical team activities, and cost-reduction efforts were discussed. The presentations are intended for CWPPRA agency personnel; agency-specific and/or group training in the use of the CRMS website is available upon request. Ms. Sharp reviewed recent CRMS data regarding vegetative resurgence on the Chenier Plain during drought conditions, and mangrove recovery after the hard freeze in 2017. She then provided evidence of a mudslide (and subsequent marsh flat transposition) that occurred at CRMS site 3667 (adjacent to and during construction of PO-104), and explained the inadvertent beneficial effects thereof. Another interesting phenomenon detected by CRMS monitoring is that of meto-tsunamis – strong 3-4’ waves that may occur during weather events characterized by tight frontal boundaries; such waves are capable of destruction as that which occurred at CRMS site 0355. Finally, Ms. Sharp provided a summary of recent observations as an update to the ongoing Calcasieu-Sabine Basin report. There is evidence that when Toledo Bend Reservoir waters reach a certain [high] level (i.e. after storm-induced flooding), they are released into the Sabine River; the inevitable result is water inundation/ persistent flooding of the marshes throughout the entire basin down to Holly Beach. Saltwater intrusion (historically considered the culprit of regional land loss) has been largely halted by levees and other control structures. In conclusion, Ms. Sharp opined that freshwater

from Toledo Bend should be utilized primarily to benefit westernmost marshes, and kept out of the eastern areas by improving and maximizing the efficiencies of existing infrastructure.

Mr. Wingate called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public; none were proffered. A ten-minute break was called at 11:05.

**Agenda Item #13 -- Report: Selection of Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 29 (Kevin Roy, FWS)**

Mr. Kevin Roy presented the following PPL 29 candidate projects, which were selected at the April 11, 2019 the Technical Committee meeting for Phase 0 analysis. His overview included the location, scope, expected benefits, and cost estimates of each of the projects.

Region	Basin	PPL 29 Candidates	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	St. Catherine’s Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	EPA
2	Breton Sound	Phoenix Marsh Creation – East Increment	FWS
2	Breton Sound	North Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing	NMFS
2	Barataria	Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension	NRCS
2	Barataria	Fifi Island Marsh Creation	FWS
3	Terrebonne	Bay Raccourci Marsh Creation and Ridge Restoration	FWS
3	Terrebonne	West Louisiana Hwy 1 Marsh Creation	NMFS
3	Terrebonne	East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	FWS
4	Mermentau	Southeast Pecan Island Restoration	NRCS
4	Mermentau	Mermentau Basin Wetland Inundation Relief	NRCS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Mud Lake South Marsh Creation	EPA

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

**Agenda Item #14 -- Additional Agenda Items**

Mr. Wingate called for any additional agenda items; none were proffered.

**VII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Wingate called for any additional public comments; none were proffered.

**VIII. 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 12, 2019 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**

September 12, 2019	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 10, 2019	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 5, 2019	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans

**C. Adjournment**