

**BREAUX ACT**  
**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act**  
**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**22 January 2021**  
**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Stephen Murphy convened the 102nd meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 10:30 a.m. on January 22, 2021, via WebEx virtual meeting platform. 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. Stephen Murphy (USACE), Chairperson  
Mr. Charles Maguire (EPA, Region 6)  
Mr. Jeffrey Weller (USFWS, for the U.S. Department of Interior)  
Mr. Chad Kacir (NRCS, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture)  
Mr. Chris Doley (NOAA Fisheries Service, for the U.S. Department of Commerce)  
Mr. Bren Haase (CPRA, for the State of Louisiana)

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

Colonel Murphy introduced himself as Commander of the USACE – New Orleans District, and chairperson of the CWPPRA Task Force. He invited Task Force members to introduce themselves as listed above. He welcomed those in attendance, and remarked upon the Task Force members’ adaptation to virtual meetings, which have necessarily occurred in response to the onset of COVID 19. He iterated the reason CWPPRA was enacted 30 years ago, citing statistical data; he noted that CWPPRA projects have become the “gold standard” for coastal restoration projects nation-wide. Furthermore, the colonel announced that the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works has approved a model CWPPRA partnership between the USACE and CPRA, which would (after 15 years) enable the USACE to be the lead federal sponsor on CWPPRA projects.

Colonel Murphy invited Task Force members to comment. Mr. Maguire expressed affirmation of the decision and looks forward to what the USACE will contribute to the CWPPRA program. He commended the program for its continuous efficiency and effectiveness in spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic. Mr. Weller and Mr. Haase concurred with the previous comments. Mr. Kacir expressed his perspective of personal and professional fulfillment after having been with the program for one year; he commended the program for its efforts to put “conservation on the ground” despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID 19. Mr. Doley expressed his pride in being part of the CWPPRA program, which has adhered to its mission, demonstrating resilience, adaptation and perseverance in these challenging times.

**IV. AGENDA and MINUTES**

Colonel Murphy asked if the Task Force had any changes to make to the agenda; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Maguire made the motion, which Mr. Weller seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

Colonel Murphy iterated the procedure for public comment within this virtual format.

## **V: TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

### **Agenda Item #9 – Report/Decision: CWPPRA 2021 Report to Congress (Kaitlyn Carriere, USACE)**

Ms. Carriere began with the reminder that a Report to Congress is required by law every 3 years to demonstrate the effectiveness of CWPPRA projects. Development of the 2021 report has commenced, with a target date of October 2021 for Task Force approval of the final draft. The report requires collaboration from EPA, USGS and other agencies. In May 2020 the Task Force approved the line item budget for the Report to Congress. Ms. Carriere requested the discretionary movement of those funds between cooperating agencies for purposes of completing the report as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task force. Mr. Maguire affirmed of EPA's graphic design contribution. Col. Murphy requested public comments; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to approve the request for the discretionary movement of funds within the Report to Congress budget as iterated by Ms. Carriere. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Weller seconded; the motion carried without opposition.*

### **Agenda Item #10 – Decision: Final Deauthorization of Ship Shoal: Whiskey West Flank Restoration (TE-47) Project (Brad Crawford, EPA)**

Brad Crawford, EPA, presented the request to finalize deauthorization for the previously inactive project Ship Shoal Whiskey West Flank Restoration (TE-47). He explained that this project is no longer warranted, as The NRDA Caillou Lake Headlands (TE-100) project has been constructed and includes this project's footprint.

Col. Murphy called for Task Force and public comments or questions; none were proffered.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to finalize the deauthorization of TE-47. Mr. Maguire made the motion, which Mr. Haase seconded; the motion carried without dissent.*

### **Agenda Item #11 – Decision: Final Deauthorization of Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation, Increment 2, (BA-193) Project (Brad Crawford, EPA)**

Brad Crawford, EPA, made the request on behalf of EPA and CPRA. He explained simply that the combining of BA-193 with the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation, Increment 1 (BA-171) project was approved and therefore the BA-193 project number is no longer needed.

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

*Col. Murphy then called for a motion to approve the request for final deauthorization of BA-193. Mr. Maguire made a motion, which Mr. Weller seconded. The motion carried without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #12 – Decision: Request for No Cost Time Extension for Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04) Project (Britt Paul, NRCS)**

Mr. Paul made the request on behalf of NRCS and CPRA for a one-year no-cost time extension to develop the final closeout proposal, which will be presented at the Technical Committee and Task Force meetings in Spring 2021.

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

*Col. Murphy then called for a motion to approve the request for a one-year no-cost time extension for TV-04. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Doley seconded. The motion carried without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for a Change in Scope for the PPL 25 – Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment (CS-79) Project (Dawn Davis, NMFS)**

Dawn Davis, NMFS, presented this scope change request, beginning with a background of its Phase I approval in January 2016. She iterated subsequent dates of the kickoff meeting, sites visits, and 30% and 95% design reviews. She outlined the original project scope, which consisted of one 661-acre marsh creation area. The modification of that area has become necessary for several reasons: a) the expansion of the adjacent Oyster Bayou (CS-59) project; b) the withdrawal of support from Towerland Company; c) avoidance of pipelines; d) the necessity of maintaining hydrological connectivity. She provided corresponding illustration of specific areas to be excluded, and identified possible areas for expansion to offset lost acreage. The scope change request is due to the changes in net cost/benefit percentages. Ms. Davis asserted that the project complements the Oyster Bayou project and enhances the resiliency of the Calcasieu-Sabine basin, so recently impacted by two hurricanes.

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

*Col. Murphy called for a motion to approve the request for the scope change for CS-79. Mr. Doley made the motion, which Mr. Haase seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #14 – Report/Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

Ms. Bradley introduced two projects (of eight, as highlighted in the following table) selected at the most recent Technical Committee meeting for Phase II approval. The Task Force will consider the Technical Committee's recommendation for Phase II Increment 1 funding authorization for the Labranche Central Marsh Creation and the Mid Breton Landbridge Marsh

Creation and Terracing projects totaling \$52,381,262 (which is within the construction program’s available funding limits.)

| Agency | Project No. | PPL | Project Name   | Phase II, Increment 1 Request | Fully-Funded Phase 1 Cost | Fully-Funded Phase II Cost incl O&M | Total Fully Funded Cost Est. | Net Benefit Acres | Total Cost per Acre |
|--------|-------------|-----|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| NRCS   | PO-133      | 21  | Labranche Central Marsh Creation                     | \$20,296,355                  | \$3,885,298               | \$20,383,769                        | \$24,269,067                 | 668               | \$36,331            |
| NRCS   | PO-178      | 26  | Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation | \$21,354,359                  | \$3,236,953               | \$23,307,269                        | \$26,544,222                 | 203               | \$130,760           |
| FWS    | BS-32       | 27  | Mid Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation and Terracing   | \$32,084,907                  | \$3,715,462               | \$33,643,497                        | \$37,358,959                 | 408               | \$90,898            |
| NRCS   | BA-195      | 25  | Barataria Bay Rim Marsh Creation and Nourishment     | \$25,707,824                  | \$2,693,708               | \$26,810,030                        | \$29,503,738                 | 226               | \$130,548           |
| NMFS   | BA-194      | 25  | East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment         | \$33,500,717                  | \$4,026,090               | \$36,193,712                        | \$40,219,802                 | 205               | \$196,194           |
| NRCS   | ME-31       | 19  | Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation                      | \$27,037,408                  | \$2,425,997               | \$28,355,171                        | \$30,781,168                 | 283               | \$108,767           |
| NFMS   | CS-78       | 24  | No Name Bayou Marsh Creation and Nourishment         | \$26,442,734                  | \$2,724,524               | \$27,868,443                        | \$30,592,967                 | 468               | \$65,370            |
| NMFS   | CS-79       | 25  | Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment           | \$33,678,210                  | \$3,608,939               | \$34,908,793                        | \$38,517,732                 | 250               | \$154,071           |

Mike Nichols, NRCS, presented a summary of the Labranche Central Marsh Creation project (PO-133), which included location, project history, scope, features, expected net acreage, costs, and rationale for project funding. Adjacent to PO-75 and PO-17, this project would effectively complete the largest tract of contiguous marsh along Lake Pontchartrain. Mr. Nichols defended the idea of “value engineering” – by effectively combining this project with PO-75, a cost savings of \$7,737,074 would be realized.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force; none were proffered.

Col. Murphy noted a public comment put forth in the chat feature – Richard Hartman asked if landowners were agreeable to having dikes breached or degraded. Mr. Nichols answered affirmatively.

Ms. Bradley added that the request to combine PO-133 with PO-75 would be attended to in another agenda item, and pointed out that the associated costs are reflected accurately in the table above.

Ms. Bradley then invited Robert Dubois, USFWS, to present the Mid Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation and Terracing project (BS-32). He summarized the project location, goals, scope and features. The project is the first of several comprising the Breton Landbridge concept some of which are in Phase I. He demonstrated the progressive land loss and conversion to open water in the area since Hurricane Katrina, adding that this would only be the second project constructed in this basin since then. The project would enhance the existing BS-16 project, and protect important cultural sites.

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

*Col. Murphy then called for a motion to authorize the Phase II projects and approve Phase II Increment I funding in the amount of \$52,381,262 for the above named projects. Mr. Maguire made a motion to approve the funding; Mr. Doley seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.*

**Agenda Item #15 – Decision: Request to Combine Phase II of Labranche Central Marsh Creation (PO-133) to Phase II of Labranche East Marsh Creation (PO-75) Project (Britt Paul, NRCS)**

Mr. Paul presented the request to combine Phase II of Labranche Central Marsh Creation (PO-133), the funding of which was just approved with the existing Labranche East Marsh Creation (PO-75) Project, which was approved last year for construction. He explained that once PO-133 Phase I activities were complete, that project would be formally deauthorized, and Phase II construction (of both projects) would proceed as a single project -- Labranche East Marsh Creation (PO-75). The combined Phase II total would be \$52,769,707 and the combined Phase II Increment 1 would be \$51,736,576. Approval of this action would result in a budget increase of \$20,383,769 to PO-75's current approved budget and a transfer of \$20,296,364 from PO-133's Phase II Increment I funding allocation to PO-75.

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

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public.

*Col. Murphy then called for a motion to approve the Phase II combination of PO-75 and PO-133. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Maguire seconded; the motion passed without opposition.*

**Agenda Item #16 – Report/Decision: 30<sup>th</sup> Priority Project List (Kevin Roy, FWS)**

On behalf of the Environmental Workgroup, Kevin Roy presented an overview of the two top-ranking candidate projects chosen by the Technical Committee in its December 2020 proceedings. These projects are hereby recommended for PPL 30 Phase I funding approval in the amount of \$6,610,996. His presentation provided an overview of project location, features, costs/ benefits and synergy with adjacent projects for the following:

- |  |     |             |
|--|-----|-------------|
| • Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration | EPA | \$3,648,496 |
| • Bay Raccourci Marsh Creation Increment II        | FWS | \$2,962,500 |

Mr. Roy then presented a third project for Task Force consideration – Phoenix Marsh Creation West Increment – which was tied for third place in the December rankings. Mr. Roy described the workgroup’s rationale for inclusion of this project as a third candidate for Phase I funding approval. Because of its proximity to BS-42, which was approved for Phase I funding in January 2020, E&D efforts (i.e. various surveys, design reviews and reports) for the two projects could be coordinated, and a substantial reduction in E&D costs for the West Increment could be

realized. Thus Mr. Roy requested that the Task Force include the Phoenix Marsh Creation West Incremental project and its Phase I funding in the amount of \$1,052,017 with the other two PPL 30 candidate projects.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the Task Force; none were proffered.

Col. Murphy called for questions or comments from the public, and noted one in the chat feature. Richard Hartman's question was regarding the projected funding balance previously presented in Ms. Cheavis's report; his inquiry was answered satisfactorily.

*Col. Murphy called for a motion. Mr. Weller made a motion that the Task Force approve the two projects recommended for Phase I by the Tech Committee, for a combined cost of \$6,610,996, and also approve the Phoenix Marsh Creation West Increment at a revised fully funded cost, Phase I of \$1,052,017. Kacir seconded the motion, which carried without opposition.*

Ms. Cheavis announced that the updated funding balance after all approvals in today's proceedings now totals \$12,661,338.

## **VI. INFORMATION**

### **Agenda Item #2 – Announcement: Tribute to Jennifer Ritter Guidry, Late CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator**

Col. Murphy called upon Scott Wilson, USGS to lead the CWPPRA community in honoring Ms. Jennifer Ritter Guidry, who passed away on November 10, 2020. Mr. Wilson described Ms. Guidry's two-year tenure as CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator as an extension of her life's passion: to connect people with conservation in order to build stronger communities. Her motivation was born of the belief that Louisiana culture is directly related to its natural environment. He described her as energetic, talented and dedicated – a champion of many public causes. A new outreach effort, based on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative for all agencies, will be dedicated in her honor. In regard for the emphasis and value Ms. Guidry placed on integrating the Arts into the initiative ("STEAM"), Mr. Wilson announced the newest outreach plan – the CWPPRA Wetland Writing Contest. The contest will create an opportunity for children of all ages to share their knowledge and experience of Louisiana wetlands through poetry, narratives, and short stories. The contest seeks to honor what Ms. Guidry sought most to serve – Louisiana's wetland culture, community spirit and all levels of education. A visual slide-show accompanied Mr. Wilson's tribute.

Each Task Force member then offered their own observances and experiences of Ms. Guidry's contribution to the program – emphasizing her positive inspiration and impact to the program, and especially her exemplary works.

No public comments were proffered.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Announcement: Tribute to Randy Moertle, Late CWPPRA Public Stakeholder**

Col. Murphy called upon Dr. John Foret to lead the CWPPRA community in honoring Mr. Randy Moertle, who passed away on January 10, 2021. Dr. Foret began his tribute with his initial and ongoing personal and professional connection to Mr. Moertle, a friendship and collaboration that began in the 1990's. Dr. Foret defined Mr. Moertle's relationship with the CWPPRA program as a "friend" – one of mutual affection; indeed Mr. Moertle promoted the CWPPRA potential across the coast to landowners. Dr. Foret described Mr. Moertle's personality as passionate, energetic, genuine, and educational, with the ability to engage stakeholders of every ilk; he was founder of the Rainey Conservation Alliance. Simultaneously humble and dignified, Mr. Moertle left a meaningful impact on the Louisiana coastal community.

Task members in turn spoke of Mr. Moertle's engaging personality, the quality of his input on all decisions, his ability to unite stakeholders, bureaucrats, and communities, his inclination to challenge, and his dependability as a mainstay of the CWPPRA program.

No public comments were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #4 – 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 the present (authorized projects from PPLs 1 – 29) is \$3.127 billion. The total funded estimate (received since inception through FY2021) is \$2.130 billion, leaving a potential gap of \$997 million 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 and Monitoring totals \$2.276 billion. The estimate of total authorized funding for each agency as requested currently totals \$1.941 billion.

The CWPPRA Program has \$61,576,504 of funding carried forth from the October Task Force meeting, to which the estimate of DOI funding for FY20 (\$11,129,109) is added. Thus, the total available Program funding to begin today's proceedings is \$72,705,613. The Technical Committee will make two funding recommendations today – two PPL-30 candidate projects for Phase I funding (totaling \$6,610,996), and two projects for Phase II Increment I funding (totaling \$52,381,262). If authorized, the remaining balance forward would total \$13,713,355.

CWPPRA has authorized 226 projects. The 149 active projects include 32 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 16 in Phase 2 Construction, 96 projects in the O&M and Monitoring phase, and 17 projects that have been completed and closed financially. Additionally, CWPPRA has deauthorized 46 projects, transferred 8 projects, and placed 6 in the inactive category. There are 5 technical support projects, which include Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS), monitoring contingency, storm recovery, Construction Program technical support, and the wetland conservation plan.

Col. Murphy called for Task Force and Public comments; none were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

Col. Murphy called upon Sarah Bradley to present results of electronic voting held in lieu of the November Task Force meeting, which was cancelled due to the expected landfall of Hurricane Beta. Ms. Bradley announced that on November 13, 2020 the Task force approved the requests of all agenda items as follows:

- Initiation of deauthorization procedures for TE-47 and BA-193 (details of which were provided later at these proceedings)
- Several O&M budget increases
- Scope change for the East Leeville Marsh Creation project
- Typical Incremental funding request for USACE administration and USGS Technical Services
- Typical Incremental funding requests for O&M and Monitoring

Ms. Bradley noted that details of these electronic proceedings can be accessed via the USACE website.

Col. Murphy opened the floor for Task Force and public comments; none were proffered.

### **Agenda Item #6 – Report: Construction Update (Sarah Bradley, USACE)**

Col. Murphy called upon Ms. Bradley to present the Construction Report. Ms. Bradley in turn called upon agency representatives to provide the following construction status reports:

Kevin Roy (USFWS) presented an update for the Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation project (BA-125), beginning with a description of its location and its proximity to a previously constructed CWPPRA project (BA-36). Originally consisting of two marsh creation cells – one confined, the other semi-confined – the project goal was to restore and/or nourish 791 acres. Construction began in April 2019 and has been completed in both the westernmost (semi-confined) cell and the easternmost (fully confined) cell. Construction of an additional 315 acres (approved in March 2020) has commenced. Dredge material is currently being pumped into the two cells associated with the expansion, and the placement of articulated concrete mats (along a portion of the Harvey Cut) is anticipated in February 2021. Project completion is expected in May 2021. Construction costs total \$19.6 million; the total construction budget is \$23.7 million (without contingencies). Mr. Roy provided pictorial evidence of the completion/ initial success of the original marsh creation cells, and the ongoing construction within the expansion cells.

Ron Boustany (NRCS) was called to provide an update for the Cameron-Creole Freshwater introduction project (CS-49). He began with a description of project features, including construction of shoreline protection along the southern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway, a large terrace field to the south of that, and a freshwater introduction structure within that area. Additionally, vegetative plantings have been installed westward toward the edge of Calcasieu Lake. The rock dike shoreline protection (8,150 linear feet) is complete, as is 139,000 lf of terrace construction; effects of Hurricane Laura on these features have been deemed minimal. Materials have been staged for the construction of the freshwater introduction component; construction is to begin in February 2021. Terrace planting should begin in March 2021. Hurricanes have not significantly delayed the expected project completion of May 2021. Mr. Boustany provided pictures to substantiate his report of project status.

Donna Rogers (NOAA Fisheries) presented the update on the Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18) project, the construction of which was completed in May 2020. Warning signs were placed and final acceptance occurred in June 2020. Final construction cost was \$28.6 million. The project is located along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline on the Rockefeller Refuge, west of the Joseph Harbor Bayou. The original 3-mile design (subsequently expanded by one-mile) also incorporates two demonstration projects – a LWAC breakwater and an Oyster Ring



project – as well as strategically placed fish gaps. Ms. Rogers provided before and after slides to illustrate shoreline accretion and oyster bed establishment behind the breakwater construction. She asserted that oystercatchers were observed on the refuge for the first time. Ms. Rogers summarized the type and quantities of materials used in the construction. Hurricane damage is still being assessed, as the refuge remains closed. Breakwaters have apparently remained intact, although some materials have been displaced, and some signage is down or missing

Jennifer Smith (NOAA Fisheries) provided an update for the Cameron-Creole Marsh Creation and Terracing project. This project was approved for construction in January 2017, and was subjected to budgetary revisions approved in June 2020; current construction costs are an estimated \$32.1 million. The NTP was issued in August of 2020 with a 400-day construction period. She described the project location and its proposed features, which include 304 acres of marsh creation in an open area, and 4 acres of earthen terraces adjacent to the marsh creation area. She provided pictorial and graphic illustrations of the borrow area, pipeline corridor and a cross-section of construction details. Surveys done post-Hurricanes Laura and Delta reveal no significant changes in water depths-to-bottom. DOTD is actively installing reduced-speed signs in anticipation of Hwy 82 being cut for the installation of the dredge pipeline underneath; ideally that activity would be completed prior to the 2021 hurricane season. Dredging operations are expected to commence in April 2021; placement of dredge materials is set to follow in June 2021.

Ms. Smith continued with an update on the Bayou De Cade Ridge and Marsh Creation project (TE-138). This project was approved for construction funding in January 2019; the NTP was received in September 2020 with a 500-day construction period. Estimated construction cost for this project is \$8.3 million. The primary project features are an 11,133 linear foot ridge along Bayou De Cade, and an adjacent 473-acre marsh creation area; the marsh creation acreage will be divided into three sections by earthen dikes to enhance material settling. The project area was surveyed in August 2020; construction of the dikes and ridge is underway. Pumping of dredge materials is anticipated in late February 2021, and because of the relatively small dredge being employed, completion is expected January 2022.

Col. Murphy called for Task Force and public questions or comments, encouraging participants to utilize the “chat” feature within this virtual platform; no comments were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Kacie Wright, USGS)**

Col. Murphy called Kacie Wright to provide the Public Outreach Report. Ms. Wright’s report covered outreach activities conducted from October 2020 to January 2021. This year’s annual CWPPRA dedication ceremony coincided with CWPPRA’s 30th Anniversary celebration. The month-long virtual event included a series of Infographics, which highlighted CWPPRA partnerships, project strategies, as well as the wildlife, culture and economy of Louisiana’s wetlands. The virtual celebration also included a series of eight videos, in which CWPPRA’s history, federal and state sponsoring agencies, and various projects were highlighted. Ms. Wright asserted that the videos attracted nearly 8,000 viewers – a dramatic increase in the numbers usually in attendance at the dedication ceremony. Another virtual component of the celebration was a 360° Video of a paddleboat trip at Lake Fausse Point State Park; such virtual experiences are requested especially by educators, for whom traditional field trips are not an option. The celebration also featured artwork and information about local artists who use Louisiana’s wetlands

as inspiration. A Wetland's Adventure Prize Pack Giveaway was available to viewers who shared and/or commented during the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event. Regarding other activities, Ms. Wright reported that the Youth Wetland's Writing Contest had been initiated in honor of Jennifer Guidry; she hopes to announce the winners at the next Task Force meeting. Social media and electronic outreach saw huge increases during the reporting period – primarily due to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

Ongoing partnership efforts include Louisiana Sea Grant, the UL Press, Bayou Culture Collaborative, Louisiana Endowment for the Arts, the South Louisiana Wetland Discovery Center, and the Louisiana National Estuary Research Reserve. Future projects include the intended revival of the oral history exhibit and development of the 360° Video curriculum. Ongoing projects include further enhancement of the WebQuest teaching/ education tool, redesigning the new website, and updating the CWPPRA trifold. Finally, Ms. Wright provided contact information for she and Kathy Ladner, who are diligently working to sustain and build public outreach until Ms. Guidry's position is filled.

Col. Murphy and several Task Force comments offered high compliments verbally and via the chat feature for the outreach team. Mr. Weller suggested inviting the writing contest winner to the next Task Force meeting for award presentation by the colonel. Mr. Maguire suggested (and offered to help establish) an outreach partnership with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, based in Gulfport, MS. Agency and public comments (submitted via chat) were all very positive.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report**

Ms. Leigh Anne Sharp (USGS) initiated the report with an update on the 2020 and 2021 O&M and Monitoring reports. She corrected the information on the table presented, asserting that all but two (LA-39 and ME-16) of the 2020 reports are available online or are out for review. As indicated, all 2021 reports are in planned status. Ms. Sharp announced CRMS Website training opportunities, which will be made available in Spring 2021. She also announced that the 2018 land/water analysis is in final QA/QC at CPRA. Maps (with corresponding change matrix values) will be published, providing an indication of where and to what degree land changes have occurred. Ms. Sharp reported on CRMS site damaged sustained as the result of an active hurricane season. Of 104 CRMS sites, 55 had major site damage, and 49 sites had minor damage. Regularly scheduled monitoring will reveal more storm impacts, but repairs are either complete or ongoing as sites are accessed. Elevation changes and accretion data from September and October 2020 are in the database or in QA/QC (respectively.) Water level and salinity level monitoring is ongoing. Vegetation data will be assessed at the end of the spring/summer growing season. A coastwide flight is anticipated in the fall or winter of this year.

Col. Murphy commented on the active hurricane season, and called for Task Force questions or comments; Mr. Maguire expressed his appreciation for the report, and his anticipation of future data. Col. Murphy invited public questions or comments; none were proffered.

#### **Agenda Item #17 -- Additional Agenda Items**

Colonel Murphy deferred this item, as no changes were previously proposed.

## VII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Colonel Murphy called for any additional public comments.; none were proffered.

## VIII. CLOSING

Ms. Bradley was called upon to iterate the following schedule of meetings, which she did as follows:

- A. Priority Project List 31 Regional Planning Team Meetings
- |                   |            |                                     |                         |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| February 2, 2021  | 10:00 a.m. | Region IV Planning Team Meeting     | Virtual                 |
| February 3, 2021  | 9:30 a.m.  | Region III Planning Team Meeting    | Virtual                 |
| February 4, 2021  | 10:00 a.m. | Region I & II Planning Team Meeting | Virtual                 |
| February 23, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. | Coastwide Electronic Voting         | (via email, no meeting) |
- B. The Technical Committee meeting will be held April 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at a location to be determined.
- C. Future Program Meetings\*
- |                   |           |                             |     |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----|
| April 1, 2021     | 9:30 a.m. | Technical Committee Meeting | TBD |
| May 6, 2021       | 9:30 a.m. | Task Force                  | TBD |
| September 2, 2021 | 9:30 a.m. | Technical Committee Meeting | TBD |
| October 7, 2021   | 9:30 a.m. | Task Force                  | TBD |
| December 2, 2021  | 9:30 a.m. | Technical Committee Meeting | TBD |

\*subject to change

## IX. Adjournment

In final comments, Mr. Doley offered his opinion that even if in-person meetings resume, a virtual component would still be advantageous to a great many potential participants.

Col. Murphy expressed appreciation for everyone in and the importance of the CWPPRA program.

*Colonel Murphy called for a motion to adjourn today's proceedings. Mr. Kacir made the motion, which Mr. Haase seconded. The motion carried without dissent and the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.*