

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
TASK FORCE MEETING
22 January 2026
Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Scotty Autin convened the 115th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on January 22, 2026 in person in the District Assembly Room at the US Army Corps of Engineers and via Teams 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. Scotty Autin (USACE), Chairperson
Mr. Christopher Cooley (USFWS, for the U.S. Department of Interior)
Mr. Chris Doley (NOAA Fisheries Service, for the U.S. Department of Commerce)
Mr. Brian Lezina (CPRA, for the State of Louisiana)
Mr. Curry Jones, Acting (EPA, Region 6)
Mr. Britt Paul, Acting (NRCS, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture)

III. OPENING REMARKS

Colonel Autin introduced himself as a native of Houma, Louisiana and is excited to serve as chairperson of the CWPPRA Task Force. He began by expressing gratitude to all in attendance both in person and virtually. He also praised the work the CWPPRA program has accomplished during its existence. Colonel Autin then acknowledged the 15-year tenure of Mr. Chris Doley as the NOAA Task Force representative and his upcoming retirement from the position. He then highlighted the purpose of the meeting to review the Technical Committee recommendations for Phase I and Phase II funding. Colonel Autin then formally welcomed all in attendance and invited Task Force members to introduce themselves; they did so in turn. Task Force attending members are listed above.

IV. AGENDA and MINUTES

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

Col. Autin called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Colonel Autin called on Ms. Amanda Landry, USACE, to iterate the procedure for public comment within this hybrid meeting format. Ms. Landry did so for those attending in person and virtually.

V: TASK FORCE DECISIONS

Agenda Item #8 – Report/Decision: Request for Phase II Authorization and Approval of Phase II Increment 1 Funding (Amanda Landry, USACE)

Colonel Autin called on Amanda Landry, USACE, to review the collaborative approach to project selection utilizing selection criteria scoring. Ms. Landry reminded all in attendance that CWPPRA has a limited budget and the importance of maintaining a reserve to handle project cost increases and change orders. She explained that the objective is to select the most impactful coastal restoration projects for both the engineering and design phase and the construction phase and to spend funds effectively. In order to accomplish this, a set of five criteria, cost effectiveness, synergy, critical landscape feature, critical area of need, as well as critical infrastructure protection, was established. Six independent agencies score the projects based on the criteria, then come together to collaboratively select projects to make collective and informed recommendations. Additional considerations such as stakeholder support, landowner support, sustainability, as well as operations and maintenance are also taken into account and can be used to adjust project rankings. Ms. Landry then mentioned the process and strategy for selection criteria can be adjusted in the spring and is available online.

Representatives from the sponsoring agencies provided a detailed overview of project location, planned features, goals/ benefits, synergies, and costs for each project listed in the following table:

Project Name	PPL	Net Acres	Phase II, Increment 1 Request	Total Fully Funded Cost	Fully-Funded Phase I Cost	Fully-Funded Phase II Cost incl O&M	Cost Effectiveness (Cost/Net Acre)
Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation (BA-268)	32	281	\$32,894,466	\$38,061,756	\$3,455,646	\$34,606,110	\$135,451
Sabine Marsh Creation Cycles 6 & 7 (CS-81)	27	957	\$34,876,174	\$41,881,269	\$3,725,811	\$38,155,458	\$43,763

Mr. John Savell, FWS, presented the Phase II request for BS-268 Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation. He began by thanking the project team and then showed a series of photos and maps indicating the project location and features. The PPL 32 project was approved for Phase I funding in January 2023. The area was devastated by Hurricane Ida, and the project aims to restore a critical piece of the Barataria Basin Landbridge by creating 333 acres and nourishing an additional 20 acres of marsh with material from Little Lake. Approximately 7,100 linear feet of shoreline will also be restored. The benefits after 20 years are estimated to be 281 net acres with a Phase II Increment 1 request of \$32,894,466 and a Total Fully Funded Cost of \$38,061,756. Mr. Savell concluded by explaining that the project should be funded for construction because it is synergistic with several projects in the area to redevelop the Barataria Landbridge while restoring critical habitat.

Mr. John Savell, FWS, presented the CS-81 Sabine Cycles 6 and 7 Marsh Creation. He began by thanking the project team and then showed a series of photos and maps depicting the project location and features. He also reviewed the timeline of the PPL 27 project, explaining that in March of 2023 during a preliminary 95% design meeting, PSDDF analysis indicated there was higher than expected settlement, and the project design needed to be updated. Mr. Savell explained

the project is synergistic with several other projects in the vicinity and is expected to restore 957 net acres over the 20-year life of the project by using dredged material from the Calcasieu Ship Channel beneficially. Mr. Savell concluded with the Phase II Increment I request of \$34,876,174 and a fully funded cost of \$41,881,269, demonstrating the projects highly cost effectiveness with a cost of \$43,763 per net acre.

Ms. Landry requested the combined, weighted, collective scores for the two projects seeking Phase II funding be displayed. She then summarized the Technical Committee recommendation for Phase II authorization for both the BA-286 Northwest Little Lake and CS-81 Sabine Cycles 6 & 7 Marsh Creation projects.

Project	Cost Effectiveness	Synergy	Critical Area of Need	Critical Landscape Feature	Critical Infrastructure Protection	Adjusted total score (with weights)
Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation (BA- 268)	6.00	8.33	9.00	8.17	3.67	7.08
Sabine Marsh Creation Cycles 6 & 7 (CS-81)	9.00	8.17	1.00	0.67	2.00	4.18

Col. Autin invited Task Force comments or questions between each presentation; none were proffered. He invited public comment after all presentations had been made.

Col. Autin then requested Ms. Landry reiterate the Technical Committee’s recommendation for the record. Ms. Landry restated the Technical Committee’s prioritization of the most impactful coastal restoration projects utilizing the selection criteria with the recommendation of approval of Phase II authorization and Phase II, Increment I funding authorization BA-286 Northwest Little Lake with a Phase II Increment 1 request of \$32,894,466 and a Total Fully Funded Cost of \$38,061,756, and CS-81 Sabine Cycles 6 & 7 Marsh Creation project with a Phase II Increment I request of \$34,876,174 and a fully funded cost of \$41,881,269.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the BA-268 project as stated for Phase II Authorization and Phase II Increment I Funding. Mr. Doley made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without dissent. Col. Autin then called for a motion to approve the CS-81 project as stated for Phase II Authorization and Phase II Increment I Funding. Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Cooley seconded; the motion carried without dissent.

Agenda Item #9 – Report/Decision: 35th Priority Project List (Dawn Davis, NOAA)

Ms. Dawn Davis, NOAA, began by illustrating the locations of the ten candidate projects as they are distributed across the state. She summarized the location, scope, goals, and anticipated fully funded costs of the ten candidate projects and the one demonstration project in the table below.

Region	Basin	PPL 35 Candidates	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	Manchac WMA Shoreline Protection	NRCS
2	Breton Sound	Reggio West Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration	EPA
2	Breton Sound	Bayou Gentilly Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Breton Sound	Spanish/Grand Lake Shoreline Restoration and Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	Barataria	Bayou Thunder Marsh Creation	NOAA
3	Terrebonne	West Isle de Jean Charles Marsh Creation	FWS
4	Teche-Vermilion	Freshwater Bayou East Restoration	NOAA
4	Mermentau	Gulf Shoreline Protection West	FWS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Peconi Bayou Marsh Creation	NOAA
	DEMO	Shore Shells Concrete Dome Structure	NRCS

Ms. Davis began in the eastern portion of the state with Manchac WMA Shoreline Protection. The project aims to place 6,862 linear feet of wave screen to protect the shoreline and net 48 acres at a cost of \$44,299,166. Next was the Reggio West Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration project with the goal to create 232 acres and nourish 155 acres of marsh from the borrow site of Lake Lery. The project will include a canal closure, 1,715 linear feet of terraces and vegetative plantings while producing 224 net acres at a cost of \$43,585,950. The Bayou Gentilly project utilizes borrow from Petit Lake to create 326 acres and nourish 104 acres of marsh. The project aims to net 291 acres over the project life at a cost of \$38,525,300. With a goal to restore the western portion of Grand Lake, the Spanish Lake-Grand Lake Marsh Creation project will use material from Grand Lake to create 259 acres and nourish 133 acres of marsh. At a cost of \$34,124,132, the project will net 245 acres over the project life. Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation aims to create marsh and forested coastal ridge habitat along the northern bank of Bayou L'Ours. The project will use borrow material from Little Lake to create 177 acres and nourish 87 acres of marsh. The project includes 13,811 linear feet of ridge restoration and will net 163 acres at a cost of \$36,485,907. The Bayou Thunder Marsh Creation project will utilize Caminada Bay borrow to create 224 acres and nourish 110 acres of marsh. The project also aims to have 214 net acres at a cost of \$30,397,130. Addressing the high rates of land loss in Terrebonne Basin, the West Isle de Jean Charles Marsh Creation project will create 319 acres of marsh, nourish 13 acres of marsh and stabilize 9,046 linear feet of bank. The project will net 268 acres at a cost of \$51,964,045. The Freshwater Bayou East Marsh Restoration project will net 189 acres at a cost of \$49,323,992. The project will create 152 acres of marsh and nourish 14 acres using the Freshwater Bayou Canal as a borrow site. Additionally, 19,880 linear feet of terraces and 18,314 linear feet of rock shoreline protection will be installed. The Gulf Shoreline Protection West Project will provide 10,560 linear feet of foreshore rock dike protection. The project goal is to halt Gulf shoreline erosion along a critical reach at a cost of \$59,682,930, netting 182 acres. Peconi Bayou Marsh Creation will use Peconi Bayou borrow to create 239 acres and nourish 79 acres of marsh. The project aims to net 204 acres at a cost of \$26,924,865.

Ms. Davis concluded by presenting and explaining the Project Evaluation Matrix table which will aid in the project selection process.

Ms. Landry commended Ms. Davis for her presentation, and acknowledged the work groups and experts at the local, state and federal levels, who have worked extensively and gathered

information necessary to develop these projects. Ms. Landry then discussed the Technical Committee recommendation based on the collective project selection scores.

CWPPRA Technical Committee Project Selection Scores for PPL 35

Project	Cost Effectiveness	Synergy	Critical Area of Need	Critical Landscape Feature	Critical Infrastructure Protection	Adjusted total score (with weights)
Manchac WMA Shoreline Protection	1.00	7.83	5.00	8.17	3.00	4.84
Reggio West Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration	3.00	7.83	6.00	7.00	7.33	6.18
Bayou Gentilly Marsh Creation	6.00	8.00	7.00	7.83	2.83	6.29
Spanish/Grand Lake Shoreline Restoration and Marsh Creation	6.00	6.33	4.00	7.83	1.17	4.88
Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	2.00	6.17	9.00	8.33	7.33	6.60
Bayou Thunder Marsh Creation	6.00	6.67	8.00	6.83	7.83	7.13
West Isle de Jean Charles Marsh Creation	3.00	4.00	7.00	5.50	6.00	5.18
Freshwater Bayou East Restoration	1.00	8.00	3.00	5.17	6.00	4.53
Gulf Shoreline Protection West	1.00	8.33	9.00	8.33	1.83	5.73
Peconi Bayou Marsh Creation	6.00	8.17	4.00	5.67	4.67	5.62

Ms. Landry explained, using the Selection Criteria, the Technical Committee carefully considered the scores for the PPL 35 candidate projects as well as several other considerations when developing its Task Force recommendation. The top two projects were Bayou Thunder Marsh Creation and Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation. Recognizing the timeliness of leveraging other federal dollars in the immediate vicinity, the Technical Committee recommended going down the list to fund the Gulf Shoreline Protection project.

The estimated fully funded costs of the three recommended Phase 1 authorizations are shown in the table below.

PPL 35 Project Selection, Phase I

Project	Region	Parish	Total Fully Funded cost est	Fully Funded Phase I cost	Fully Funded Phase II cost incl O&M	Net acres
Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	2	Lafourche	\$36,485,907	\$3,034,521	\$33,451,386	163
Bayou Thunder Marsh Creation	2	Jefferson/Lafourche	\$30,397,130	\$2,992,096	\$27,405,034	214
Gulf Shoreline Protection West	4	Cameron	\$59,682,930	\$2,448,491	\$57,234,439	182

Col. Autin invited Task Force comments or questions; none were proffered. He invited public comment after all presentations had been made.

Mr. Tommy McGinnis, Vermilion Parish Police Jury, spoke in favor of the innovative approach taken to address issues near Freshwater Bayou. He acknowledged the project's

integration of marsh creation, terraces, and shoreline protection along the navigation channel. The project will assist with storm protection as well as restoration of the landbridge. Mr. McGinnis concluded with the numerous letters of support for the project.

Col. Autin then called for a motion to approve the selected PPL-35 projects for Phase I authorization, and approval of Phase I funding as presented. Mr. Doley made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded. The motion carried without dissent.

Ms. Davis then continued presenting the Concrete Dome Structures, Shore Shells demonstration project. She then explained demonstration projects are evaluated for innovativeness, applicability or transferability, potential cost effectiveness, potential environmental benefits, recognition of need for acquisition of information and the potential for technological advancement. Ms. Davis then explained the Shore Shells are domes 22 feet in diameter and 4.5 feet high and are composed of concrete reinforced with basalt. These domes offer a shoreline protection alternative that proposes to be lighter than rock, thus suitable for weaker soils. Ranging from 500 to 800 linear feet, the domes will be installed in a double row alignment at a fully funded cost of \$4,171,653, and an incremental request of \$624,687. The evaluation matrix of Shore Shells was then shown indicating a total score of 13.

Col. Autin invited Task Force comments or questions; none were proffered. He invited public comment after all presentations had been made.

Mr. Tommy McGinnis, Vermilion Parish Police Jury, spoke in support of the demonstration project. He explained there had been a successful deployment of the domes providing many lessons learned and that these would be the largest such features in the program.

Col. Autin then called for a motion to approve the demonstration project for Phase I authorization, and approval of Phase I funding as presented. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Cooley seconded. The motion carried without dissent.

VI. INFORMATION

Agenda Item #2 – Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Connie Barbé, USACE)

Ms. Connie Barbé, USACE, presented an overview of CWPPRA funds. The fully funded total Program Estimate since its inception to the present (authorized projects from PPLs 1 – 34) is \$3.560 billion, with the federal requirement at \$3.027 billion. The total funded estimate (received since inception through FY25 and anticipated through FY2026) is \$2.631 billion, with the federal requirement at \$2.141 billion. An anticipated \$94.8 million has been earmarked to be received into the program in FY26. Current Task Force-approved funding for projects in Phase I, Phase II, and O&M and Monitoring totals \$2.823 billion, with the federal requirement at \$2.401 billion. The estimate of authorized funding for each agency as requested currently totals \$2.525 billion with the federal requirement at \$2.139 billion which does not exceed the Total Program Estimate.

The federal funds received through FY25 of \$2,141,047,088 were reduced by the federal cost share requirements for all authorized projects totaling \$2,139,070,541. Leaving the Trust Fund with a remainder of \$1,976,547.

The program estimate from PPL 1 through PPL 34 is \$3,563,081,686. With the Phase I and Phase II recommended authorizations of \$139,108,464, the new program estimate is \$3,702,190,150.

The carryforward federal balance of \$1,976,547 as of December 2025, along with the FY26 Sport Fish Restoration Boating Trust Fund estimate of \$94,883,221 and \$4,289,399 in Project Closeout Funds being returned to the program, to arrive at a total of \$101,149,167 in available funds for today's meeting. After the reduction of \$65,339,870 in recommended Phase I and Phase II authorizations, leaves a remaining balance of \$35,809,297.

CWPPRA has authorized 241 projects, 95 of which are active. The active projects consist of 15 that are currently in Phase I Engineering and Design, 16 in Phase II Construction, 58 now in the O&M and Monitoring phase and 6 support programs – Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (**CRMS**), Monitoring Contingency, Storm Recovery, **Construction Program Technical Support**, the Navigational Aid and Signage Program, and the Wetland Conservation Plan. Additionally, CWPPRA has completed 73 projects, deauthorized 50 projects, transferred 12 projects, and placed 11 in the inactive category.

Col. Autin thanked Ms. Barbé for her presentation and called for Task Force and Public comments; none were proffered.

Agenda Item #3 – Report: Electronic Votes and Approvals (Amanda Landry, USACE)

Col. Autin called upon Ms. Amanda Landry to present results of recent electronic voting.

Ms. Landry explained that because of the government shutdown, the October 9, 2025 Task Force meeting was cancelled. In lieu of re-scheduling the meeting, an electronic vote was passed by the Task Force on December 5th on the agenda items that were to be presented for approval at that meeting. Requests for incremental administrative and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding for constructed cash flow and non-cashflow projects in addition to other agenda items were recommended by the Technical Committee. The Task Force reviewed these recommendations and voted to approve them. Materials are available on-line.

The Technical Committee and Task Force approved the scope change of CS-81 Sabine Cycles 6 & 7 Marsh Creation project on December 9th. FWS and CPRA requested an electronic vote for a scope change due to the increase in Fully Funded Cost of 50% from the 2017 PPL 27 estimates to those of the recent 2025 95% Design estimates. Additionally, the quantities for material have increased dramatically, and the mobilization/demobilization costs have increased significantly since 2017

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

Agenda Item #4 – Report: Construction Update (Amanda Landry, USACE)

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

Mr. Craig Gothreaux, NOAA, presented a construction update on CS-78 No Name Bayou Marsh Creation and Nourishment and thanked the project team. The project is located in Cameron Parish, south of Calcasieu Lake. Using borrow from Calcasieu Lake, four marsh creation areas will be constructed for a total of 466 acres. Construction commenced with containment dikes July 2024 with a contract time of 455 days. He proceeded to present a series of maps depicting the project location and features. Mr. Gothreaux then showed aerial photos of the project under construction. The external and internal dikes have been completed. Venture Global is interested in taking over the project as part of its BUDMAT program continuing to work with Mike Hooks, LLC.

Ms. Dawn Davis, NOAA, presented a construction update for BS-38, Breton Landbridge (West) River aux Chenes to Grand Lake in place of Ms. January Murray, NOAA. Ms. Davis then thanked the project team. She showed a series of maps indicating the project's location within Plaquemines Parish, in the Breton Basin. The project received Phase II funding in January 2022, and the Notice to Proceed was issued in July 2025. Pelican Coast Dredging was awarded the 540-day contract with a construction cost of \$22,950,000. The goals of the project are to rebuild wetlands along the South side of Grand Lake and also to complete a piece of the Breton Land Bridge concept with 433 acres in four marsh creation cells with borrow from Grand Lake. Ms. Davis then proceeded to show a series of photos of the lakeside berms and marsh creation cells. A second dredge will be mobilized to complete MCA 3, then advance to MCA 2 and 4. She then highlighted marsh creation cell 5 as lagniappe funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, thus leveraging funds to build additional acres. The project completion is anticipated January 2027.

Mr. John Savell, FWS, provided a construction update on BA-217 Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration. He thanked the project team and showed project maps with location and features. The project history highlights were presented, including Phase II approval, which occurred in January 2023. In March 2024 bids were advertised, followed by bid opening in April 2024. In May 2024, the Task Force approved a construction budget increase of \$4.8 million, which allowed for the contract to be awarded. The state was able to provide additional funding with \$12.1 million from surplus funds and an additional \$1 million in OCM funds for alternate 1, marsh creation area 3 containing 73 acres. In June 2024 the construction contract was awarded to Weeks Marine followed by the Notice to Proceed issued August 6, 2024. The construction budget was \$52 million, including contingency, and construction costs were \$46.5 million. Mr. Savell then showed a project overview map and construction photos and discussed the current status. The pre-construction surveys have been completed, including the magnetometer surveys. In January, 2025, construction of the external containment dikes of all marsh creation areas commenced. Hydraulic dredging began in August 2025 followed by a completion of heavy construction anticipated in January 2026.

Mr. Robert Dubois, FWS, presented a construction update of the BS-32 Mid-Breton Land Bridge Marsh Creation and Terracing project. He thanked the project team, highlighting Taylor Chassignac, the construction engineer. He then described the project location in Plaquemines Parish along Bayou Terre aux Boeufs and north of Bayou Gentilly. In January 2023 bids were advertised and in April 2023, a reduction in scope involved the removal of terraces and marsh creation area five, as well as a reduction of acreage in marsh creation unit two. The construction contract was awarded in May 2023, with construction of the earthen containment dikes commencing in September 2023. An expansion request was granted in February 2024 and in May 2024 the Task Force granted an additional construction funds. Construction is expected to be completed by March of 2026. Mr. Dubois proceeded to show maps and images of marsh creation

cells with various levels of construction that also demonstrated the vulnerability of the communities that the project will help protect. He concluded with the cubic yards needed for each marsh creation cell and what was available from the borrow area.

Colonel Autin thanked all of the project teams for the construction updates.
Col. Autin opened the floor for Task Force, then to the public; none were proffered.

Agenda Item #5 – Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Lauren Leonpacher, USGS)

Lauren Leonpacher, CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator, began by welcoming Colonel and how those involved with the program do so with pride and enthusiasm. She then highlighted numerous activities, projects and events that the Outreach team was involved in from April 24, 2025 – January 9, 2025 with a series of slides containing photos of the Outreach team at events and images of the various materials they provide to the public.

The CWPPRA Outreach team is able to connect with professionals at conferences attended. State of the Coast was from May 20-22, 2025 in New Orleans. The CWPPRA session was well attended with a variety of excellent speakers was *Lessons Learned with Leading Legislation: CWPPRA's 35 Years of Impact across the Coast*. The National Marine Teachers Association was June 29-July 3, 2025 in Lafayette. This is an international marine educators conference at which Taiwanese attendees kept returning to the CWPPRA team repeatedly for additional information.

Community events are a great way to connect with the public. Coastal Day at the Capitol was held May 12, 2025 in Baton Rouge. The Smithsonian WaterWays Exhibit at Louisiana's Old State Capitol Museum was held June 26, 2025 also in Baton Rouge. Summer camps are a great way for the Outreach team to reach students and potential future advocates for the coast. Environmental Science Summer Camp, ULL was June 11, 2025 in Lafayette. Students learned about different types of terraces and their arrangements and how they impact the surrounding area. Also at UL Lafayette, the GIS Summer Camp was at USGS WARC, June 25. Students learned about using aerial imagery and CRMS for land/water analysis.

Social Media Engagement and Electronic Outreach remain strong for the CWPPRA program. There are nearly 5000 social media followers and nearly 1800 Newsflash subscribers.

Ms. Leonpacher continued to present ongoing projects and upcoming events. The 2024 CWPPRA Report to Congress and Nutria Program Activity Book are currently available in print and online. There are new CWPPRA stickers, which are always popular. There is a new informational booklet with games and wordsearches. New CRMS resources are now available online. The updated training manual, headed up by Rachel Villani, the new CRMS Fact Sheet as well as YouTube Tutorial are available. *WaterMarks360* is enjoying great success, with over 3.9 million page views, over 1.2 virtual tours taken, and more than 1.1 million student guides downloaded. Approximately two-thirds of users are from Louisiana, with the remainder from throughout the US and some international. The most recent endeavor, Moving Water, based on the CS-49 Cameron Creole Freshwater Introduction project, is aimed at high schoolers. The reusable materials for the classroom were demonstrated, including a board game and hydrology table. Future teacher trainings will be announced online. CWPPRA project fact sheets and CRMS data have been a remarkable tool to use in the classroom. Ms. Leonpacher went on to highlight several local festivals, events and project site visits at which Outreach members were present and/or involved. The Nicholls State University Coastal Center CWPPRA Exhibit development is ongoing.

Ms. Leonpacher thanked Ms. Kacie Wright as an integral member of the CWPPRA team who has been instrumental to the Outreach Committee and is now with the Water Institute. Ms. Leonpacher concluded by inviting all in attendance to peruse the resources the Outreach team brought and encouraged them to take some.

Col. Autin commended Ms. Leonpacher for her presentation and thanked her for being the voice of CWPPRA. He commended the efforts of the Outreach Committee to reach and engage the public, while growing future CWPPRA enthusiasts.

Col. Autin called for Task Force questions or comments, then he called for public questions or comments; none were proffered.

Mr. Lezina, CPRA, appreciated the efforts of Ms. Leonpacher and the Outreach Committee for turning technical documents into information that is appreciated by the public. Engagement with constituents and future voters is very important.

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

Leigh Anne Sharp (CPRA) was called to present the CRMS update. She began with programmatic notes, changes to site locations and data review:

Programmatic notes include the coastwide flight update. The 2024 imagery collection captured changes since 2021 including Ida recovery, drought impacts, and Francine damage. This has been completed and USGS analysis is ongoing. The data set is collected every three years 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015/2016, 2018, 2021, 2024, 2027 which allow for comparisons.

Replacing three CRMS sites was necessary because of land rights expirations: CRMS 0464 and CRMS 0465 will be replaced with sites that capture active delta processes, one in Wax Lake Delta, and the other in the Main Atchafalaya Delta. CRMS 0464 will be replaced with CRMS 0484, being reactivated on the Wax Lake Delta. Vegetation surveys of original plots were completed in September. Installation of RSET rod and construction of boardwalk expected in the spring. CRMS 0465 will be replaced with CRMS 0461, selected using original CRMS methods.. CRMS 0465 was real time, now CRMS 0461 will be real time. It is more protected and captures similar conditions, fresh marsh, active delta. This is expected to be online this winter. CRMS 0046 will be replaced with CRMS 6402. Site captured relatively high quality Maurepas swamp conditions. Will be replaced with a site with similar conditions on nearby Joyce WMA. Installation of RSET rod and construction of boardwalk expected in the spring.

The data review includes 2025 CRMS Monitoring Updates. Spring RSET/accretion was completed in April and data is available online. Erosion continues; last measurements from CRMS0178 was shown in a series of images as it converted to open water from 2019 to August 2025. Hydrology data collection is continuous and ongoing. Preparing stations for duck season deployment. Summer/Fall Vegetation monitoring field work is complete and QA/QC is ongoing. Analysis will capture ongoing drought impacts and hurricane recovery. See CRMS0580 example of late *Spartina patens* green-up. In the lower Deltaic Plain land loss is depositional, surface elevation is stable. There is a trend with significant elevation gain of edge deposition, then a sharp decrease immediately before land loss is seen. Increased salinity has also been noted. This sharp increase followed by a significant decrease is seen with CRMS 0178. In terms of drought recovery, the Chenier Plain is still seeing latent drought effects, as the area did not green up until later

in the growing season. This is possibly because of sulfides in the soil, The area is continuing to see vegetation expansion and and kind of recovery.

Col. Autin thanked Ms. Sharp for her presentation and called for questions or comments from the Task Force, then the public; none were proffered.

Agenda Item #7 – Report: Coastwide Nutria Control Program – Annual Report (Jennifer Hogue-Manuel, LDWF)

Colonel Autin invited Ms. Jennifer Hogue-Manuel, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to provide a report on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program, LA – 03b. Ms. Hogue Manuel explained that as manager of the Coastwide Nutria Program, she will be updating the Task force on the previous 2024-2025 season, which was the 23rd season of the program. The federal sponsor of the program is NRCS and along with LDWF work in conjunction with Coastal Environments Incorporated to carry out the program the goal to reduce marsh damage through nutria herbivory by removing up to 400,000 nutria per year. This incentive program pays hunters and trappers \$6 per nutria tail from all of coastal Louisiana, South of I-10 from Texas to Baton Rouge and then South of I-12 from Baton Rouge to Mississippi border. The season runs from November 20 of one year through March 31 of the next. For the 2024-2025 season, 258 active participants were responsible for 357,015 nutria harvested. The largest number of tails turned in by one participant was 63,118, the smallest number was five, with an average number of 1,587. Residents of Plaquemines Parish contribute a large number of tails to the program. Due to the drought, the 2023-2024 season saw 401,312 nutria harvested by 225 active participants. It is still early in the current season with 34,856 tails being harvested thus far with 287 registered participants. Fresh water, marsh and swamp and our intermediate marsh types tends to produce the largest amounts of nutria, with greater harvests in March . Most nutria are harvested via 22 rifles in areas where they mandate a non-toxic shot and some prefer to trap the nutria. The annual damage assessment was conducted in April 2025 flying transects across the coast with the exception of the salt marshes. The team is looking for nutria, trails as well as nutria-built marsh platforms. For the 2025 damage assessment, 22 damaged sites were mapped, covering approximately 1000 acres, most in northern Terrebonne Parish. Ms. Hogue-Manuel concluded with the success of the program to reduce marsh damage caused by nutria.

Col. Autin thanked Ms. Hogue-Manuel for her presentation and explained that he was fortunate enough to have participated in the nutria program as a young boy and teenager. He then called for questions or comments from the Task Force, then the public; none were proffered

Agenda Item #9 -- Additional Agenda Items

Col. Autin then asked for any additional agenda items from the Task Force.

Ms. Amanda Landry requested an opportunity to recognize the retirement of the NOAA CWPPRA Task Force representative. Mr. Chris Doley, Task Force Representative for about 15 years, has been instrumental to CWPPRA since its early days.

Mr. Lezina, CPRA, thanked Mr. Doley for his service to the CWPPRA program and to the state of Louisiana. The long-standing relationships with NOAA across several platforms has been vital, particularly the relationship with Mr. Doley with his constant presence and steadiness. Mr. Doley not only serves coastal Louisiana, but also coastal states across the US. Mr. Lezina

concluded with a sincere personal thank you to Mr. Doley for his commitment to the overall CWPPRA mission.

Mr. Paul stated the appreciation of NRCS for Mr. Doley's leadership over the years as well as the ability to work together on specific projects. He appreciated Mr. Doley's collaboration, working with the program and keeping things moving. He then expressed his enjoyment working with Mr. Doley as he worked with USDA and the Louisiana TIG from the oil spill. Mr. Paul continued with gratitude for Mr. Doley's connectivity with many programs and everything Mr. Doley had done for the CWPPRA program. Mr. Paul concluded that Mr. Doley will be missed.

Mr. Doley responded with gratitude for all the kind words and explained that he was introduced to CWPPRA in 1991. Once the Oil Pollution Act passed, NOAA's perspective on dealing with oil spills was needed. He acknowledged the critical need for coastal restoration in Louisiana is matched by the consistent passion and energy of its people. Mr. Doley then expressed gratitude for being a part of the restoration efforts. He then announced Mr. Mel Landry will be the new Task Force member for NOAA.

Col. Autin remarked that Mr. Doley's comments were beautifully stated. He then asked for any additional agenda items from the public; none were proffered.

VII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Colonel Autin called for any additional public comments.

Mr. Tommy McGinnis, Vermilion Parish Police Jury, thanked the Task Force for their consideration of Freshwater Bayou candidate project. He reiterated the need for the project and its potential impacts on navigation and the Port of Iberia. He acknowledged the project's potential for increased critical area of need and cost effectiveness.

Colonel Autin thanked Mr. McGinnis for his comments.

Col. Autin then asked for any additional agenda items from the Task Force and the public; none were proffered.

VIII. CLOSING

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

A. Priority Project List 36 Regional Planning Team Meetings

February 3, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Lake Charles
February 4, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Morgan City
February 5, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
February 27, 2026	10:30 a.m.	Coastwide Electronic Vote Released	<i>(via email, no meeting)</i>

B. The Technical Committee meeting will be held April 9, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

C. Future Program Meetings*

February 3, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team Meeting	Lake Charles
February 4, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Region III Planning Team Meeting	Morgan City

February 5, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team Meeting	Lacombe
April 9, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge
May 7, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Task Force Meeting	Lafayette
September 10, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge
October 8, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Task Force Meeting	New Orleans
December 10, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	New Orleans

IX. Adjournment

Col. Autin expressed appreciation for everyone in attendance and their comments in today's meeting. He asked for final Task Force comments.

Mr. Lezina made the motion; then Mr. Jones seconded. The motion carried without dissent and the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.