

BREAUX ACT
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
TASK FORCE MEETING
06 May 2026
Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Colonel Scotty Autin convened the 116th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on May 6, 2026, and was conducted at the Nicholls State Coastal Center at 426 Ardoyne Drive Thibodaux, LA 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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Mr. Christopher Cooley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Mr. Troy Hill, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Mr. Brian Lezina, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
- Mr. Mel Landry, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS)
- Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

A copy of the agenda is included as **Encl 1**. A copy of the attendee sheet is included as **Encl 2**.

III. OPENING REMARKS

Agenda Item 1. Meeting Initiation (Col. Scotty Autin, USACE)

Colonel Autin introduced himself as the Commander and District Engineer for the New Orleans District and invited the Task Force to introduce themselves; they did so in turn. Mr. Mel Landry introduced himself as the National Marine Fisheries Service Task Force representative and acknowledged this was his first meeting a Task Force member. He continued with the highlights of his career in coastal restoration and explained he grew up in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes. Mr. Landry stated that he was glad to be back working with CWPPRA and fulfilling his dream of becoming a Task Force member. Colonel Autin thanked all of the Task Force members and welcomed Mr. Landry. Col. then stated as a Houma native, it is a pleasure to serve as the Task Force chair and exciting to be at the Nicholls Coastal Center at the University from which his father was graduated. Col. Autin then recognized the amazing work this program had been able to accomplish in just over 35 years across Federal agencies as well as the state. Col. Autin noted his appreciation for the opportunity to continue building the productive partnerships that focus on rebuilding the state's wetlands. Colonel Autin concluded by praising the program's protection and

restoration of nearly 105,000 acres however, there continues to be great need, which the CWPPRA Task Force will address at today's meeting.

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. Hill seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Colonel Autin requested Ms. Amanda Landry, USACE, report the procedure for public comment within this hybrid meeting format, for those in person and attending virtually. Col. Autin also asked those attending in person to sign in for the record.

Colonel Autin called on Ms. Landry to present minutes of the 22 January 2026 Task Force meeting. Ms. Landry stated that the minutes had been sent to Task Force members previously for comment and approval; edits have been incorporated, and the final draft of the minutes is provided in the Task Force binders. In lieu of reading them, she asks that the Task Force consider approving them as submitted.

Colonel Autin opened the floor for comment from the Task Force and none were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Hill made the motion, which Mr. Cooley seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS

Agenda Item 9a./9b/9c. Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects (Amanda Landry, USACE)

Ms. Landry reported the P&E met on 11 March 2026 to discuss the path forward for projects nearing their 20-year life. Projects can be closed out, transferred, or have their project lives extended. Ms. Landry explained that the Task Force will hear the Technical Committee recommendations of the following paths forward for project end of life and then called on Project Managers to present them.

One project is hereby being recommended for a specific path forward for a project closeout with no additional cost increase

- a. Projects reporting closeout with no cost increase:

CS-28-3	Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycle 3	USACE	30 Sept 30
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Dr. Terri Von Hoven, USACE, presented the request for approval of the path forward for CS-28-3, Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycle 3, which is requesting closeout with no cost increase. She began by acknowledging the USACE sponsored project's end of life in September 2030 and highlighting the project goal of creating 232 acres of emergent vegetated wetland. The project

was originally approved as part of PPL 8 in 1999 and has approximately \$66,000 remaining. She explained the project was later broken into five cycles and Cycle 3 was funded for E&D and construction in 2004. The marsh creation project used dredged material from the Calcasieu Ship Channel as part of USACE maintenance dredging in September 2006 and completed the following year. Dr. Von Hoven displayed maps and highlighted the success of the project as having 94% land eight years post-construction and experiencing elevation gain.

One project is hereby being recommended for a specific path forward for a project time extension with no additional cost increase:

b. Projects requesting approval for time extension with no cost increase:

BA-27	Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 1 & 2	NRCS	5 July 29
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Mr. Eric Whitney, NRCS, presented the request for approval of the path forward of a project time extension with no cost increase for the BA-27 Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 1 & 2 project that reaches the end of its 20 year life in July 2029. Mr. Whitney showed a project map and discussed project features and maintenance events. He followed with a series of photographs showing the project condition following Hurricane Ida. He explained the request for the time extension of the project to December 31, 2036 was requested so the closeout could coincide with the end of the project life of the Barataria Basin Landbridge Protection Phase 3 BA-27c project.

c. Projects pursuing 20-year project life extension through formal evaluation:

CS-28-2	Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycle 2	USACE	28 Apr 30
CS-29	Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS	26 Jan 30
PO-30	Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection	EPA	12 Apr 30

Dr. Terri Von Hoven, USACE, presented the request for approval to pursue project life extension through formal evaluation for CS-28-2, Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycle 2. She began by acknowledging the USACE sponsored project's end of life in April 2030 and remaining budget of more than \$2.5 million. She continued by highlighting the project goal to create a pipeline to transport dredged material from dedicated maintenance dredging events to be beneficially used for marsh creation and nourishment. The project was originally approved as part of PPL 8 in 1999 that was later broken into five cycles. Dr. Von Hoven continued with a description of the location and project features of a permanent pipeline of approximately 3.54 miles of 29-inch inner diameter fusion-bonded epoxy coated X60 carbon steel, with two fenced in temporary booster pump connections. She then described the successful use of the permanent pipeline to create Cycles 4 and 5 in 2015 and will be undergoing inspection for soundness for possible use with constructing Cycles 6 and 7 in the fall. She concluded with project team's assessment to request an extension of the life of the project to be used in potential future marsh creation cycles with no cost increase.

Ms. Angela Trahan, NRCS, presented the request for approval to pursue project life extension through formal evaluation of the NRCS sponsored CS-29 Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration project. She began with a series of maps depicting the project location and features and explained the purpose of the project as providing relief to the marsh impacted by high water levels by restoring natural drainage out of Black Bayou. She continued highlighting important

project dates and stated \$1.2 million of project funds remain. Ms. Trahan then iterated the project goal to decrease the depth and duration of flooding events which contribute to marsh degradation within the sub-basin. She explained the project works in conjunction with the USACE's operation of the Lakes sub-basin structures including Calcasieu Lock, Catfish Point and Schooner Bayou water control structures, and the Freshwater Bayou and Leland Bowman Locks to manage water level and salinity. The goals of the plan were to reduce flood duration within the project area and increase percent cover, stem height, and species richness of emergent vegetation. A list of all maintenance events was presented followed by the CWPPRA 20 Year Life Matrix. She then showed a series of graphs explaining that the project is doing well to control salinity and there is a positive response in vegetation, but it is not as successful at controlling water levels. This is due to reference sites that continue to be consistently flooded, on average, greater than 90% of the time. Ms. Trahan presented the future analysis planned by the project team. She concluded with the preliminary assessment of the project cost benefit analysis and risk assessment. The preliminary cost estimate to remove project features is approximately \$4.6 million whereas the cost to extend the life of the project for 20 years was approximately \$3.7 million.

Ms. Taylor Chassaignac, CPRA, presented the request for approval to pursue project life extension through formal evaluation of the EPA sponsored PO-30 Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection project. She began with a map showing the location of the PPL 10 project and explained the project goals to prevent or reduce the Lake Borgne shoreline retreat in the areas adjacent to Old Shell Beach and Bayou Dupre to mitigate further joining of the Lake and MRGO, reestablishing a sustainable lake rim, and preventing and/or reducing conversion of emergent marsh to open water. A project balance of nearly \$600,000 remained and list of all maintenance events was presented followed by the CWPPRA 20 Year Life Matrix. Ms. Chassaignac then displayed a series of photos and explained the project features as rock breakwater (condition: functional, some low spots, composite sheet pile (condition: mostly deteriorated), and a double steel sheet pile wall at the mouth of Bayou Dupre with rocks between the two rows of sheet pile (condition: fully functional, some corrosion). She reiterated the recommended path forward to formally evaluate a request of 20 additional years of inspection to observe any changes to the structures, identify needs for maintenance, and prevent hazards to navigation.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force. Mr. Landry requested that the report on the soundness of the pipeline of Sabine Cycle 2 be distributed to the Task Force and Technical Committee for review. None from the public were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommended paths forward for the CS-28-3, Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycle 3 project, the BA-27 Baratavia Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 1 & 2 project and the CS-28-2, Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycle 2, CS-29, Black Bayou Culverts Hydrologic Restoration, and PO-30 Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection projects as presented. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Hill seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 10. Report/Decision: Request for a No Cost Time Extension for Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-0004) Project (Brent Bouy, CPRA)

Brent Bouy, CPRA presented the NRCS and CPRA request for approval of the recommendation to the Task Force for a two-year no cost time extension for Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration to execute final maintenance event. Final closeout is anticipated 15 December 2028.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for a Two-Year No Cost Time Extension for Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-0004) Project. Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr Paul seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 11. Report/Decision: Request for a No Cost Time Extension for South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-0022) Project (Brent Bouy, CPRA)

Brent Bouy, CPRA, presented the USACE and CPRA request for approval of the recommendation to the Task Force for a one-year no cost time extension for South White Lake Shoreline Protection to conduct sign maintenance and project closeout. Final closeout is anticipated 29 August 2027.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for a One-Year No Cost Time Extension for South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-0022) Project. Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Hill seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 12. Report/Decision: Request for a No Cost Time Extension for Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-0016) (Dion Broussard, CPRA)

Dion Broussard, CPRA, presented the USFWS and CPRA request for approval of the recommendation to the Task Force for a two-year no cost time extension for Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 ME-0016 to engineer, design, and conduct Hurricane Laura repairs. Final closeout is anticipated 13 December 2028.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for a Two-Year No Cost Time Extension for Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-0016) Project. Mr. Cooley made the motion, which Mr. Landry seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 13. Report/Decision: Request for a No Cost Time Extension for Grand-White Lakes Landbridge Protection (ME-0019) (Dion Broussard, CPRA)

Dion Broussard, CPRA, presented the USFWS and CPRA request for approval of the recommendation to the Task Force for a one-year no cost time extension to receive survey report and perform final maintenance event if needed. Final closeout is anticipated 1 October 2027.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for a Request for a One-Year No Cost Time Extension for Grand-White Lakes Landbridge Protection (ME-0019) Project. Mr. Cooley made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 14. Report/Decision: Request for a Two-Year Extension with No Cost Increase for the Naomi Outfall Management (BA-03c) Project Jackie Jones, (NRCS)

Jackie Jones, NRCS, presented the NRCS and CPRA request for approval of the recommendation to the Task Force for a two-year extension with no cost increase for BA-03c. This would allow for a final maintenance event for both BA-03c and nearby BA-41 to be done concurrently so they can bid out simultaneously and closed-out 6 June 2028.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for a Two Year No Cost Time Extension for Naomi Outfall Management (BA-03c) Project. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 15. Report/Decision: Early Closeout with No Cost Increase for South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration Project (BA-41) Project (Jackie Jones, NRCS)

Jackie Jones, NRCS, presented the NRCS and CPRA request for approval of the recommendation to the Task Force for an early closeout with no cost increase for BA-41 to be in conjunction with nearby Naomi Outfall Management Project (BA-03c) on 6 June 2028.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for an Early Closeout with No Cost Increase for South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration Project (BA-41). Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Landry seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

Agenda Item 16. Decision: Request for Change in Scope for CS-88 East Cove Marsh Creation Project (Angela Trahan, NRCS)

Angela Trahan, NRCS, presented the NRCS and CPRA request for approval for a change in scope for CS-88 East Cove Marsh Creation Project. The proposed scope change is necessary due to the ongoing placement of beneficial use of dredged material from the construction of the Venture Global, Calcasieu Pass and Commonwealth LNG facilities, and requires a project relocation approximately 4 miles to the northeast within the Cameron Creole Watershed. The change in scope still meets the original project goals to restore marshes within the CCW to elevations that are within the optimal inundation range and restores marsh adjacent to the CCW levee.

Approximately \$2.76 million has been authorized for E&D, with about \$2.4 million remaining. Ms. Trahan continued that the project team halted work when made aware of LNG interest in beneficial use in the project area. She explained this is an opportunity for the CWPPRA program to work strategically and synergistically with other large scale restoration projects to restore the CCW marshes. Ms. Trahan concluded that the flexibility of the program provides the opportunity to leverage data collection, design, and permitting efforts resulting in cost and time savings and ultimately getting more projects constructed in the area with this scope change.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. Mr. Lezina commented that this is similar to the No Name Bayou agenda item where a third party is interested in constructing a CWPPRA project. In this case, it is happening earlier in the process, so the team is seeking to take a watershed approach to have a similar project in a different location in the vicinity. Mr. Lezina continued that flexibility is a must to take advantage of opportunities to maximize the efforts of the program. Mr. Landry commented that this project is early in E&D as are 17 other projects while 18 are in construction. The program has more need than it has money and should prioritize construction. This project is moving 4 miles and is essentially a new project that should be included in next year's PPL process. Col. Autin sought clarification of a precedent or a historical advantage to utilizing other funding sources at different phases and executing those plans and specs to CWPPRA standards. Mr. Lezina replied, yes, and that in some cases, the size of the project is amplified. He mentioned CWPPRA as an incubator to move projects forward. Colonel continued that a set of plans and specs would be generated that can be used by CWPPRA or another funding agency to create wetlands to assist with coastal protection. Mr. Cooley commented that taking that watershed approach, there is interest and activity by other entities looking to invest in the area. He then inquired if it was in the best interest of the program to advance to invest more time and money in this project if there is a high probability that this will lead to a situation similar to the other. Mr. Lezina explained the state's perspective that the scope change does fit into the state's big picture for the area. He acknowledged that there is always that chance, however the state is making a better effort with coordination with these interested entities. Mr. Lezina continued that having a design that fulfills CWPPRA's mission assists companies with beneficial use. Col. Autin commented that the program must be accountable and thoughtful when considering all the factors when making decisions such as this. Mr. Paul summarized the scope change request highlighting the opportunity to design a project in the same watershed that will benefit the area and provide the land that is necessary. Ms. Trahan concluded that there is a good relationship with Venture Global and they are interested in the goals that the project is trying to achieve. None from the public were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the recommendation for a change in scope for CS-88 East Cove Marsh Creation Project. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded. In opposition were Mr. Landry, and Mr. Cooley. The motion passed because of the majority in support.

Agenda Item 17. Report/Decision: FY27 Planning Budget Approval, including the PPL 37 Process, and Presentation of FY27 Outreach Budget

Ms. Landry presented the recommended PPL 37 Process as follows:

a. After meeting on 11 March 2026, the P&E Committee is recommending minor changes to the PPL process. These changes include “No votes will be counted after the time and date specified” following the sentence “Votes are due by 10:30 a.m. on the date specified.” The recommendation to the Task Force for approval requests that the PPL 37 Process includes selecting four nominees each in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins; three projects each in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins; two nominees each in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Teche/Vermilion Basins; one nominee in the Atchafalaya Basin; and one nominee in the Coastwide category. One project is recommended to be added in the Mississippi River Basin. As part of the CWPPRA Priority Project List (PPL) process, all proposed projects must be assessed for consistency with the current version of the CPRA Coastal Master Plan. Previous versions of the Coastal Master Plan listed specific project ideas, and at the time no projects were listed for the Mississippi River Delta. For this reason, the Mississippi River Delta region was removed from the CWPPRA PPL process. However, the 2023 Coastal Master Plan has now introduced programmatic goals, which means projects that meet the programmatic goals but are not explicitly listed in the plan are still considered consistent with the Coastal Master Plan. To that end, it is recommended to re-include the Mississippi River Delta for consideration in the CWPPRA PPL process, with 1 project allocated to that basin, which would provide opportunities for programmatically consistent projects to be considered in this region moving forward. CWPPRA remains flexible and if changes are required prior to the RPT meetings, those changes will be brought forth through a public meeting later in the year.

Col. Autin called for a motion to approve the PPL-37 process as presented. Mr. Cooley made the motion, which Mr. Hill seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

b. Ms. Lauren Leonpacher, on behalf of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee, presented the request thus:

A recommendation to the Task Force to approve the unchanged FY27 Outreach Committee Budget, in the amount of \$452,113.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion for Task Force approval of the FY27 Outreach Committee Budget as iterated. Mr. Paul made the motion, which Mr. Lezina seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

c. Ms. Connie Barbe presented the request for the development of the 2027 CWPPRA Report to Congress to be funded in the amount of \$95,000. As required by law, the CWPPRA Task Force submits a report to Congress that communicates the effectiveness of CWPPRA projects every three years. USACE is requesting the development of the 2027 CWPPRA Report to Congress to be funded in the amount of \$95,000.

Mr. Landry, because of his previous experience recommended getting the Outreach Committee involved as the report is a communications tool.

Col. Autin called for a motion for Task Force approval of the 2027 CWPPRA Report to Congress to be funded in the amount of \$95,000 as iterated. Mr. Cooley made the motion, which Mr. Hill seconded; the motion carried without opposition

d. Ms. Connie Barbe presented the request of the FY27 Planning Budget, which is itemized in the binders and includes Outreach Committee Budget and 2027 Report to Congress, and totals \$5,095,000.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. None were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion for Task Force approval of the FY27 Planning Budget as iterated. Mr. Lezina made the motion, which Mr. Landry seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

Agenda Item 18. Report/Decision: Selection of Ten Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 36 (Dawn Davis, NMFS)

Task Force reviewed PPL 36 nominees in the following table. Project fact sheets and maps were provided in Task Force review materials.

Region	Basin	PPL 36 Nominees	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	North Rigolets Marsh Creation Project	NOAA
1	Pontchartrain	Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection	FWS
1	Pontchartrain	Manchac WMA Shoreline Protection	NRCS
2	Breton Sound	Spanish/Grand Lake Shoreline Restoration and Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Breton Sound	Reggio West Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration	EPA/NOAA
2	Breton Sound	Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	Barataria	Southeast Golden Meadow Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation, Increment 2	NRCS
2	Barataria	Bayou Laurier Marsh Creation and Terracing	EPA
2	Barataria	Little Lake Dedicated Dredging near Bay L'Ours	NOAA
3	Terrebonne	Carencro Bayou Diversion	NRCS
3	Terrebonne	West Lake DeCade Marsh Creation Project	NOAA
3	Terrebonne	Point au Fer Marsh Creation and Nourishment	EPA
3	Terrebonne	West Isle de Jean Charles Marsh Creation	FWS
3	Teche-Vermilion	Freshwater Bayou East Restoration	NRCS/NOAA
3	Teche-Vermilion	Boston-Oaks Canal Hydrologic Restoration	NRCS
4	Mermentau	Hog Bayou Stabilization and Marsh Creation	NRCS
4	Mermentau	South Pecan Island Marsh Creation	NRCS
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Peconi Bayou Marsh Creation	NOAA
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	Holly Beach East Shoreline Protection	NRCS

Ms. Dawn Davis, NMFS was called upon to announce the ten (of twenty nominated) projects selected as PPL 36 candidates for Phase 0 analysis at the 9 April 2026 Technical Committee

meeting. She summarized each project (location, features, net acreage and estimated cost) as listed below:

Region	Basin	PPL 36 Candidates	Agency
1	Pontchartrain	Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection	FWS
2	Breton Sound	Spanish/Grand Lake Shoreline Restoration and Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Breton Sound	Reggio West Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration	EPA/NOAA
2	Breton Sound	Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation	NRCS
2	Barataria	Southeast Golden Meadow Marsh Creation	FWS
2	Barataria	Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation, Increment 2	NRCS
2	Barataria	Bayou Laurier Marsh Creation and Terracing	EPA
2	Barataria	Little Lake Dedicated Dredging near Bay L'Ours	NOAA
3	Teche-Vermilion	Freshwater Bayou East Restoration	NRCS/NOAA
4	Mermentau	Hog Bayou Stabilization and Marsh Creation	NRCS

Col. Requested that Ms. Landry explained the scoring, ranking, and voting, procedures and formally summarized the results; the selected projects are illustrated in the following table. Ms. Landry then announced the selected projects:

- Little Lake Dedicated Dredging near Bay L'Ours
- Hog Bayou Stabilization and Marsh Creation
- Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation, Increment 2
- Spanish/Grand Lake Shoreline Restoration and Marsh Creation
- Reggio West Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration
- Southeast Golden Meadow Marsh Creation
- Bayou Laurier Marsh Creation and Terracing
- Biloxi Marsh Shoreline Protection
- Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation
- Freshwater Bayou East Marsh Creation

Col. Autin thanked the workgroups for all of their hard work. He stated these ideas can start with a student, academic, federal, or state partner and then be further developed in the CWPPRA process. He continued that the strength of the program is the development of ideas by the partners that generate projects on the PPL list.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public; Tommy McGinnis, Vermilion Parish Police Jury stated his excitement with the development of the Fresh Water Bayou East project. He commented that increased boat traffic in the canal has caused land losses in the project area and that increase will continue with the recent ag mat installation.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force: none were proffered.

Col. Autin called for a motion for Task Force approval of the ten candidate projects to advance to compete for Phase I funding. Mr. Hill made the motion, which Mr. Paul seconded; the motion carried without opposition.

VI: TASK FORCE REPORTS

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

Ms. Landry reported on the one electronic vote since the last meeting regarding the TE-43 GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne project. NRCS and CPRA requested \$60,000 for field checks, updated engineering and design, and bidding for Alternative Sites 2 and 3 which are approximately 400 linear feet each. This request does not exceed the current O&M increment amount for TE-43. On 25 March 2026, the Technical Committee and Task Force voted to approve the request. For reference, the request was in accordance with CWPPRA SOP, Section 6 (n) (2).

Agenda Item 4. Report: Status of CWPPRA Program Funds and Projects (Connie Barbé USACE)

Ms. Connie Barbé, USACE, presented an overview of the status of CWPPRA funds as follows: The fully funded total program estimate since its inception through PPL 1 – 35 is \$3,693,988,238, with the federal contribution of \$3.141 billion. Total projected state and federal sources of funding (through FY26) for all authorized projects in addition to projected Department of the Interior (DOI) funds is \$2.631 billion. Current Task Force-approved budgets for projects in Phase I, Phase II and O&M totals \$2.900 billion, with the federal contribution of \$2.466 billion. Authorized funding obligated to each agency for approved project phases currently totals \$ 2.596 billion, with the federal contribution of \$2.200 billion. For today’s meeting, the available trust funds are in the amount of \$36,071,878.

A request for approval of the FY27 Planning Program budget is on the agenda. A total of \$570,838 has been carried over cumulatively through FY26. Added to that is the expected allocation of \$5,000,000 for Planning activities. Today’s funding request for FY27 Planning and Outreach totals \$5,095,000, which includes the Outreach Committee Budget of \$452,113 and development of the 2027 Report to Congress of \$95,000. If approved, a surplus of \$475,838 would remain for FY27.

Ms. Barbé then presented a pie chart summarizing projects as follows: CWPPRA has authorized 245 projects. There are 99 active projects including 17 in Phase 1 Engineering and Design, 18 in Phase 2 Construction, 58 projects that have been completed and are now in Operations, Maintenance and/ or Monitoring phase, and 6 program support projects. Additionally, CWPPRA has completed 73 projects (i.e. reached the 20-year life mark), deauthorized 50 projects, transferred 12 projects, and placed 11 in the inactive category.

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

Agenda Item 5. Report: Status of Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

Mr. Lezina explained that the CWPPRA program has been authorized for 36 years, however the funding is through separate legislation. Funding from the Trust Fund needs to be authorized every five years and this authorization is set to expire 30 September 2026. In the past, legislation has been linked to transportation bills to move forward. Mr. Lezina highlighted the importance of the program to the state as it is the cornerstone of the state’s coastal program. In addition to funding

CWPPRA, the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund provides funding for the North American Wildlife Conservation Act, as well as for boat ramps and other item of which the citizens of Louisiana are recipients, Mr. Lezina commented. He concluded with the need is imminent, important, and nonpartisan, and thus he requested constituents reach out to their members of Congress in support of the CWPPRA program.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. Mr. Mart Black, Director Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Manager, expressed his support of the program. He continued to explain the Coastal Zone Management Committee met and approved a letter that was sent to the entire congressional delegation addressing this very topic. Additionally, one of the members was in Washington and met with every member of the state's delegation urging passage and reauthorization of this particular legislation.

Mr. Lezina thanked Terrebonne Parish for their support.

Agenda Item 6. Report: Construction Update (Amanda Landry, USACE)

The CWPPRA agencies will provide a report on projects that are currently under construction and projects that have recently completed construction.

Ms. Landry introduced Mr. John Savell, FWS, as presenter of the BA-217, Grand Bayou Ridge Marsh Restoration project. Mr. Savell introduced his project team, CPRA team members: Tye Fitzgerald, Mr. Adam Linson, and Mr. Connor Hannan. He then showed a series of slides indicating the project location in CWPPRA's Region 2, Barataria Basin in the Plaquemines Parish just north of Port Sulphur, southeast of Lake Hermitage, and west of Highway 23 and the Mississippi River. The current total marsh creation nourishment is 322 acres, with roughly 9 acres of ridge restoration, which encompasses about 9,000 linear feet. The borrow would be Mississippi River. Phase II approval was in January 2023. March 2024, advertised for bids with an opening in April 2024. Mr. Savell continued that in May 2024 the Task Force approved a construction budget increase of about \$4.8 million. Additional state funding was awarded, which allowed for the alternate of the 73-acre Marsh Creation Area 3. In June 2024, Weeks Marine was awarded the construction contract and on August 6th of 2024, the NTP was issued. Mr. Savell reported the construction cost was \$46.5 million, with a construction budget of \$52 million, including contingency. In September 2024, survey and staking began with pre-construction and mag surveys completed. In January 2025, construction began on all three MCA containment dikes. In August 2025, hydraulic dredging began, with completion in January 2026. In April 2026, bid opening occurred for the planting of 5,265 woody stems on the ridge and 7,260 plugs of smoot cord grass on the Grand Bayou slope of the ridge feature. Mr. Savell concluded the construction update with a series of images depicting all of the marsh creation areas.

Mr. Mel Landry requested that Mr. Savell demonstrate where the ridge component of this project is in proximity to the marsh creation portion. Mr. Savell did as requested. Mr. Landry inquired about the target elevation to which Mr. Savell replied, he did have the information, just not offhand.

Ms. Landry invited Mr. John Savell, FWS, to present the construction update of the Mid Breton Land Bridge Marsh Creation and Terracing project, BS-32 for Mr. Robert Dubois. Mr. Savell began by introducing April Newman as the project manager, Chris Scalco as the project engineer, and Taylor Chassaignac as the construction engineer. The project is located in Plaquemines Parish,

west of Delacroix, and north of Bayou Gentilly. Construction plus contingency is about \$30 million, with a \$25 million construction contract. He explained a scope change in April of 2023 reduced the project footprint, the contract was awarded in May of 2023, and the earthen containment dike construction began that September. An expansion request granted in February 2024, and additional construction funding in May of 2025. Following a series of weather delays and other issues completion is expected in June 2026. Mr. Savell displayed a series of slides showing the project layouts. Mr. Savell stated the cubic yardage and number of lifts for each of the four marsh creation cells for a total of 2,735,173 cubic yards of material dredged. He concluded by highlighting the benefits of the project by protecting the Delacroix community and being a component of the Breton landbridge working in conjunction with a series of other projects in the vicinity.

Mr. Landry asked for clarification on the characterization of the project as a land bridge project and not a ridge restoration. Mr. Savell confirmed the project aims to support a land bridge.

Mr. Cooley appreciated Mr. Savell showing the overall landscape scale approach as well as how the projects tie together.

Ms. Landry introduced Mr. Brandon Howard, NOAA, to present the construction update of the East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing project, BS-37. Mr. Howard began explaining that the project is still early in the process with the contract awarded January 2026, the Notice to Proceed February 2, 2026 and anticipated construction completed date of July 2027 at a cost of \$22 million. He then introduced team members Jason Kroll, NOAA, and Alicia McAlhane, David Chambers, Joanne Tribou, and Sarah Bourg, all of CPRA. Mr. Howard highlighted the project features of two marsh creation areas of 412 acres, 4,360 linear feet of sediment retention terraces and 15,000 linear feet of earthen terraces. He explained that BS-41, which is funded for construction, is just to the north of the project. The southernmost marsh creation cell will be directionally dewatered into terraces built to capture any sediment moving through the system. Mr. Howard concluded with the terrace fields being constructed to protect against the southern and eastern winds that the area experiences.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. Mr. Earl Landry, Chenier Plain Levee Board, requested clarification on the area being protected. Mr. Howard explained the project would be protecting the community of Delacroix and Highway 300.

Ms. Landry invited Ms. January Murray, NOAA, to present the construction update of the Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West) River Aux Chenes to Grand Lake project, BS-38. Ms. Murray began by introducing the team from CPRA as Kent Bollfrass, David Chambers, Alex Holston and Justin Homer. She then continued with a construction update of the Plaquemines Parish project. The project was awarded Phase 2 funding in January 2022, the Notice to Proceed issued in July of 2025 with a 540-day contract with a construction cost of about \$23 million. Ms. Murray presented a series of maps depicting project location, features and construction progress. She continued explaining that all high water event damages to ECDs and Lake Dikes have been repaired. Despite equipment breakdowns, all 3 dredges have been used, but no more than 2 concurrently, and one dredge is currently working to finish filling of MCA-3. After completion of MCA-3, dredges will be moved to MCA-2 and MCA-4. ECD construction on MCA-1 and MCA-5 continues as does Lake Dike construction continues on MCAs 1, 2, 4, and 5. Ms. Murray concluded with the anticipated project completion date of January 2027.

Ms. Landry introduced Craig Gothreaux, NOAA, to present the update for No Name Bayou Marsh Creation Nourishment project, CS-78. He then showed a series of maps indicating the CS-78 location in Cameron Parish at the south end of Calcasieu Lake. The construction of containment dikes began in July of 2024, with a contract time is 455 days, and a total current construction cost of \$14.8 million. Mr. Gothreaux explained the borrow is from Calcasieu Lake for 466 acres of marsh creation and nourishment. Mr. Gothreaux proceeded to explain coordination with Venture Global LNG on their BUDMAT areas CP-1 and CP-2 berths. Mr. Gothreaux invited Mr. Lezina to continue with the update. Mr. Lezina began highlighting flexibility of the CWPPRA program, and the way that the program seeks to maximize the resources and funding of the program to amplify what can be done for coastal restoration for the State of Louisiana. He continued that there is a lot of activity along the coast by natural gas exporters searching for places to use material beneficially. NOAA and CPRA will request deauthorization of this project. Funds incurred with construction of the dikes will be returned to the program to be consistent with the Constitution of the State of Louisiana. Mr. Lezina then invited Mr. Landry of NOAA to continue. Mr. Landry reiterated that funds will be returned to the CWPPRA program permitting construction of another project and that CPRA and NOAA will continue to coordinate with Venture Global.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. Mr. Earl Landry, Chenier Plain Levee Board, stated Vermilion, Calcasieu and Cameron are in support of building projects in the area.

Col. Autin thanked all the project delivery teams on getting projects constructed. He requested that “before” photos be included in future construction updates to highlight project delivery.

Agenda Item 7. Report: Public Outreach Committee Report (Lauren Leonpacher, USGS)

Col. Autin requested Ms. Lauren Leonpacher of USGS present the Outreach Committee Report. Ms. Leonpacher expressed that is an honor to present the Outreach efforts to the Task Force. Ms. Leonpacher highlighted the outreach activities since January 2026 as follows:

The Outreach Committee participated in the CWPPRA Regional Planning Team Meetings in February where approximately 40 projects were presented. In March, the Outreach Committee participated in the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, special thanks to Graig Gothreaux. Also in March the Outreach Committee attended in the Coastal Day at the State Capitol. In April the Outreach Committee participated in the STEAM Career Day at Atelier de la Nature in Arnaudville. The hydrology table that represents the hydrologic restoration project, CS-49, was particularly popular with students. Ms. Leonpacher presented the social media numbers, which remain strong, with over 5,000 followers across all platforms, over 1,750 Newsflash subscribers with 18 Newsflashes shared and also highlighted 46 community calendar events. She stated the 5th Annual Wetlands Writing Contest winners were announced and the submissions were particularly impactful. Ongoing projects include Watermarks360 projects and teacher training workshops, the CWPPRA exhibit at the Nicholls Coastal Center, Wetlands Reading List & Library Display, USGS Education & Community Engagement Field Trips, Development of Print Materials, Digital Graphic Library, and Social Media Content. Ms. Leonpacher concluded with a list of upcoming events and partnerships including the Louisiana Department of Education Science Community Partner Collaboration, LDWF WETshop and CRCL Southwest Louisiana Coastal Summit.

Col. Autin called for questions or comments from the Task Force and the public. Mr. Mel Landry expressed gratitude for the work of the Outreach team and its ability to communicate effectively with the public. Ms. Leonpacher echoed the statement that she and Ms. Kathy Ladner work with the Outreach committee members to enhance those communications and connections.

Agenda Item 8. Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report (Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA)

Colonel Autin invited Ms. Leigh Anne Sharp of CPRA to present the CRMS update. Ms. Sharp began with programmatic updates on the 2024 coastwide flight. That data set was collected and is now with USGS. Spatial analysis on all the CRMS sites and all of the projects slated to get spatial analysis from 2024 imagery is ongoing. To simplify, persistence in land gain and land loss, persistent gain and persistent water since the year that it's observed, as well as a fluctuating category will be defined in this matrix map series. Ms. Sharp then continued discussing CRMS 672 as an example of the fluctuating type. She explained the site is located in the CS-20 East Mud Lake project and has experienced saltwater inundation that could not be drained and resulted in land loss. The site did experience some recovery with the drought.

Ms. Sharp continued reporting on CRMS sites. CRMS 4548 was in the PO-180 Lake Borgne Marsh Creation project location and was at mean water level, gaining elevation at 0.92 cm/yr pre-construction bringing the marsh surface up to the top of the tidal frame. In the Cameron-Creole watershed, CRMS 644 was demobilized.

Ms. Sharp continued with the vegetation review that demonstrated that trends and drought impacts vary by region. In the Chenier Plain, marshes are stimulated by drought, whereas marshes in the deltaic plain do not follow the same drought signal. She clarified that the impounded marshes in the Chenier Plain have been persistently flooded except during drought, during which vegetation recovers. However, the losses are due to persistent inundation. Some stability and some recovery were noted in Fresh, Intermediate, and Brackish marshes post Ida. Ms. Sharp highlighted differences in vegetation between 2018 and 2025. In 2018, the Chenier Plain marshes were damaged by Hurricane Barry in 2019. The highest losses were experienced on the tidal fringe in the salt marsh whereas the more inland freshwater areas tended to recover better than impounded salt marshes.

Ms. Sharp then highlighted the progress on the CRMS Synthesis Report; the land change chapter has been published and the hydrology and wetland surface elevation chapter is nearly complete. Trends from 2008 to 2023 in both Chenier and Deltaic Plains are presented. The report features regional trends in hydrology that are further broken down into groups with similar conditions to form six marsh groups and four swamp groups. The report will include helpful data appendices that allow users to further explore coastal dynamics. She then summarized the synthesis report with the following points. Tidal marsh erosion is depositional. Sites that washed away saw large depositions that preceded removal. Lower deltaic plain landloss continues, however, inland areas have been stable. The coast was freshening from CRMS inception in 2006 through 2022, however currently they are becoming more saline. Ecogeomorphic feedback was observed coastwide including increasing mat expansion with prolonged inundation.

Ms. Sharp provided the 2026 CRMS monitoring updates explaining that the hydrology data collection is continuous and ongoing. The Spring RSET/VA has been collected, delivered and currently is in QA/QC. In June, vegetation data will be collected during which low water and high salinity are expected. There is a possibility that brown marsh may emerge due to the extreme low water over winter followed by higher tides without much rainfall. It is anticipated that saltwater ingress in real-time will be observed.

Ms. Sharp concluded with expected summer conditions being conducive to higher salinity levels; sea level surged in late March allowing salt water into lakes and bays. Given observed inundation/vegetation trends on the Chenier Plain, there was hope that marshes would refill with rainfall. In the Northline Canal in the Sabine National Wildlife Reserve, CRMS0651 revealed the earliest salinity spike in the CRMS record this year. Brown marsh could emerge coastwide.

Col. Autin complimented Ms. Sharp for the outstanding presentation. He then called for questions or comments from the Task Force and from the public. Mr. Lezina expressed his appreciation for the work that goes into the analysis of CRMS and said that it truly is a world-class monitoring system. He also expressed gratitude to CWPPRA for having the foresight to establish the CRMS system. He continued by stating that CRMS is celebrating its 20-year anniversary and that the data collected are invaluable to study change across coastal Louisiana. Mr. Lezina concluded by verifying that CPRA uses CRMS data and that it has informed their paradigm over the last 20 years. Mr. Kroll then thanked Ms. Sharp for presenting the CRMS information and acknowledged that there is additional data that can be utilized by the program. He thanked Ms. Sharp of keeping the CWPPRA workgroups informed of CRMS findings. Mr. Kroll asked for clarification as to the distance into the marsh the measurement of 25 cm was taken and approximately when after dredging was completed. Ms. Sharp mentioned the measurement was taken approximately 50 feet into the marsh and a couple of years after placement. Mr. Kroll inquired what the typical elevations are to which Ms. Sharp showed a chart that at NAVD88 G12a, there are two datum, or about 1.5 feet while mean water is about 1.75. Mr. Earl Landry commented that saltwater intrusion is being seen at Bayou Carlin. In his experience, flood gates have been successful at reducing the saltwater advance. Ms. Sharp responded that the data have provided unanticipated insights; some acted like floating marshes while some in Mermentau floated and then settled back down. Ms. Sharp concluded that further analysis will be occurring and will provide additional information for future marsh management.

Agenda Item 13. Additional Agenda Items (Amanda Landry, USACE)

Colonel Autin inquired if there were any additional agenda items and none were offered.

VII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Agenda Item 14. Request for Public Comments (Amanda Landry, USACE)

Col. Autin called for final public comments.

VIII. CLOSING

Agenda Items 15 and 16. Announcement: Dates of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meetings (Amanda Landry, USACE)

The Technical Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in Baton Rouge, LA, and will include a virtual component. Dates for future meetings were provided as follows:

September 10, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge
October 7, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
December 10, 2026	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	New Orleans

*subject to change

Col. Autin called for final comments from the Task Force and public. None were proffered

IX. Adjournment

Col. Autin expressed appreciation for everyone in attendance and their comments in today's meeting. He asked for final Task Force comments, then final public comments. Seeing none, Col. Autin then requested a motion to adjourn.

Agenda Item 17. Decision: Adjourn

Col. Autin expressed appreciation for everyone in attendance and their comments in today's meeting. He asked for final Task Force comments, then final public comments. Seeing none, Col. Autin then requested a motion to adjourn.

Colonel Autin asked for a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Mr. Lezina made the motion; which Mr. Landry seconded. The motion carried without dissent and the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.