

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

**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**23 October 2014**

**Minutes**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Colonel Richard Hansen convened the 87th meeting of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. on October 23, 2014, at the USACE New Orleans District in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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. Listed below are the Task Force Members who were present.

Colonel Richard Hansen, Chairman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Mr. Christopher Doley, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Mr. Bill Honker, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Mr. Kyle Graham, State of Louisiana, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA),  
sitting in for Jerome Zeringue  
Mr. Britt Paul, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), sitting in for Kevin  
Norton  
Mr. Jeffrey Weller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

Colonel Hansen introduced himself, welcomed everyone, and asked the members of the Task Force to introduce themselves.

Colonel Hansen explained that the Task Force has been a large part of reducing land loss in Louisiana for over 20 years in conjunction with many local, state, and Federal groups. Altogether, CWPPRA has created, enhanced, or restored more than 113,000 acres of wetlands through the construction of over 100 projects.

Colonel Hansen explained that the public would be given the opportunity to comment on agenda items and that each commenter should provide their name and affiliation so that their comments could be included in the official record. All attendees should sign in at the entrance to the conference room.

Colonel Hansen asked if the Task Force had any opening comments or changes to the agenda.

*Mr. Honker made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mr. Paul seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

#### **IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM May 22, 2014 TASK FORCE MEETING**

Mr. Brad Inman, USACE, indicated that the minutes from the May 22, 2014 Task Force Meeting were sent to the Task Force members and that all comments and recommended changes were incorporated. Colonel Hansen asked the Task Force members if they had any comments on the minutes. There were no comments.

*Hearing no objections, Colonel Hansen declared the minutes from the May 22, 2014 Task Force Meeting adopted.*

#### **V. TASK FORCE DECISIONS**

##### **A. Agenda Item #5 – Report/Decision: Status of Unconstructed Projects**

Mr. Inman, representing the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Subcommittee, presented the recommended paths forward for the following unconstructed CWPPRA projects:

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Path Forward</b>
ME-24	Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Nourishment and Protection	USACE	Deauthorize
PO-34	Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Protection	NRCS	Inactivate

Mr. Inman reported on the status of unconstructed CWPPRA projects. He explained that the P&E Subcommittee regularly evaluates projects that have not begun construction to determine why they have not been constructed. Mr. Inman presented recommendations for the Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Nourishment and Protection (ME-24) and Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Protection (PO-34) Projects.

The ME-24 Project has approximately doubled in cost. The project sponsor and the Technical Committee have recommended that the project be deauthorized.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to deauthorize the Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Nourishment and Protection (ME-24) Project. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to inactivate the Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Projection (PO-34) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**B. Agenda Item #6 – Decision: CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Update**

Ms. Allison Murry, USACE, presented the changes that were made to the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document. The update included updating acronyms, addresses, and the appendices and the addition of coastwide project guidelines. Mr. Inman added that the document has incurred substantial review and that the Technical Committee recommended approval of the updated document.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the updated CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures document. Mr. Paul seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**C. Agenda Item #7 – Report/Decision: Upcoming 20-Year Life Projects**

Project sponsors presented recommended paths forward for the following CWPPRA projects ending their 20 year lives between 2015 and 2018:

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Const. Complete</b>	<b>20YL</b>	<b>Path Forward Recommendation</b>
ME-04	Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection	NRCS	Mar-95	Mar-15	Formal Evaluation
ME-13	Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization	NRCS	Feb-98	Mar-18	Formal Evaluation

Mr. Paul noted that these projects are very similar in nature; NRCS would like to conduct a formal evaluation of these projects to determine if project extension is warranted.

Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, presented the proposed path forward for the Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04) Project. The ME-04 Project consists of approximately 28,000 linear feet of foreshore rock dike and other features on the west bank of Freshwater Bayou Canal, approximately eight miles northeast of Pecan Island. The water control structures were built by the private landowner and project extension would only apply to the shoreline protection component of the project. The project was constructed in March 1995 and maintenance events occurred in 2002, 2005, and 2015 (planned). The monitoring data indicates that the project is performing well. The project is estimated to have saved 76 acres of land over the 20-year project

life at a total project cost of \$6 million, or approximately \$80,000 per acre. The project has performed above average when compared to other CWPPRA projects approved for construction over the last five years. Additional project maintenance would be beneficial, but not necessary, for the area to experience continued project benefits, although the benefits are higher with maintenance. There are no landowners or additional entities interested in a transfer of the project. The initial evaluation of the project estimates that the cost effectiveness of a 40-year project with continued maintenance is \$63,320 per acre, creating an estimated 151.7 net acres through Year 40. It is cost effective to continue the project, with or without maintenance. The preliminary cost estimate to remove the project features is about \$13.4 million. The project sponsor, NRCS, and the Technical Committee have recommended a formal evaluation to allow the pursuit of project extension.

Mr. Paul announced that the Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13) Project is very similar to the ME-04 Project and recommended to move forward without a presentation. Colonel Hansen clarified that the project sponsor has proposed continuing through the Decision Matrix to conduct a formal analysis and presenting those findings to the Technical Committee in April 2015; the Technical Committee would then make a recommendation to the Task Force to be considered at the May 2015 Task Force Meeting.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asked if there are any out-of-pocket costs associated with proceeding with a formal evaluation, such as field work and monitoring surveys. Mr. Paul responded that the initial project evaluation would be reviewed by the CWPPRA work groups and additional field work would not be necessary. Mr. Kinler noted that the formal evaluation would consider data from the most recent Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M) Report.

Mr. Doley asked if the 2015 planned maintenance event would be considered in the formal evaluation. Mr. Kinler responded that the project team would assume that in Year 21, the project is in good condition and the erosion rate will reflect the 2015 maintenance event.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Randy Moertle, representing the Rainey Conservation Alliance, an organization comprised of landowners from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) to the Gulf of Mexico along both sides of Freshwater Bayou Channel, stated that the shoreline protection features of these projects protect the marsh creation component of the nearby proposed ME-31 Project. It is important to the Rainey Alliance and Vermilion Parish that material is placed behind the shoreline protection to stabilize the rocks and prevent them from being rolled by wakes from passing marine traffic. Ducks Unlimited is currently engineering a project that places dredged material between the rocks and shoreline on Freshwater Bayou Canal. It is very important to the landowners that the project be formally evaluated and moved through the Decision Matrix. The landowners fully support the project.

Mr. Ralph Libersat, representing Vermilion Parish, stated that there is synergy between the two projects in the area, and that there have been substantial investments by local sponsors

and pipelines on both projects which have reduced CWPPRA's maintenance responsibilities. This is a worthwhile project and Mr. Libersat encouraged the Task Force to approve proceeding through the Decision Matrix.

Ms. Nedra Davis, Executive Director of the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CRPA), which represents Cameron, Calcasieu, and Vermilion Parishes, stated that they support the evaluation and would like to see the project proceed through the Decision Matrix.

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee's recommendation to approve proceeding through the Decision Matrix to a formal evaluation of project extension for the Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04) and Freshwater Bayou Bank Stabilization (ME-13) Projects. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**D. Agenda Item #11 – Decision: Annual Request for Incremental Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 17 Administrative Costs for Cash Flow Projects**

Mr. Inman reported that the USACE is requesting approval for incremental funding for administrative costs for cash flow projects beyond Increment 1 in the amount of \$26,142. The Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen asked for clarification on the meaning of "projects beyond Increment 1." Mr. Kinler responded that Increment 1 funding has been previously approved to include OM&M funds for the first three years of the project. These projects are requesting funding for an additional year sometime after Increment 1. Mr. Inman added that when projects request additional funds, there is a small administrative cost to the USACE, and these are shown in the Economic Analysis spreadsheet.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Honker made a motion to approve the incremental funding for administrative costs for cash flow projects in the amount of \$26,142. Mr. Paul seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**E. Agenda Item #12 – Decision: Request for Funding for the CWPPRA Program's Technical Services**

Ms. Michelle Fischer, United States Geological Survey (USGS), reported that USGS and Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) are requesting FY15 budget and funding for technical services for the CWPPRA Program in the amount of \$171,410 to be used for in-phase project evaluation and website and database maintenance. Mr. Inman stated that the Technical Committee recommended approval of this funding.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Weller made a motion to approve the CWPPRA Program's technical services budget and funding in the total amount of \$171,410. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**F. Agenda Item #13 – Decision: Request for Transfer of Funds from the Project Priority List (PPL) 2 – West Belle Pass Headland Restoration Project (TE-23) Operations and Maintenance to Monitoring**

Mr. Inman reported that the USACE and CPRA are requesting approval for the transfer of funds from West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (TE-23) Project Operations and Maintenance to Monitoring. The USACE and CPRA have determined that two land:water analyses for the TE-23 project area, one each for years 2008 and 2012, are required to assess the impact of a 2007 Port Fourchon Navigation Channel Federal maintenance event in which dredged material was placed within the TE-23 project area. The cost of performing these land:water analyses is \$28,375. The Technical Committee recommended approving the transfer of funds.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Paul made a motion to transfer \$28,375 from the West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (TE-23) Project Operations and Maintenance to Monitoring. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**G. Agenda Item #14 – Decision: Request for Monitoring Incremental Funding and Budget Increases**

Mr. Stuart Brown, CPRA, requested approval for FY17 incremental funding for the following PPL 9+ projects in the total amount of \$204,451:

- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY17 incremental funding in the total amount of \$204,451 for the following projects:
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection (BA-27c), PPL 9, NRCS Incremental Funding amount: \$4,539
  - Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11), PPL 10, FWS Incremental Funding amount: \$17,271
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b) PPL 11 NRCS

Incremental Funding amount: \$91,019

- Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$91,622

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asked for clarification on the use of funds. Mr. Honker seconded this request and asked how much is being committed for the current fiscal year. Mr. Darryl Clark, USFWS, replied that the projects have funding for FY 15-16 and are now asking for funding for FY17.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Mr. Brown requested approval for FY17 incremental funding for the following PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$33,946:

- b. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY17 incremental funding in the total amount of \$33,946:
  - Naomi Outfall Project (BA-03c), PPL 5, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$5,571
  - West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (TE-23), PPL 2, USACE  
Incremental Funding amount: \$28,375

Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asked if funding is being obligated now for FY17 for planning purposes. Mr. Brown responded affirmatively.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Mr. Brown requested approval for FY17 incremental funding and budget increase for the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Program in the total amount of \$9,439,266.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen asked how this request compared to prior years' requests. Ms. Dona Weifenbach, CPRA, responded that the amount is the projected expenditures developed for FY17 when the program was created. The amount changes each year based on the projected activities.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Mr. Brown requested approval for a budget increase and incremental funding in the amount of \$35,032 for the Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21) Project.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen asked if these funds are for monitoring. Mr. Brown responded affirmatively.

Mr. Honker expressed concerns about the cash flow efficiency of holding monies for three years and requested that in the future the Task Force consider the most effective way to utilize funding. Colonel Hansen requested that the Technical Committee determine the proper way to explain the incremental funding requests to the public. Mr. Inman reminded the Task Force that a workshop was held on this issue several years ago. The State contracts for many programs, such as CRMS, for a 3-year period. Incremental requests (items “a” through “c”) have already been budgeted, that is, their fully funded budgets have been approved by the Task Force. Mr. Inman agreed that the Technical Committee and P&E Subcommittee would review whether this is the most effective way to budget.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve incremental funding for PPL 9+ projects in the total amount of \$204,451. Mr. Weller seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve incremental funding for PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$33,946. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the incremental funding and budget increase for CRMS in the total amount of \$9,439,266. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the budget increase in the amount of \$35,032 and incremental funding in the amount of \$35,032 for the Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

#### **H. Agenda Item #15 – Decision: Request for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Incremental Funding and Budget Increases**

Mr. Brown requested approval for FY17 incremental funding in the total amount of \$5,529,404 for the following PPL 9+ projects:



- a. PPL 9+ Projects requesting approval for FY17 incremental funding in the total amount of \$5,259,404 for the following projects:
- GIWW - Perry Ridge West Bank Stabilization (CS-30), PPL 9, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount: \$6,330
  - Four Mile Canal Terracing and Sediment Trapping (TV-18), PPL 9, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$16,557
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 3, (BA-27c), PPL 9, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$4,582
  - Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection (PO-30), PPL 10, EPA  
Incremental Funding amount: \$6,486
  - North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration, (TE-44), PPL 10, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$86,791
  - Delta Management at Ft. St, Phillip (BS-11), PPL 10, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$5,511
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Phase 4, (BA-27d), PPL 11, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$4,624
  - Little Lake Shoreline Protection/ Dedicated Dredging Near Round Lake, (BA-37), PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$75,872
  - Barataria Barrier Island Complex: Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chaland Pass Restoration (BA-38), PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$22,327
  - Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BA-35), PPL 11, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$6,357
  - Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b), PPL 11, NRCS  
Incremental funding amount (FY16): \$2,324,019
  - West Lake Boudreaux Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation, (TE-46), PPL 11, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$5,602
  - Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation, (TE-48), PPL 11, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$3,439
  - South White Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-22), PPL 12, USACE  
Incremental funding amount: \$8,152
  - Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System - Bayou Dupont (BA-39), PPL 12, EPA  
Incremental Funding amount: \$7,058
  - West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, (TE-52), PPL 16, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$354,548

- South Lake Lery Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection (BS-16), PPL 17, FWS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$6,534
- Coastwide Vegetative Planting (LA-39), PPL 20, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$2,314,615

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley stated that the Coastwide Nutria Control and Coastwide Vegetation Planting projects appear to be incremental funding for FY16 instead of FY17. Mr. Brown confirmed that Mr. Doley was correct.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Mr. Brown requested approval for FY17 incremental funding for the following PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$585,859:

- b. PPL 1-8 Projects requesting approval for FY17 incremental funding in the total amount of \$585,859:
  - GIWW to Clovelly Hydrologic Restoration (BA-02), PPL 1, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$25,438
  - Highway 384 Hydrologic Restoration (CS-21), PPL 2, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$22,656
  - Point au Fer Canal Plugs (TE-22), PPL 2, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$9,925
  - West Belle Pass Headland Restoration, (TE-23), PPL 2, USACE  
Incremental Funding amount: \$9,453
  - Cameron Creole Maintenance (CS-04a), PPL 3, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$133,407
  - Lake Chapeau Sediment Input and Hydrologic Restoration, Point Au Fer Island (TE-26), PPL 3, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$9,800
  - Brady Canal Hydrologic Rest, (TE-28), PPL 3, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$100,695
  - Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration (CS-27), PPL 6, NMFS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$269,904
  - Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phases 1 and 2, (BA-27), PPL 7, NRCS  
Incremental Funding amount: \$4,581

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Mr. Brown requested approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$436,203 and FY17 incremental funding in the amount of \$98,537 for the following PPL 1-8 project:

- c. PPL 1-8 Project requesting approval for a budget increase in the amount of \$436,203 and FY17 incremental funding in the amount of \$98,537:
  - Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23), PPL 3, FWS  
Budget increase amount: \$436,203  
Incremental Funding amount: \$98,537

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asserted that notes from Ms. Murry appear to state that the \$436,203 is taken from available funding. Mr. Doley asked if the \$98,537 is also taken from currently available funding. Mr. Weller responded that the \$98,537 is for the upcoming three-year period and only one-third is taken from currently available funding. Mr. Clark clarified that the budget increase request of \$436,203 is for the remainder of the project life. The three-year incremental request, or the amount needed for the next three years in addition to the current budget, is \$98,537. The \$98,537 incremental request is a subset of the \$436,203 total budget increase.

Mr. Doley requested clearer language in the future to ensure that the Task Force understands exactly what is being requested.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the incremental funding for PPL 9+ projects in the total amount of \$5,529,404. Mr. Paul seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force*

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the incremental funding for PPL 1-8 projects in the total amount of \$585,859. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

*Mr. Weller made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the budget increase in the amount of \$436,203 and incremental funding in the amount of \$98,537 for the Replace Sabine Refuge Water Control Structures at Headquarters Canal, West Cove Canal, and Hog Island Gully (CS-23) Project. Mr. Paul seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**I. Agenda Item #16 – Decision: Request for O&M Budget Increase and Incremental Funding Approval for Boston Canal/Vermilion Bay Bank Protection (TV-09)**

Mr. Paul reported that a similar request was previously submitted to the Technical Committee and was rejected based upon preliminary cost efficiency data that is no longer

relevant. NRCS presented the updated data and requested that the decision be returned to the Technical Committee for additional review.

Mr. Kinler reported the updated cost efficiency and monitoring information. The project was constructed in 1995 with an original cost of \$1 million, which included 1,405 linear feet of foreshore rock dike and 34,000 vegetative plantings. In 2002, there was a minor maintenance event consisting of removal of sediment fences to allow sediment to transfer to an area that is now emergent marsh. The proposed final maintenance event includes several hundred feet of rock dike extension on each side of the original project to reconnect the project to the shoreline. The total estimated O&M amounts to \$116,651 for surveys and design of the maintenance event in the current fiscal year and approximately \$630,000 for construction of the maintenance event in the following year.

NRCS has calculated the initial benefits of the existing project and projected the benefits of the future project. The project has created 1.1 acres and retained 1.3 on the west side of the project and created 1.1 acres and retained 1.2 acres on the east side of the project for a total net acreage of 4.7 acres over the 20-year project life. Project extension is expected to cost \$630,000 for 4.2 total net acres over the next 20 years, which equates to a cost efficiency of approximately \$150,000 per acre. Because this project has not required any maintenance on the existing rock, no maintenance on the new rock would be anticipated. The total cost effectiveness of TV-09 as a 40-year project is approximately \$135,000 per acre, which is within the range of projects that have been approved over the last five years. The project has a sufficient balance to cover the design and would like to request an additional \$630,891 for the construction of the maintenance event. Following this maintenance event, NRCS and CPRA would recommend project closeout.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asked for clarification on the nature of the request to the Task Force. Mr. Paul responded that the information presented was developed after the last Technical Committee Meeting and that NRCS would like for the Task Force to send the request back to the Technical Committee for additional review. A final decision would be made at a future Task Force Meeting.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Ralph Libersat, Vermilion Parish, strongly recommended that the Task Force return the issue to the Technical Committee for additional review. Project stakeholders are very satisfied with the project. Sediment has been accreting at a rate that required fence removal to enhance the project even further. Shoreline protection along the north shore of Vermilion Bay is in the Vermilion Parish Master Plan, and the project is more cost effective to complete now than if it has to be done in five years.

Ms. Nedra Davis, Chenier Plain CRPA, expressed support for Vermilion Parish and the Vermilion Parish Master Plan. She requested that the issue be returned to the Technical Committee.

*Hearing no objections, Colonel Hansen declared that the decision would be returned to the Technical Committee and reconsidered at the May Task Force Meeting.*

**J. Agenda Item #17 – Decision: Request for PPL 5 – Raccoon Island Breakwaters Demonstration Project (TE-29) To Be Considered a Component of PPL 11 – Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project (TE-48)**

Mr. Paul reported that the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (TE-48) Project was approved and constructed following the successful completion of the Raccoon Island Breakwaters Demonstration (TE-29) Project. Both projects function very well. Some of the TE-29 breakwaters need to be surveyed and may require maintenance; however, no maintenance funding is included for demonstration projects. Mr. Paul requested approval to combine the TE-29 and TE-48 Projects so that O&M funding from TE-48 can be utilized to survey the TE-29 breakwaters. Mr. Inman stated that the Technical Committee recommended approving this motion.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Nic Matherne, Terrebonne Parish, expressed support for this motion and stated that it is very practical to ensure that a project that CWPPRA has already constructed remains successful in the future.

*Mr. Paul made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to consider the Raccoon Island Breakwaters Demonstration (TE-29) Project a component of the Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (TE-48) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

**K. Agenda Item #18 – Decision: Transfer of O&M funds to Construction for Grand Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-21)**

Mr. Paul reported that the Grand Lake Shoreline Protection Project was approved several years ago by the CWPPRA Task Force. The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) constructed a large portion of the project, with CWPPRA committing to complete the construction of the Tebo Point portion of project and fund O&M activities for the entire project. There have been several issues in completing the project. The project was transferred to NRCS several years ago, at which point the cost estimate was re-calculated. The updated cost estimate shows a need for additional construction funding to complete the project. There is enough funding to complete construction if some O&M funds are transferred to construction. The CIAP portion of the project has been complete for five years and seems stable, with no need for maintenance.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asked why the costs have doubled to construct only a portion of the project. Mr. Paul responded that there are several reasons for the cost increase including the existence of a cultural resources site and deeper water than expected.

Mr. Doley questioned why CIAP did not construct this portion of the project. He objected to the idea that this is being done at no cost to the Program, because if this is not funded then those funds could be applied to another project. Projects should not be viewed in isolation. He agreed that it is a valuable project and CWPPRA did make a commitment to complete this project, but the doubling of the cost is a significant issue.

Mr. Honker agreed that this is a difficult issue. The current costs and benefits do not make it a project that the Task Force would normally want to fund, but CWPPRA made a commitment when they received the CIAP money. He expressed concern about treating one piece of an already-approved project as a separate project.

Mr. Paul expressed his support for the project and stated that CWPPRA needs to honor its commitment.

Mr. Weller stated that he understands Mr. Honker's viewpoint but ultimately the cost of \$6 million for 18 to 25 acres is too high.

Colonel Hansen stated that the funding has already been approved and therefore does not represent a budget increase, but it is an opportunity lost given that otherwise the O&M funding would be repurposed to another project. However, commitments made at previous Task Force Meetings are important. Colonel Hansen added that he would not be supportive of any future O&M increases for this project or an extension of the project life based on the late completion of this portion of the project.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public.

Ms. Nedra Davis, Chenier Plain CRPA, thanked the Task Force for acknowledging the historical timeline of this project and its challenges. Fortunately, CWPPRA has the opportunity to complete this project at no additional costs to the Program. She also thanked the Task Force for evaluating the project in its entirety and acknowledging the commitment made in February 2007.

Mr. Chad Courville, Miami Corporation Land Manager, stated that as a landowner on the south side of the project, he had concerns that the project would not be completed in its entirety when the original agreement with CIAP was made. The project was approved in entirety and he urged the Task Force to honor their commitment to protect cultural resource sites at no additional cost to the Program. This is a valuable area to protect.

*Mr. Paul made a motion to approve the transfer of \$3,542,031 of O&M funds to construction for the Grand Lake Shoreline Protection (ME-21) Project. Mr. Honker seconded. Mr. Honker, Mr. Paul, and Colonel Hansen voted in favor. Mr. Doley and Mr. Weller voted against. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

## **L. Agenda Item #19 – Decision: Request for Approval to Initiate Deauthorization of West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management (BA-04c)**

Mr. Garvin Pittman, CPRA, requested formal deauthorization of the West Point a la Hache Outfall Management (BA-04c) Project. This is an improvement project for an existing siphon, including instrumentation, hardware, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems. CPRA has analyzed the project and believes that maintenance costs are too high to warrant proceeding. The project would not increase the flow and would only potentially increase operational efficiency. CPRA proposes to return funds totaling approximately \$5 million to the CWPPRA Program. Mr. Inman reported that the Technical Committee recommended initiating deauthorization for this project.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen asked for clarification on the deauthorization process. Mr. Inman responded that there will be additional information sent out with a request for public comments prior to a final vote for deauthorization, which will likely be held at the June Task Force Meeting.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

*Mr. Honker made a motion to accept the Technical Committee recommendation to approve the request to initiate deauthorization of the West Point a la Hache Outfall Management (BA-04c) Project. Mr. Doley seconded. The motion was passed by the Task Force.*

## **VI. INFORMATION**

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

In the absence of Ms. Susan Mabry, Ms. Murry presented the status of CWPPRA Program funds and projects. The CWPPRA Program estimate is \$2.27 billion from inception through PPL 23. CWPPRA has \$2.06 billion in future projected funding; leaving a gap of \$210 million in additional funding that will be needed for the CWPPRA Program in the future. The currently approved estimate is \$1.6 billion for PPL 1-23, including Phases I & II and long-term O&M, and the total funding received is \$1.46 billion for PPL 1-23.

The Technical Committee's recommendation for FY17 incremental funding includes the USACE long-term administration costs of \$26,142, technical services of \$171,410, monitoring of \$9,712,695, and O&M of \$6,912,357.

The Program had a beginning balance of \$22.9 million in May 2014. The total requested funding amounts to \$16.8 million and the potential returns to the Program total \$4.6 million, leaving available FY15 funds of \$10.7 million.

The CWPPRA Program currently has 200 total projects. The 150 active projects include 31 in Phase I, 18 in Phase II, and 101 constructed. Four projects have been transferred, three are inactive, and 43 have been deauthorized.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

#### **B. Agenda Item #4 – Report: Construction Update**

Mr. Inman, representing the P&E Subcommittee, reported that the CWPPRA agencies would present information to the Task Force and the public on the types of projects being constructed across the State. Agency representatives provided reports on projects that are currently under construction and projects that have been recently completed.

Mr. Kinler presented an update on the Coastwide Vegetative Plantings (LA-39) Project. Plantings in West Little Lake in Lafourche Parish, the Jaws in Vermilion Parish, Little Vermilion Bay in Vermilion Parish, and Willow Lake in Cameron Parish were recently completed. Recently completed plantings in all areas total nearly 65,000 plants. The plantings in the Jaws and Little Vermilion Bay will augment CWPPRA terracing projects that have been accumulating sediment, as well as enhance the vegetative component. Plantings in Rockefeller Unit 4 in Cameron Parish are under construction. Approximately 11,000 California bulrush will be planted in Rockefeller Unit 4 in March 2015 to break up the fetch in open water areas.

Mr. Mel Landry, NMFS, presented an update on the Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09), Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation (BA-49), and Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68) Projects. The Delta Wide Crevasses Project is in Plaquemines Parish in the Mississippi Delta. Round 1 completed construction in 1999 and Round 2 completed construction in 2005. These events constructed or cleared 22 crevasses, which led to a measured gain of 499 acres. The final round of seven crevasses was completed in June 2014. The total cost is estimated at \$2.2 million, with approximately \$1.6 million going to construction.

The Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation Project is currently under construction in Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes. The initial lift on all of the containment has been completed. Dredging will begin in early November 2014. The CWPPRA Program portion of the project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$34 million. This project is being built in conjunction with the Long-Distance Sediment Pipeline (BA-43) Project. The CWPPRA Program portion of the project includes 370 acres of restoration and the total project includes 785 acres at a cost of \$79 million.

The Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68) Project in Plaquemines Parish is currently under construction. The project will construct 432 acres of marsh and 24 acres of ridge. Construction began in July 2014 utilizing an offshore borrow site and completion is anticipated in May 2015.



Mr. Clark presented the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project. The project is in Plaquemines Parish on the west side of the Mississippi River, near Lake Hermitage. Construction started in 2012 and should be complete by March 2015. The project will create over 1,000 acres of marsh, making this one of the largest CWPPRA projects. The CWPPRA Program construction cost is \$35 million for approximately 795 acres. Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Early Restoration funds are being used to build 104 acres and the State is funding the remaining portions of the project.

Mr. Scott Wandell, USACE, presented the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycles 4 and 5 (CS-28-4&5) Project. The project consists of five portions, three of which have been completed to date. The project is located in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. The USACE partnered with USFWS to construct this project. The project will create an estimated 460 acres of marsh utilizing a borrow site in the Calcasieu River from the USACE maintenance dredging program. Low bids allowed the project sponsors to modify the contract and expand the project to Unit 1A, using approximately 1 million cubic yards of fill from maintenance dredging to create 260 acres of marsh that otherwise would have gone to upland disposal sites. The total project will cost \$7 million. Dikes and weirs for Cycles 4 and 5 began September 22, 2014. The dike in Cycle 4 is estimated to be 75% complete, and the dike in Cycle 5 is estimated to be 20% complete. Pumping into those two sites should begin in January 2015. Project completion is estimated for Spring 2015.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

### **C. Agenda Item #8 – Report: Outreach Committee Report**

Ms. Susan Testroet-Bergeron, CWPPRA Outreach, reported on activities of the CWPPRA Outreach Committee since the May 2014 Task Force Meeting.

CWPPRA Outreach participated in both formal and informal educational activities. A WETSHOP training event was held in Grand Isle, LA. It was a one week training session for teachers from across the State. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) was the primary event sponsor with many other programs participating. CWPPRA Outreach participated in the Arkansas Environmental Education Association Expo; the theme was Natural Education Partnerships and the participants were very interested in coastal land loss and program cohesion. Additionally, Outreach presented information to the joint Louisiana Science and Math Teachers Associations Conference; the teachers were very interested in learning about the Calculating Real Math and Science program and sharing the data with their students. Finally, CWPPRA participated in the South Louisiana Wetlands Youth Discovery Center Youth Wetlands Summit, where high school students from Lafourche, Terrebonne, Jefferson, and Orleans Parishes participated in a mock Task Force Meeting.

Other Outreach events included the Rotary Club of Lafayette, the Acadian Group of the Sierra Club, Wetlands Day at a Zephyrs game, and the USFWS Wild Things Family event.

The City of New Orleans hosted the Society of Environmental Journalists Conference. CWPPRA Outreach helped Mark Schleifstein of The Times-Picayune and Bob Marshall of The Lens organize a field experience for 40 reporters from across the nation. The reporters traveled from downtown New Orleans to Pelican Island and Lake Hermitage. The journalists learned about rebuilding barrier islands and restoring marshes. It was a great experience and, as a result, many notable articles were written about coastal restoration in Louisiana.

Ms. Bergeron presented two new CWPPRA Outreach resources: Landmarks and a new project for kindergarten through second grade children titled *Join the Fun! Visit Henri Heron's Louisiana Wetlands*. The Landmarks e-newsletter is published every two months. *Join the Fun!* is being printed and should be distributed at the January Task Force meeting.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

#### **D. Agenda Item #9 – Report: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Report**

Ms. Weifenbach provided a report on CRMS. There are 390 CRMS sites across the coast, including both monthly-serviced and real-time sites. Sites are located in swamp, fresh, intermediate, brackish, and salt water marsh. The CRMS website includes CWPPRA data and CWPPRA documents from the early 1990s, as well as CRMS data from 2006 forward. There are five new features on the CRMS website this month including the ability to download data from the interactive hydrologic chart, plot the chart depth of flooding, add a Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) land change layer, add a Hydrologic Unit Codes layer, and display an additional 20 dates of land:water classifications.

Ms. Weifenbach presented an example of how CRMS data is used to monitor plantings at specific vegetation stations. She used the Delta Management at Fort St. Philip Project as an example, and showed how CRMS data and project-specific data can be used in conjunction to confirm that project goals were met.

Fifteen Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M) Reports are in progress for 2014. Fourteen of the reports have been delivered and one report has been postponed by the project sponsor. Website training occurred during October in Baton Rouge. The training was attended by CPRA, the Department of Natural Resources, and other project engineers. There were CRMS presentations at the State of the Coast Conference, Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration (CEER), and Restore Americas Estuaries (RAE). CRMS participated in monitoring workshops with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) and the National Academy of Science (NAS). The CRMS Forested Floristic Quality Index publication is being reviewed and report card graphics are being developed.

The CRMS Coastwide Elevation Survey of all 390 sites is complete; fieldwork was completed in August. All sites have been updated to NAVD88 Geoid 12a. The CRMS 2012 Coastwide Aerial Photography land:water products are available on the CRMS website. The current CRMS contract expires July 31, 2015 and preparations are underway for the next contract.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force. There were no comments from the Task Force.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

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

Ms. Jennifer Manuel, LDWF, provided the annual report on Year 12 of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. The program is funded through CWPPRA, USDA, and CPRA, and is administered by LDWF with Coastal Environments Incorporated (CEI). The program extends the length of the entire coast south of Interstates 10 and 12. The program's goal is to remove 400,000 nutria per year. The program uses an application process to track nutria hunters/trappers, who are paid \$5 per tail of nutria removed. Trappers report the number of nutria removed by area by scanning a participation card barcode at collection stations across the State.

In 2013-2014, 281 active participants turned in 388,264 tails worth \$1.9 million. The program averages approximately 400 applicants and 300 active participants per year.

January was the most active month in Year 12, which is typical. Most nutria were harvested in freshwater marsh. The majority of participants harvested over 800 tails; many people hunt specifically for nutria. The most common method of take is rifles, with 67% of active participants using rifles, 6% using shotguns, and 27% using traps. In the past year, 142 applicants reported issues finding rifle ammunition; however, there was not an increase in the use of shotguns or traps.

Nighttime hunting is allowed in the month of March with landowner consent. Nineteen applicants participated in nighttime hunting. Thirteen of the 19 nighttime participants only hunted one night. No State properties allow nighttime hunting.

Terrebonne Parish typically has the highest harvest, with about 130,000 tails, followed by Plaquemines, Lafourche, and St. Mary Parishes. The western part of the State has a lower harvest, especially after the 2008 hurricane.

The program performs a helicopter survey annually to examine the entire coast for damage and count nutria from the air. The program is able to collect real-time polygon data of damage sites during the survey. Thirteen nutria damage sites totaling 1,115 acres were surveyed in 2014. Five sites increased in size and eight sites decreased in size. Most of the damage was minor. The removal of nutria was lower on damage sites that increased in size in 2014 and aerial surveys showed an abundance of nutria. Land owners in some areas do not allow airboats due to

the liability to the property owner, which limits trapping despite the dense nutria population. The program is making an effort to work with the landowners.

The 2014 Vegetative Damage Survey yielded 4,181 acres of nutria damage coastwide, which was a 9.5% decrease in damaged acres from 2013. Marsh Island has recently been opened for nutria hunting, and the nutria harvest has resulted in vegetation recovery.

Hog damage is present at many nutria damage sites. Hog damage is very different from nutria damage. There has been a small decrease in hog damage in association with nutria sites since 2013. It is not currently clear whether the hog harvest is increasing or if the hogs are just moving to other areas. The annual report, maps, and data are available to the public on the program's website [www.nutria.com](http://www.nutria.com).

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the Task Force.

Mr. Doley asked if there are reports of hog taking while trappers are hunting nutria. Ms. Manuel responded that nutria collection stations ask a series of questions, which, as of 2012-2013, includes questions on the sightings and takings of hogs.

Mr. Rick Hartman, NMFS, asked about the decrease in nutria damage over the life of the program. Ms. Manuel responded that this figure has not been calculated. At the beginning of the program there was an estimated 70,000 to 90,000 acres of nutria damage, and that has decreased to just over 4,000 acres of nutria damage. Mr. Hartman requested to see an overall percentage decrease of damaged acres since program inception in future reports.

Colonel Hansen opened the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments

## **VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no additional agenda items.

## **VIII. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **IX. CLOSING**

### **A. Announcement: Date of Upcoming CWPPRA Program Meeting**

Mr. Inman announced that the next Technical Committee Meeting will be held December 11, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Room, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**B. Announcement: Scheduled Dates of Future Program Meetings**

Mr. Inman announced the scheduled dates of future Program meetings, shown below:

<b>FY2014</b>			
December 11, 2014	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
January 22, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lacombe
January 27, 2015	11:00 a.m.	Region IV Planning Team	Lafayette
January 28, 2015	9:00 a.m.	Region III Planning Team	Houma
January 29, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Region I & II Planning Team	Lacombe

**C. Adjournment**

Colonel Hansen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Paul so moved and Mr. Honker seconded. Colonel Hansen adjourned the meeting at 12:12 a.m.