

APPENDIX A

PRIORITY LIST 17 SELECTION PROCESS

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Guidelines for Development of the 17th Priority Project List FINAL, 8 Feb 06

I. Development of Supporting Information

A. COE staff prepares spreadsheets indicating status of all restoration projects (CWPPRA PL 1-16; Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Feasibility Study, Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities 1135, 204, 206; and State only projects). Also, indicate net acres at the end of 20 years for each CWPPRA project.

B. DNR/USGS staff prepares basin maps indicating:

- 1) Boundaries of the following projects types (PL 1-16; LCA Feasibility Study, COE 1135, 204, 206; and State only).
- 2) Locations of completed projects,
- 3) Projected land loss by 2050 with freshwater diversions at Caernarvon and Davis Pond and including all CWPPRA projects approved for construction through October 2002.
- 4) Regional boundary maps with basin boundaries and parish boundaries included.

II. Areas of Need and Project Nominations

A. The four Regional Planning Teams (RPTs) meet, examine basin maps, discuss areas of need and Coast 2050 strategies, and accept nomination of projects by hydrologic basin. Nominations for demonstration projects will also be accepted at the four RPT meetings. The RPTs will not vote at their individual regional meetings, rather voting will be conducted during a separate coast-wide meeting. At these initial RPT meetings, parishes will be asked to identify their official parish representative who will vote at the coast-wide RPT meeting.

B. One coast-wide RPT voting meeting will be held after the individual RPT meetings to present and vote for nominees (including demonstration project nominees). The RPTs will choose no more than two projects per basin, except that three projects may be selected from Terrebonne and Barataria Basins because of the high loss rates in those basins. A total of up to 20 projects could be selected as nominees. Selection of the projects nominated per basin will be by consensus, if possible. If voting is required, each officially designated parish representative in the basin will have one vote and each

federal agency and the State will have one vote. The RPTs will also select up to six demonstration project nominees at this coast-wide meeting. Selection of demonstration project nominees will be by consensus, if possible. If voting is required, officially designated representatives from all coastal parishes will have one vote and each federal agency and the State will have one vote.

C. Following the coast-wide voting meeting, the nominated projects will be indicated on a map and paired with Coast 2050 strategies. A lead Federal agency will be designated for the nominees and demonstration project nominees to assist LDNR and local governments in preparing preliminary project support information (fact sheet, maps, and potential designs and benefits). The Regional Planning Team Leaders will then transmit this information to the P&E Subcommittee, Technical Committee and members of the Regional Planning Teams.

III. Preliminary Assessment of Nominated Projects

A. Agencies, parishes, landowners, and other individuals informally confer to further develop projects. Nominated projects should be developed to support one or more Coast 2050 strategies. The goals of each project should be consistent with those of Coast 2050.

B. Each sponsor of a nominated project will prepare a brief Project Description (no more than one page plus a map) that discusses possible features. Fact sheets will also be prepared for demonstration project nominees.

C. Engineering and Environmental Work Groups meet to review project features, discuss potential benefits, and estimate preliminary fully funded cost ranges for each project. The Work Groups will also review the nominated demonstration projects and verify that they meet the demonstration project criteria.

D. P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of cost estimates and other pertinent information for nominees and demonstration project nominees and furnishes to Technical Committee and State Wetlands Authority (SWA).

IV. Selection of Phase 0 Candidate Projects

A. Technical Committee meets to consider the project costs and potential wetland benefits of the nominees. Technical Committee will select ten

candidate projects for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic Work Groups. At this time, the Technical Committee will also select up to three demonstration project candidates for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic Work Groups. Demonstration project candidates will be evaluated as outlined in Appendix E.

B. Technical Committee assigns a Federal sponsor for each project to develop preliminary Wetland Value Assessment data and engineering cost estimates for Phase 0 as described below.

V. Phase 0 Analysis of Candidate Projects

A. Sponsoring agency coordinates site visits for each project. A site visit is vital so each agency can see the conditions in the area and estimate the project area boundary. Field trip participation should be limited to two representatives from each agency. There will be no site visits conducted for demonstration projects.

B. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups and the Academic Advisory Group meet to refine project features and develop boundaries based on site visits.

C. Sponsoring agency develops Project Information Sheets on assigned projects, using formats developed by applicable work groups; prepares preliminary draft Wetland Value Assessment Project Information Sheet; and makes Phase 1 engineering and design cost estimates and Phase 2 construction cost estimates.

D. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups evaluate all projects (excluding demos) using the WVA and reviews design and cost estimates.

E. Engineering Work Group reviews and approves Phase 1 and 2 cost estimates.

F. Economics Work Group reviews cost estimates and develops annualized (fully funded) costs.

G. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups apply the Prioritization Criteria and develop prioritization scores for each candidate project.

H. Corps of Engineers staff prepares information package for Technical Committee and State Wetlands Authority. Packages consist of:

- 1) updated Project Information Sheets;

- 2) a matrix for each region that lists projects, fully funded cost, average annual cost, Wetland Value Assessment results in net acres and Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHUs), cost effectiveness (average annual cost/AAHU), and the prioritization score.
- 3) qualitative discussion of supporting partnerships and public support;
and
- 4) oyster lease impact areas delineated for the State's Restricted Area Map (this map should also be provided to DNR).

I. Technical Committee hosts two public hearings to present information from H above and allows public comment.

VI. Selection of 17th Priority Project List

A. The selection of the 17th PPL will occur at the Fall Technical Committee and Task Force meetings.

B. Technical Committee meets and considers matrix, Project Information Sheets, and public comments. The Technical Committee will recommend up to four projects for selection to the 17th PPL. The Technical Committee may also recommend demonstration projects for the 17th PPL.

C. The CWPPRA Task Force will review the TC recommendations and determine which projects will receive Phase 1 funding for the 17th PPL.

D. State Wetlands Authority reviews projects on the 17th Priority List and considers for Phase I approval and inclusion in the upcoming Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan.

17th Priority List Project Development Schedule (dates subject to change)

November 2006	Distribute public announcement of PPL17 process and schedule
January 9, 2007	Region IV Planning Team Meeting (Rockefeller Refuge)
January 10, 2007	Region III Planning Team Meeting (Morgan City)
January 11, 2007	Regions I and II Planning Team Meetings (New Orleans)
February 7, 2007	Coast-wide RPT Voting Meeting (Baton Rouge)
February 15, 2007	Task Force Meeting (New Orleans), PPL16 Phase I selection
February 19, 2006	President's Day Holiday
February 20, 2007	Mardi Gras
February 1 – February 24	Agencies prepare fact sheets for RPT nominated projects
February 28 – March 1, 2007	Engineering/ Environmental work groups review project features, benefits & prepare preliminary cost estimates for nominated projects (Baton Rouge)
March 2, 2007	P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of nominated projects showing initial cost estimates
March 14, 2007	Technical Committee meets to select PPL17 candidate projects (New Orleans)
April 11, 2007	Spring Task Force meeting (Lafayette)
April/May	Candidate project site visits
May/June/July/ August	Env/Eng/Econ work group project evaluations
June 13, 2007	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
July 11, 2007	Task Force meeting (New Orleans) – announce public meetings
August 29, 2007	PPL 17 Public Meeting (Abbeville)
August 30, 2007	PPL 17 Public Meeting (New Orleans)
September 12, 2007	Technical Committee meeting - recommend PPL17 (New Orleans)
October 17, 2007	Task Force meeting to select PPL 17 (New Orleans)
December 5, 2007	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
January 2007	RPT meetings for PPL 18
February 13, 2008	Task Force meeting (Baton Rouge)