Archived Briefing Binder

Breaux Act

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Technical Committee Meeting

July 14, 2004

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BREAUX ACT

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

Technical Committee Meeting

AGENDA

July 14, 2004, 9:30 a.m.
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Room
2000 Quail Dr.
Baton Rouge, La.

Documentation of Task Force and Technical Committee meetings may be found at:
http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm or
http://lacoast.gov/reports/program/index.asp

Tab **Agenda Item**

1 **Decision: FY05 Planning Budget (Browning)** The FY05 planning budget process must be initiated to allow for final approval by the Task Force in October 2004. The Technical Committee is asked to discuss the development of the budget and decide upon a process to develop a budget.

2 **Discussion / Decision: Implementation of the April Task Force Decisions Related to Phase I/II Funding Requests and the Annual Priority Project List (PPL) Process (Saia)** At the April 14, 2004 Task Force meeting the Task Force made decisions, which require further discussion/action from the Technical Committee. These items are:

Phase II funding requests are to be approved annually, starting at the October 2004 Task Force meeting, which will require changes to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document.

Phase I (PPL list) is to be approved annually at October Task Force meetings, starting in 2005 with PPL 15. Technical Committee will discuss modifying the PPL process to allow annual approval at the October Task Force meetings, which will require changes to the SOP.

Since "over programming" of CWPPRA funds will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Task Force, the Technical Committee will discuss a procedure for approving funding requests that exceed the "programmed" funding balance.

3 **Decision: Recommendation to Restrict Ongoing Budget Requests Approval of Phases I or II Projects to a Cap Less than 125% (including contingency) (Clark)** Due to the limited available CWPPRA funds for ongoing approved Phase I and II CWPPRA projects, it is recommended that the 125% cap be lowered to avoid developing a negative "un-programmed" balance in the CWPPRA program budget. If approved by the Technical Committee and the Task Force, requests exceeding a new cap would require additional approval of the Task Force.

4 **Discussion / Decision: Phase II Funding Status for Projects Not Yet Under Construction Within Two-Years of Phase II Approval (Saia)** The CWPPRA

Standard Operation Procedure requires projects, for which construction award has not occurred within two years of Phase II approval, be placed on a revocation list for consideration by the Task Force. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service explicitly requests an extension of the two-year restriction on the Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip Project. The Technical Committee will discuss options, such as extensions, and may make a recommendation to the Task Force for consideration at the August Task Force meeting. Two active CWPPRA projects are past or approaching the two-year mark:

Project	Federal Agency	Status	Approval Date
New Cut Dune/Marsh Creation	EPA	Phase II approved	10 Jan 01
Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip	FWS	Phase II approved	07 Aug 02

5 **Decision: Request to Separate the Raccoon Island Shore Protection/Marsh Creation Project (TE-48) into Two Construction Units - Phase A and Phase B (Paul)** The Natural Resource Conservation Service and the LA Department of Natural Resources request that Raccoon Island Shore Protection/Marsh Creation Project (TE-48) be split into two phases. Phase A, the shore protection phase, would have 30% and 95% design reviews by September 2004 to request Phase II funding in October 2004. A WVA and prioritization evaluation will be completed for Phase A for consideration of the Technical Committee prior to the October Task Force meeting. Acceleration of the project addresses critical damage from recent storms, which have accelerated shoreline regression and threaten avian habitat. It is anticipated that a request for authorization for Phase II funding of Phase B, marsh creation, would be in October 2005.

6 **Announcement: PPL 14 Demonstration Projects (LeBlanc)** Proposals for demonstration projects for consideration for PPL14 must be submitted to the Engineering Workgroup chair by COB August 2, 2004.

Email to: christopher.j.monnerjahn@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Mail to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – PM-C
c/o Chris Monnerjahn
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA. 70160-0267

7 **Additional Agenda Items (Saia)**

8 **Date of Upcoming Task Force Meeting (Saia)**

The summer Task Force meeting will be held August 18, 2004 at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN)
Division Assembly Room
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA

Supporting documents for the Task Force meeting should be submitted by COB August 2, 2004.

9 **Announcement: Dates and Locations of Upcoming CWPPRA Administrative Meetings (LeBlanc):**

August 18, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
September 9, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 13, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
December 16, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
January 26, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
March 16, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
April 13, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
July 13, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
August 17, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
September 14, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 19, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
December 7, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
January 25, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans

Adjourn

Decision: FY05 Planning Budget

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act

08-Jul-04

Fiscal Year 2005 Planning Schedule and Budget

P&E Committee Recommendation,
Tech Committee Recommendation,
Approved by Task Force,

NOTE: Number shown in parentheses in line item tasks represents the number of meetings for that task.

					CWPPRA COSTS												
						Dept. of Interior				State of Louisiana							
Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
PPL 14 TASKS																	
PL	14100	Env/Eng/MonWG's evaluates all projects. Env/Eng/MonWG's refine goals and objectives of projects .	10/1/04	10/20/04													0
PL	14200	Envr and Eng WG's prioritization of PPL 14 projects	10/23/04	10/27/04													0
PL	14300	Prepare project information packages for P&E.	10/30/04	11/3/04													0
PL	14400	P&E holds 3 Public Hearings	11/6/04	11/10/04													0
PL	14500	TC Recommendation for Project Selection and Funding	11/24/04	11/29/04													0
PL	14600	TF Selection and Funding of the 14th PPL (1)	1/16/05	1/16/05													0
PL	14700	PPL 14 Report Development	1/11/05	7/31/05													0
PL	14800	Upward Submittal of the PPL 14 Report	8/1/05	8/1/05													0
PL	14900	Submission of the PPL 14 Report to Congress	8/2/05	9/30/05													0
		FY05 Subtotal PL 14 Tasks			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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PPL 15 TASKS																	
PL	**15200**	**Development and Nomination of Projects**															
PL	15210	DNR/USGS prepares base maps of project areas, location of completed projects and projected loss by 2050. Develop a comprehensive coastal LA map showing all water resource and restoration projects (CWPPRA, state, WRDA projects, etc.) [NWRC budget included in Misc 15150]	11/1/04	1/31/05													0
PL	15220	Sponsoring agencies prepare fact sheets and maps prior to and following RPT nomination meetings.	3/31/05	6/30/05													0
PL	15230	RPT's meet to formulate and combine projects. Each region nominates no more than 3 projects (4 meetings) [18 nominees (2 per basin); 8 candidates; 4 approved projects]	5/1/05	5/31/05													0
PL	**15300**	**Ranking of Nominated Projects**															
PL	15310	Envir and Engr WG's to revise the Prioritization Criteria, WVA Models, etc (1 or 2 meetings).	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PL	15320	Engr Work Group prepares preliminary fully funded cost ranges for projects	6/1/05	6/30/05													0
PL	15330	Environ/Engr Work Groups apply 2050 criteria to projects	7/1/05	7/31/05													0
PL	15340	P&E develops and distributes project matrix	7/1/05	7/31/05													0

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
PL	**15400**	**Analysis of Candidates**															
PL	15410	Sponsoring agencies coordinate site visits for all projects	8/1/05	9/30/05													0
PL	15420	Engr/Environ Work Group refine project features and determine boundaries	8/1/05	9/30/05													0
PL	15430	Sponsoring agencies develop project information for WVA; develop designs and cost estimates	8/1/05	9/30/05													0
PL	15440	Environ/Engr Work Groups project evaluation of benefits (with Coast 2050 criteria, etc.)	8/1/05	9/30/05													0
PL	15450	Engr Work Group reviews/approves Ph 1 and Ph 2 cost estimates from evaluating agencies	8/1/05	9/30/05													0
PL	15460	Economic Work Group reviews cost estimates, adds monitoring, O&M, etc., and develops annualized costs	8/1/05	9/30/05													0
		FY05 Subtotal PPL 15 Tasks			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project and Program Management Tasks																	
PM	15100	Program Management--Coordination	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15110	Program Management--Correspondence	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15120	Prog Mgmt--Budget Development and Oversight	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15130	Program and Project Management--Financial Management of Non-Cash Flow Projects	10/1/04	9/30/05													0

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
PM	15200	P&E Meetings (3 meetings preparation and attendance)	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15210	Tech Com Mtngs (6 mtngs; prep and attend)	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15220	Task Force mtngs (4 mtngs; prep and attend)	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15300	Prepare Evaluation Report (Report to Congress) NOTE: next update in FY06 budget	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15400	Agency Participation, Review 30% and 95% Design for Phase 1 Projects	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15410	Engineering & Environmental Working Groups revisions for Phase II funding of approved Phase I projects (Needed for adequate review of Phase I.) [Assume 8 projects requesting Ph II funding in FY05 (present schedule indicates 34 projects). Assume 3 will require Eng or Env WG review; 2 labor days for each. Agencies should not include their own projects; should be charged to project budgets.]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15500	Helicopter Support: Helicopter usage for the PPL process.	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
PM	15600	Miscellaneous Technical Support	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
		FY05 Subtotal Project Management Tasks			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		FY05 Total for PPL Tasks			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
SUPPLEMENTAL PLANNING AND EVALUATION TASKS																	
SPE	15100	Academic Advisory Group [NOTE: MOA between sponsoring agency and LUMCON will be necessary to provide funding.] [Prospectus, page 15-16]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15200	Maintenance of web-based project reports and website project fact sheets. [Prospectus, page 17]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15300	Establish linkage of CWPPRA and 2050 study efforts. [Buy a seat at 2050 feasibility study table.]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15400	Core GIS Support for CWPPRA Task Force Planning Activities. (This task combines 3 tasks into this one item: Misc Tech Support, Desktop GIS System, and Comprehensive Coastal LA Map) [Prospectus, pg 18]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15500	Oyster Lease Database Maintenance and Analysis [NWRC prospectus, pg 19] [DNR Prospectus, pg 20]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15600	Oyster Lease Program Management and Implementation. [Tasks PL 15570 (Oyster Issues in Ph's 0 & 1 including development of regulations, etc), SPE 15650 (Development of Breaux Act oyster relocation plan), and Misc 15400 (Oyster Lease Database Maintenance & Analysis), would be combined into this task.] [DNR Prospectus, pg 21] [LDWF Prospectus, pg 22]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15700	Joint Training of CWPPRA Work Groups. NRCS would sponsor a 1 day vegetative plantings workshop to be held in Baton Rouge. [Prospectus, page 23]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
SPE	15800	Continue the operation of one key Terrebonne Basin continuous recording station from January 2004 to December 2004 so that it would collect data concurrently with that of another gage already funded by CWPPRA through December 2004. Understanding the hydrology of the southern tidal marshes adjacent to the Penchant Basin is critical to implementing larger strategies regarding the distribution of Atchafalaya River water in the Terrebonne Basin marshes. Data collected from these two stations will be used in the planning and evaluation of larger scale projects which will be needed in this area. [Prospectus, pg 24]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15900	Update Land Loss Maps ($250,000 total task; $125,000 FY04, $125,000 FY05) [Del Britsch] [Prospectus, page 25]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
SPE	15950	Storm Recovery Procedures (2 events)	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
FY05 Total Supplemental Planning & Evaluation Tasks					**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
FY05 Agency Tasks Grand Total					**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
Otrch	15100	Outreach - Committee Funding [See detailed budget, pages 26-27]	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
Otrch	15200	Outreach - Agency	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
Otrch	15300	New Initiative -	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
Otrch	15400	New Initiative -	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
Otrch	15500	New Initiative -	10/1/04	9/30/05													0
																	0
				FY05 Total Outreach	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
				Grand Total FY05	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Discussion / Decision: Implementation of the April Task Force Decisions Related to Phase I/II Funding Requests and the Annual Priority Project List (PPL) Process

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT (CWPPRA)

PROJECT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL

Revision 9~~8~~.0

~~December 10, 2003~~April 14, 2004

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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION ACT
(CWPPRA)

PROJECT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL

1. **APPLICABILITY**. This manual is applicable to all Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Agencies and the Local Sponsor in the management of the CWPPRA projects. These standard procedures shall not supersede nor invalidate any rules or regulations internal to any Agency.

2. **REFERENCES**.

a. Pub. L. 101-646, Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, hereinafter referred to as the "CWPPRA."

b. Pub. L. 91-646, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended by Title IV of Pub. L. 100-1 7, the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987.

3. **PURPOSE**. The purpose of the SOP is to establish standard procedures among the separate Agencies and the Local Sponsor in the managing of CWPPRA projects.

4. **DEFINITIONS**.

a. The definitions in Section 302 of the CWPPRA are incorporated herein by reference.

b. The term “Agencies” shall mean the agencies listed in the CWPPRA that makeup the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

c. The term “Federal Sponsor” shall mean the Federal Agency assigned to a CWPPRA project with responsibility to manage the implementation of the project.

d. The term “Local Sponsor” shall mean the State of Louisiana, as represented by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) unless otherwise specified.

e. The term “Technical Committee” shall mean the committee established by the Task Force to provide advice on biological, engineering, environmental, ecological, and other technical issues.

f. The term “Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee” shall mean the working level committee established by the Technical Committee to form and oversee special technical workgroups to assist in developing policies and processes, and recommend

procedures for formulating plans and projects to accomplish the goals and mandates of CWPPRA.

g. The term "Priority Project List (PPL)" shall mean the annual list of projects submitted by the Task Force to Congress in accordance with Sec. 303.(a) of the CWPPRA.

h. The term "total project cost" shall mean all Federal and non-Federal costs directly related to the implementation of the project, which may include but are not limited to engineering and design costs; lands, easements, servitudes, and rights-of-way costs; project construction costs; construction management costs; relocation costs; pre-construction, construction, and post-construction monitoring costs; operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) costs; supervision and administration costs; environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW); and other costs as otherwise provided for in the Cost Sharing Agreement.

i. The term "total project expenditures" shall mean the sum of all Federal expenditures for the project and all non-Federal expenditures for which the Federal Sponsor has granted credit.

j. The term "Cost Sharing Agreement" shall mean any Agency agreement entered into by the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor for engineering and design, real estate activities, construction, monitoring, and OMRR&R of a project in accordance with Sec. 303. (f) of the CWPPRA.

k. The term "life of the project" shall mean 20 years from completion of construction of the project or functional portion of the project, unless otherwise stated in the Cost Sharing Agreement for the project.

l. The term "project funding categories" shall mean the six distinct project-funding areas:

(1) Engineering and Design (E&D)
(2) Real Estate
(3) Construction
(4) Monitoring
(5) Operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R)
(6) Corps of Engineers Program Management Costs

For cash flow-managed projects (See paragraph 4.r. below), the Real Estate and Monitoring project funding categories will be further sub-categorized as Phase 1 and Phase 2. E&D will be categorized as Phase 1 only while Construction and OMRR&R will be categorized as Phase 2 only.

m. The term "escrow account" shall mean the bank account established by the Local

Sponsor in accordance with the CWPPRA Escrow Agreement executed between the Corps of Engineers, the Local Sponsor, and the financial institution selected by the Local Sponsor to act as custodian for the escrow account.

n. The term "overgrazing" shall mean allowing cattle and other grazing animals to forage within the project lands, easements or rights-of-way to the detriment of the wetlands.

o. The term "State fiscal year" shall mean one fiscal year of the State of Louisiana, beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following calendar year.

p. The term "Federal fiscal year" shall mean one fiscal year of the Government, beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the following calendar year.

q. The term "Conservation Plan" shall mean the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan prepared by the State of Louisiana in accordance with Section 304 of the CWPPRA.

r. The term "cash flow-managed projects" shall mean those projects which are approved and funded in two phases during the October Task Force ~~quarterly~~ budgeting meetings. Phase 1 will generally mean those pre-construction activities as defined in paragraph 4.s. below and Phase 2 will generally mean those activities approved by the Task Force as defined in paragraph 4.t. below. While the two phases will be fully funded when approved by the Task Force, long term Phase 2 OMRR&R and post-construction monitoring funds will only be made available on a yearly basis (to be approved at ~~December~~ September Technical Committee and ~~January~~ October Task Force meetings) in three year increments. Cash flow-managed projects are generally those projects approved on PPLs 9 and later.

s. The term "Phase 1" shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of environmental benefits, any necessary hydrologic data collection and analysis, Pre-construction Biological Monitoring, Monitoring Plan Development, and Engineering and Design, and draft OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects) Development. Engineering and Design includes Engineering, Design, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, HTRW) and permitting, Project Management, and Real Estate requirements up to, but not including, the purchase of real estate.

t. The term "Phase 2" shall mean Construction (including Project Management, Contract Management, and Construction Supervision & Inspection), Post-construction Biological Monitoring (to include construction phase biological monitoring), OMRR&R, and the Purchase of Real Estate.

u. The term "~~quarterly~~ October budgeting meetings" shall mean the ~~quarterly~~ October budget meeting~~s~~ at which the Task Force approves planning and construction funding levels for the program, the exception being that the Task Force will approve PPL14

Phase 1 funds in January 2005.

5. **GENERAL**.

a. RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) Federal Sponsor:

(a) Assure that funds spent on a project are spent in accordance with the project's Cost Sharing Agreement and the CWPPRA.

(b) Perform any audits of the Local Sponsor's credits for the project as required by the project's Cost Sharing Agreement and the individual agency's regulations.

(c) No later than September 30 of each year, the Federal Sponsor shall provide the Local Sponsor with an annual statement of prior State fiscal year expenditures in a format agreeable to the Local and Federal Sponsor.

(d) Each quarter, Federal Sponsors will review funds within each approved project under their purview and determine whether funds may be returned to the Task Force. Funds may be returned to the Task Force by the simple deobligation process covered in paragraph 6.p. below. Federal Sponsors should provide the status of potential obligations in the "Remarks" section of the program summary database.

(2) Local Sponsor:

(a) Provide the necessary funds as required by the project's Cost Sharing Agreement.

(b) Perform any work-in-kind required by the Cost Sharing Agreement.

(c) Furnish the Federal Sponsor with the documentation required to support any work-in-kind credit requests.

(d) Unless otherwise specified, all correspondence to the Local Sponsor shall be addressed to:

Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 44027
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027

(3) Corps of Engineers (as funds administrator):

(a) For the purposes of funds control, and at the request of the Task Force, the Corps of Engineers will act as bookkeeper, administrator, and disburser of all Federal and non-Federal funds. All correspondence from the Agencies and the Local Sponsor to the Corps of Engineers regarding funding requests and the status of funding requests shall be addressed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

(b) Use Corps of Engineers financial accounting procedures.

(c) Manage the funds for the project.

(d) Disburse project funds as requested by the Federal Sponsor.

(e) Regularly report to the Agencies and the Local Sponsor on the status of the project accounts.

(f) By August 31 of each year, furnish each Federal Sponsor a report on project expenditures for the last State fiscal year.

(g) By the 20th of the month following the end of a fiscal quarter, the Corps of Engineers will prepare and furnish all the Agencies and the Local Sponsor a report on the status of funding and cost sharing for each of their projects. The most current version of this report will be posted by the Corps on the internet. *(www.lacoast.gov)*

(h) Provide program management duties, e.g. PPL reports, minutes of meetings, distribution of planning documents, etc.

b. COST SHARING

(1) Pre-State Conservation Plan: As provided in Section 303(f) of the CWPPRA, prior to the approval of the State Conservation Plan, the Federal share of the total project cost shall be 75% and the non-Federal share of the total project cost shall be 25%.

(2) Post-State Conservation Plan[1]

(a) General: As provided for the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan, effective December 1, 1997, cost sharing is revised for unexpended funds from 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal to 85% Federal and 15% non-Federal for all future Priority List projects and Priority Lists 1 through 4 projects. For Priority Lists 5 and 6 projects, cost sharing is reduced from 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal to 90% Federal and 10% non-Federal.

(b) Definitions[2]: The term "total project expenditures", as stated in paragraph 4.i., shall mean the sum of all Federal expenditures for the project and all non-Federal expenditures for which the Federal Sponsor has granted credit. An expenditure is a disbursement of funds for charges incurred for goods and services.

(c) Implementation: All expenditures that were incurred through November 30, 1997 (invoices that were submitted to CEMVN-PM-C and all funds disbursed by check), will be considered part of the original cost sharing percentages. These expenditures will be subtracted from the approved current estimates and cost shared at 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal. The remaining funds expended beginning December 1, 1997 will be considered part of the revised cost sharing provisions.

(d) Cost Sharing Agreements: Future cost sharing agreements will reflect the new cost sharing percentages and existing cost sharing agreements will be amended to reflect the new cost sharing percentages.

(e) Database: As stated in paragraph 5.a.(3)(a), the Corps of Engineers will act as bookkeeper, administrator, and disburser of all Federal and non-Federal funds. A database is in place at present to record all estimates, obligations, and expenditures. Federal Sponsors will keep the Corps of Engineers informed of current approved project estimates and schedules in order to have the latest information in the database.

c. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

(1) Escrow Agreement:

(a) There will be only one escrow account established for all CWPPRA

[1]Formally approved at the January 16, 1998 Task Force meeting.

[2]At the December 16, 1997 Joint Meeting of the P&E Subcommittee and the Technical Committee the term "expenditure" was further clarified as being on a cash basis. For example, work-in-kind (WIK) and costs paid would be considered expenditures. However, costs submitted would not be considered an expenditure.

projects. The Corps, the Local Sponsor and the financial institution chosen by the Local Sponsor shall execute the basic escrow account agreement in a form agreeable to all parties.

(b) Within the one escrow account, the Corps of Engineers shall maintain separate sub-accounts (one for each project covered by the escrow agreement) and allocate project funds only to the extent that funds are available in the project sub-account. Non-government escrow shall be in the project sub-accounts.

(c) Upon execution of the Escrow Agreement, and in accordance with the Cost Sharing Agreement, the Local Sponsor shall deposit in the escrow account established for the CWPPRA projects an amount equal to the difference between 25 percent (15 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 10 percent) of the total project expenditures to date and the amount of expenditures by the Local Sponsor for which the Federal Sponsor has granted credit. In addition, the Local Sponsor shall also deposit 25 percent (15 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 10 percent) of the estimated total project costs for the remainder of the State fiscal year less any anticipated expenditures by the Local Sponsor.

(d) In accordance with Section 303(f)(3) of the CWPPRA the Local Sponsor shall provide a minimum of 5% of the total project cost in cash. In order to properly account for these funds, the Local Sponsor shall deposit into the escrow account at least 5% of the estimated expenditures for the following State fiscal year. For projects where the Local Sponsor is the construction agency, the 5% escrow requirement is waived. However, in those cases, the Local Sponsor must provide a letter indicating that they are the primary construction agency and that the required cash contribution is provided through their award and management of the construction contract.

(2) Work-in-Kind: Credit for work-in-kind or other activities performed by the Local Sponsor will be granted as follows:

(a) By September 1 of each year the Local Sponsor shall submit to the Federal Sponsor a statement of expenditures in a format agreeable to the Federal Sponsor. It is the Federal Sponsor's responsibility to assure that the amount of credit given is in accordance with the Cost Sharing Agreement and applicable regulations and that audits, if required, are performed.

(b) After review and approval, but no later than 90 days after receipt of the statement of expenditures from the Local Sponsor, the Federal Sponsor shall

forward to the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, ATTN.: CEMVN-PM-C, with copy to the Local Sponsor, a request that credit be given the Local Sponsor for the work performed. This statement shall indicate the amount of credit to be granted to the Local Sponsor, by project funding category, and the period covered.

(c) The Corps of Engineers will give credit to the Local Sponsor on the project in the amount stated and inform both the Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor of the current status of funding and cost sharing for the project.

(3) Funding Adjustments: Whenever the Corps of Engineers determines that:

(a) The Local Sponsor's share of the project cost to date, including cash and credits granted under paragraph 5.c.(2)(b), is less than the required 25 percent (15 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 10 percent) of the total project cost to date; and/or

(b) The Local Sponsor has paid, in cash, less than the required 5 percent of the total project cost to date; and

(c) Insufficient funds for the project are on deposit in the escrow account to cover the deficit; then the Corps of Engineers will inform both the Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor of the deficiency and request that the Local Sponsor deposit into the escrow account the necessary funds or, if allowed, furnish the Federal Sponsor sufficient proof of additional credits in the amount necessary to maintain the required cost sharing percentage.

(4) Transfer of Funds Between Projects: The Local Sponsor may request the transfer of excess project funds in its escrow account from one project to another provided that:

(a) The Corps of Engineers agrees, in writing, that the funds are excess to the project; and,

(b) The Federal Sponsor of the project losing the funds agrees, in writing, to release the funds; and,

(c) The Federal Sponsor of the project gaining the funds agrees, in writing, to the funds transfer.

d. PROJECT COST LIMITS

(1) Non-Cash Flow Projects: The total project cost may exceed the original PPL

estimate by 25% without the Federal Sponsor formally requesting a cost increase from the Task Force. If the estimated total project cost exceeds the original PPL estimate by more than 25%, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, may request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional funds as indicated in paragraph 6.e.(2). If the increase is approved by the Task Force, no additional increase shall be allowed without the explicit approval of the Task Force. An increase of more than 25% for an individual funding category, except for monitoring as stated in 5.d(3), does not require specific Task Force approval unless the increase causes the total project cost to exceed the original PPL estimate by more than 25%.

(2) Cash-Flow Projects:

a. PHASE 1: The Phase 1 cost may exceed the original PPL Phase 1 estimate by 25% without the Federal Sponsor formally requesting a cost increase from the Task Force. If the estimated total cost of Phase 1 exceeds the original PPL Phase 1 estimate by more than 25%, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, may request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional Phase 1 funds as indicated in paragraph 6.e.(2). If the increase is approved by the Task Force, no additional increase shall be allowed without the explicit approval of the Task Force. An increase of more than 25% for an individual funding category, except for monitoring as stated in 5.d(3), does not require specific Task Force approval unless the increase causes the total project cost to exceed the original PPL estimate by more than 25%.

b. PHASE 2: The Phase 2 cost may exceed the Phase 2 estimate developed during Phase 1 by 25% without the Federal Sponsor formally requesting a cost increase from the Task Force. If the estimated total cost of Phase 2 exceeds the Phase 2 estimate developed during Phase 1 by more than 25%, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, may request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional Phase 2 funds ~~as indicated in paragraph 6.e.(2)~~. If the increase is approved by the Task Force, no additional increase shall be allowed without the explicit approval of the Task Force. An increase of more than 25% for an individual funding category, except for monitoring as stated in 5.d(3), does not require specific Task Force approval unless the increase causes the total project cost to exceed the original PPL estimate by more than 25%.

(3) Exceptions: For those monitoring and OMRR&R category estimates that were formally reviewed and approved by the Task Force on 23Jul98 and 20Jan99,

respectively, increases in those categories above the approved estimates shall be requested by the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force. These requests may occur at any Task Force meeting. Additionally, the monitoring category is capped for all projects at 100% of the original estimate approved by the Task Force and may not exceed this amount without the explicit approval of the Task Force.

e. DISPUTES: Neither the Corps of Engineers, as funds administrator, nor any Federal Sponsor shall be a party to any disputes that may arise between another Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor under a project Cost Sharing Agreement.

6. **PROCEDURES.**

a. PROJECT PLANNING AND SELECTION:

(1) CWPPRA Committees: Following is a description of duties of the primary organizations formed under CWPPRA to manage the program:

(a) Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force: Typically referred to as the "Task Force" (TF), it is comprised of one member each, respectively, from five Federal Agencies and the State of Louisiana. The Federal Agencies of CWPPRA include: the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the Department of Interior, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Department of Commerce (USDC), the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Governor's Office of the State of Louisiana represents the state on the TF. The TF provides guidance and direction to subordinate organizations of the program through the Technical Committee (TC), which reports to the TF. The TF is charged by the Act to make final decisions concerning issues, policies, and procedures necessary to execute the Program and its projects. The TF makes directives for action to the TC, and the TF makes decisions in consideration of TC recommendations. The District Commander of the USACE, New Orleans District, is the Chairman of the TF. The TF Chairman leads the TF and sets the agenda for action of the TF to execute the Program and projects. At the direction of the Chairman of the TF, the New Orleans District: (1) provides administration, management, and oversight of the Planning and Construction Programs, and acts as accountant, budgeter, administrator, and disburser of all Federal and non-Federal funds under the Act, (2) acts as the official manager of financial data and most information relating to the CWPPRA Program and projects.

The State of Louisiana is a full voting member of the Task Force except for selection of the Priority Project List [Section 303(a)(2) of the CWPPRA], as stipulated in President Bush's November 29, 1990, signing statement of the CWPPRA. In addition, the State of Louisiana may not serve as a "lead" Task Force member for design and construction of wetlands projects on the priority project list.

(b) Technical Committee: The Technical Committee (TC) is established by the TF to provide advice and recommendations for execution of the Program and projects from a number of technical perspectives, which include: engineering, environmental, economic, real estate, construction, operation and maintenance, and monitoring. The TC provides guidance and direction to subordinate organizations of the program through the Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee (P&E), which reports to the TC. The TC is charged by the TF to consider and shape decisions and proposed actions of the P&E, regarding its position on issues, policy, and procedures towards execution of the Program and projects. The TC makes directives for action to the P&E, and the TC makes decisions in consideration of P&E recommendations. The TC approves changes to this SOP. In the event that such changes would reflect policy-level changes, then these changes must first be approved by the Task Force. Additionally, the TC appoints the chairs of the various workgroups that report to the TC. The State of Louisiana is represented on the TC by DNR. The Chair's seat of the TC resides with the USACE, New Orleans District. The TC Chairman leads the TC and sets the agenda for action of the TC to make recommendations to the TF for executing the Program and projects. At the direction of the Chairman of the TF, the Chairman of the TC guides the management and administrative work charged to the TF Chairman.

(c) Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee: The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee (P&E) is the working level committee established by the TC to form and oversee special technical workgroups to assist in developing policies and processes, and recommend procedures for formulating plans and projects to accomplish the goals and mandates of CWPPRA. The seat of the Chairman of the P&E resides with the USACE, New Orleans District. The P&E Chairman leads the P&E and sets the agenda for action of the P&E to make recommendations to the TC for executing the Program and projects. At the direction of the Chairman of the TC, the Chairman of the P&E executes the management and administrative work directives of the TC and TF Chairs.

(d) Environmental Workgroup: The Environmental Workgroup (EnvWG), under the guidance and direction of the P&E, reviews candidate projects to: (1) suggest any recommended measures and features that should be

considered during engineering and design for the achievement and/or enhancement of wetland benefits, and (2) determine the estimated annualized wetland benefits (Average Annual Habitat Units) of those projects.

(e) Engineering Workgroup: The Engineering Workgroup (EngWG), under the guidance and direction of the P&E, provides engineering standards, quality control/assurance, and support, for the review and comment of the cost estimates for: engineering, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW), economic, real estate, construction, construction supervision and inspection, project management, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, of candidate and demonstration projects considered for development, selection, and funding under the Act.

(f) Economic Workgroup: The Economic Workgroup (EcoWG), under the guidance and direction of the P&E, reviews and evaluates candidate projects that have been completely developed, for the purpose of assigning the fully funded first cost of projects, based on the estimated 20-year stream of project costs.

(2) ~~Quarterly~~ October Budgeting Meetings: Each year the Task Force shall have ~~four~~ one meeting~~s~~ (referred to below as the ~~quarterly~~ October budgeting meeting~~s~~) at which Phase 2 funding may be approved at the discretion of the Task Force after considering the recommendations of the Technical Committee. At the ~~January quarterly~~October budgeting meeting, the Task Force will also select demonstration projects, projects for Phase 1 funding on the annual priority project list (with the exception of PPL14 which will be approved at the January 2005 Task Force meeting), and will approve monitoring and O&M funding as recommended by the Technical Committee. Demonstration projects are considered non-cash-flow managed projects. The Task Force will review the process each year to determine the effect on the overall program and may decide at any time to modify the process. The current process for selection of the annual priority list projects is included as Appendix A. Beginning with PPL13, and then on all subsequent priority lists, candidate projects will be assigned a Prioritization Criteria ranking score as part of the Phase 0 analysis. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will provide a quarterly report on the total funds associated with all phases of approved projects versus the estimated total funding available through the current authorization and estimate at what point these two values would be approximately equal.

(3) Planning:

(a) Each year, no more than $5.0 million will be set aside from out of the

total available annual program allocation for planning, in accordance with Section 306 (a) (1) of PL 101-646. These funds shall remain available for budgeting and reprogramming during any fiscal year after the funds are set aside. At the ~~quarterly~~ October budgeting meeting~~s~~, the Task Force shall review unallocated funds from previous years and may program some or all of these funds in addition to the $5.0 million for the current year. Nevertheless, in no case will more than $5.0 million be set aside annually for planning from the total available annual program allocation. Generally, the planning process shall include the nomination, development and evaluation of proposed projects by the Engineering, Environmental and Economic workgroups.

(b) During the evaluation of Priority Project List Candidate projects, Federal Sponsors will provide cost estimates and spending schedules for each project to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee prior to project ranking[3]. Spending schedules will be developed through the end of the project life. The cost estimates and schedules will be comprised of the following subcategories:

Subcategory A. **Phase 1 Engineering and Design** (includes Engineering and Design, Phase 1 Real Estate Requirements[4], environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA compliance and HTRW) and Permitting, Project Management, and draft OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects) Development)

Subcategory B. **Phase 1 Pre-construction Biological Monitoring** (includes Monitoring Plan Development)

Subcategory C. **Phase 2 Construction** (includes Phase 2 Real Estate Requirements (including oyster leases), Project Management, Contract Management, and Construction Supervision and Inspection)

Subcategory D. **Phase 2 Post-Construction Biological Monitoring** (includes Construction-Phase Biological Monitoring)

Subcategory E. **Phase 2 OMRR&R**

(c) The Engineering Work Group and Monitoring Work Group will review

3 Note the previously designated complex projects from PPL 9 are considered candidate projects and may be evaluated in accordance with this paragraph and paragraphs 6.a.(3)(c) and (d). Complex projects would then compete at the October ~~a quarterly~~ budgeting meeting for Phase 1 authorization.

4 Includes Real Estate requirements up to but not including the purchase of Real Estate.

these estimates for consistency among projects. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will provide a table of these subcategories along with the results of the Environmental Work Group's evaluation to the Technical Committee.

(d) The Technical Committee will review these results along with the project budget requirements and schedules. The Technical Committee will determine a recommended cutoff point, based on project cost effectiveness and other criteria to recommend to the Task Force.

(4) Annual Priority List:

(a) The CWPPRA project approval and budgeting process is to be accomplished in two phases as described below. Approval and budgeting of Phase 1 would not guarantee approval and budgeting of Phase 2, which would involve competition among successful projects from Phase 1. At the J~~anuary quarterly~~ October budgeting meeting (with the exception being that the Task Force will approve PPL14 Phase 1 funds in January 2005), the Task Force may select projects for Phase 1 funding on the annual Priority Project List, after considering the recommendation of the Technical Committee. In the first year, projects will generally receive budget approval for Subcategories A and B, even though these activities may take 2 to 3 years. During the second and third year the project may not need additional funding (unless Subcategories A and B require additional funds or the project is ready to begin construction). Priority Project Lists for subsequent years will also follow this procedure.

(b) The Corps will provide a status report and update at each Task Force meeting on the six funding subcategories to include expenditures, obligations, and disbursements.

b. COST SHARING AGREEMENTS:

(1) For non-cash flow-managed projects, prior to requesting permission from the Task Force to proceed with construction of the project, the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor shall negotiate and execute the necessary Cost Sharing Agreement using their own internal procedures. For cash flow-managed projects, a Cost Sharing Agreement will be negotiated and executed as soon as possible after Phase 1 approval by the Task Force.

(2) Normal Cost Sharing Agreement processing is as follows:

(a) Federal Sponsor, if applicable, forwards draft Cost Sharing Agreement to the Local Sponsor. For cooperative agreements, the Local Sponsor will initiate the agreement.

(b) After review and negotiations, the Local Sponsor, upon approval by the State of Louisiana Office of Contractual Review, signs the Cost Sharing Agreement and forwards document(s) to the Federal Sponsor.

(c) The Federal Sponsor signs and executes the document(s) and forwards copies to the Local Sponsor and forwards a copy to the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C, for Task Force records and to aid in managing funds disbursement.

c. ESCROW ACCOUNT AMENDMENT:

(1) Once the Cost Sharing Agreement is executed, the Federal Sponsor shall request from the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C, that an amendment to the escrow agreement be executed.

(2) The Corps of Engineers shall forward to the Local Sponsor, in triplicate, the amendment for the escrow agreement.

(3) After execution by the Local Sponsor and the financial institution, the Local Sponsor shall forward all copies of the amendment to the Corps of Engineers.

(4) After execution by the Corps of Engineers of the escrow agreement amendment, an original copy of each shall be forwarded to the Local Sponsor and the financial institution. A copy of the Escrow Agreement Amendment shall be forwarded to the appropriate Federal Sponsor.

(5) The escrow agreement shall be amended, as required, to incorporate new projects as Cost Sharing Agreements are executed.

(6) The Local Sponsor is required to furnish an estimate of work-in-kind credits for the next State fiscal year of projects for which the corresponding Federal Sponsor or Corps has requested such information.

d. PRE-CONSTRUCTION FUNDS DISBURSEMENT:

(1) Upon approval of a Priority List by the Task Force, the Corps of Engineers will set up the necessary accounts for each project-funding category or subcategory and reserve funds in the amount estimated in the Priority List report.

(2) Within 30 days after receipt of a request for initial funds from the Federal Sponsor, the Corps of Engineers will prepare a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (DD Form 448), hereinafter referred to as MIPR, obligating funds up to a maximum of 85% of the PPL estimate for those pre-construction activities for which funds are being requested (except 5th and 6th list projects,

where the maximum is 90%), to each Federal Sponsor in accordance with their request and subject to the availability of funds.

e. PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

(1) Workplan Review : Federal and State Sponsors shall develop a plan of work for accomplishing Phase 1. This plan shall include, but not be limited to: a detailed task list, time line with specific milestones, and budget which breaks out specific tasks such as geo-technical evaluations, hydrological investigations, modeling, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW), Ecological Review (See Appendix B), surveying, and other items deemed necessary to justify the proposed project features. The plans shall be developed within 3 months following Phase 1 approval and shall be reviewed by the P&E Subcommittee.

(2) 30% Design Review: In order to resolve problems and anticipate cost growth at the earliest possible point, a 30% Design Review shall be performed upon completion of a Preliminary Design Report. The Preliminary Design Report shall include: 1) Recommended project features, 2) Engineering and Design surveys, 3) Engineering and Design Geotechnical Investigation (borings, testing results, and analysis), 4) Draft Modeling Report (if applicable), 5) Draft Ecological Review for cash flow-managed projects (See Appendix B), 6) Land Ownership Investigation, 7) Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment, 8) Revised project construction cost estimates based on the current preliminary design, 9) Description of changes from Phase 0 approval, 10) Map prepared by the Local Sponsor and provided to the Federal Sponsor indicating any oyster leases potentially impacted by the proposed project and a data sheet listing: lease number, lease acreage, lessee name, and other pertinent data. The Federal Sponsor shall hold a "30% Design Review Conference" with the Local Sponsor to obtain their concurrence to continue with design. However, if the Local Sponsor has responsibility for the design of the project, then both Local and Federal Sponsors shall hold a "30% Design Review Conference" to obtain concurrence to continue with design. The other Agencies shall be notified by the Federal Sponsor at least four weeks prior to the conference of the date, time and place and invited to attend. Any supporting data shall be forwarded to the other Agencies for their review, with receipt two weeks prior to the conference. Invitations and supporting data shall be sent to agency representatives of the Technical Committee, Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee, Project Manager of the Local Sponsor and the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.

This review will verify the viability of the project and whether or not the Federal and Local Sponsors agree to continue with the project. This review must indicate the project is viable before there are expenditures of additional Phase 1 funds.

After the conference, the Federal Sponsor shall forward a letter (or e-mail) to the

Technical Committee with a copy to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee along with the revised estimate, a description of project revisions from the previously authorized project, and a letter of concurrence from the Local Sponsor, informing them of the agreement to continue with the project. The Technical Committee may make a recommendation on whether or not to continue with the project.

Technical Committee
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

For cash flow-managed projects, if the estimate indicates that the Phase 1 cost will exceed 125% of the original approved amount, the Federal Sponsor may, with local sponsor concurrence, request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional funds to continue at a quarterly meeting. For non-cash flow-managed projects, if the revised estimate indicates that the total project cost will exceed 125% of the original PPL estimate, the Federal Sponsor shall request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force, at any Task Force meeting, to continue with the project.

In some cases, the Task Force may require an additional formal review, involving all the Agencies, of the project design at an intermediate level to ensure that optimum benefits to wetlands and associated fish and wildlife resources are achieved. In those cases the Federal Sponsor shall be responsible for coordinating the review with the other Agencies and the Local Sponsor.

(3) Changes in Project Scope: If a project undergoes a major change in scope or a change in scope resulting in a variance of 25 percent from the original approved design, in either: (1) the total project cost, (2) the number of acres benefited, or (3) the ratio of the total project cost to the number of acres benefited, the Federal or Local Sponsor will submit a report to the Technical Committee explaining the reason(s) for the scope change, the impact on cost and benefits, and a statement from the Local Sponsor endorsing the change. The Technical Committee will review the report and recommend to the Task Force approval or rejection of the change.

f. PRE-CONSTRUCTION MONITORING: For monitoring plan development and by the preliminary 30% design review, the Federal Sponsor shall provide at a minimum project-specific goals and strategies that the Local Sponsor will use to prepare a monitoring plan and a budget. The monitoring plan and budget must be submitted to the Technical Committee for review and subsequent approval by the Task Force.

g. REAL ESTATE:

(1) General

(a) Each Federal or Local Sponsor shall follow the real estate procedures in use by that agency.

(b) During preliminary engineering and design, the Federal or Local Sponsor shall identify all real estate potentially impacted by the project.

(c) After determining the property rights required, the Federal or Local Sponsor shall obtain an estimated value of the real estate interest to determine the value of the lands, easements, and rights-of-way to be acquired.

(d) For cash flow-managed projects, real estate purchase will take place only during Phase 2.

(e) For cash flow-managed projects, between the 30% and 95% design reviews, the Local Sponsor will have any potentially impacted oyster leases appraised and will forward to the Federal Sponsor the projected acquisition costs, as well as the supporting documentation for these cost projections except for legally proprietary information. In the case of non-cash-flow projects, this information will be provided prior to soliciting construction approval from the Task Force.

(2) Section 303(e) Approval:

(a) In accordance with Section 303(e) of the CWPPRA, the Federal Sponsor shall, prior to acquiring any lands, easements or rights-of way for a CWPPRA project, obtain Secretary of the Army, or his designee, approval that the "project is subject to such terms and conditions as necessary to ensure that the wetlands restored, enhanced or managed through that project will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and dependent fish and wildlife populations."

(b) In order to obtain approval in accordance with paragraph 6.g.(2)(a), the Federal Sponsor shall furnish the Corps of Engineers the following

information before requesting approval to proceed to construction for non-cash flow-managed projects or before requesting approval to proceed with Phase 2 for cash flow-managed projects:

i. Plan showing project limits and type of land rights required.

ii. Language of land rights.

iii. Certification that land acquisition is in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

iv. Statement that all standard real estate practices will be followed in acquiring land rights.

v. Overgrazing determination:

- Statement as to whether overgrazing in the project area is a problem and whether easements restricting grazing are required.

- The Corps of Engineers, in the review of the determination, may request concurrence from the Natural Resource Conservation Service as to the need for any grazing restricting easements.

(c) All requests for Section 303(e) approval shall be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CEMVN-RE-L
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

(3) Real Estate for Non-Cash-Flow Managed Projects: Federal Sponsors shall ensure that real estate acquisition of easements requiring a significant expenditure of funds and pre-construction monitoring are not begun until the Engineering and Design is substantially completed and there is a reasonably high level of certainty that the project will proceed to the next phase.

(4) Real Estate for Cash-Flow Managed Projects: The purchasing of real estate shall not occur until Phase 2. Preliminary real estate investigations, including preliminary ownership determination, should be initiated early in the project design activities.

h. FINAL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

(1) 95% Design Review: A "95% Design Review Conference", shall be held by

the Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor to review and mutually agree to a Final Design Report. The Final Design Report shall include: 1) a revised project cost estimate (fully-funded), 2) environmental benefits, 3) constructability, and 4) a draft OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects). All projects will be assigned an updated Prioritization Criteria ranking score as part of the 95% design review. The updated Prioritization Score shall be reviewed by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups at least one week prior to the 95% design review conference. The other Agencies shall be notified by the Federal Sponsor at least four weeks prior to the conference of the date, time and place and invited to attend. The Federal Sponsor shall forward the Final Design Report (95%) and a set of Plans and Specifications to the other Agencies and the Local Sponsor for their review and comment, for receipt at least two weeks prior to design review conference. The Final Design Report shall include all supporting data, along with a description of how the project differs in cost, features, and environmental benefits from the project approved during Phase 0. It should also include a response to the comments brought up at the 30% Design Review Conference. Invitations and supporting data shall be sent to agency representatives of the Technical Committee, Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee, Project Manager of the Local Sponsor, and the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities. However, if the Local Sponsor has responsibility for the design of the project, then the Local Sponsor shall forward to the other Agencies and the Federal Sponsor those items listed above.

(2) Changes in Project Scope: Changes in project scope will be addressed as stated in paragraph 6.e.(3).

i. CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL FOR NON-CASH-FLOW MANAGED PROJECTS
For non-cash flow-managed projects, prior to advertising for bids for the first construction contract, the Federal Sponsor shall request permission from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force, at any Task Force meeting or by fax vote, to proceed to construction. The request shall be addressed to the:

Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

The request to proceed to construction will include at a minimum:

(1) Description of the project to include an easily reproducible PPL/Fact Sheet scale map which clearly depicts the current project boundary and project

features, detailed description of project features/elements, updated assessment of benefits, and an updated fact sheet suitable for inclusion in the formal PPL documentation. In cases of substantial modifications/scope changes to original conceptual design or costs, describe the specific changes both qualitatively and quantitatively.

(2) Section 303(e) Certification from the Corps of Engineers.

(3) Overgrazing determination statement.

(4) The current estimated total project cost, including inflation through the life of the project.

(5) A statement that the Cost Sharing Agreement between the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor has been executed.

(6) A statement that:

(a) all NEPA, environmental, and cultural requirements, have been complied with; and,

(b) a hazardous, toxic, and radiological waste (HTRW) assessment, if required, has been performed[5].

(7) An estimate of project expenditures by State fiscal year and further subdivided by project funding category.

j. PHASE 2 APPROVAL FOR CASH-FLOW MANAGED PROJECTS: For cash flow-managed projects, at the end of Phase 1 the Federal Sponsor may request permission from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force to proceed to Phase 2. Permission to proceed to Phase 2 implies permission to proceed to construction. The request to proceed to Phase 2 will be in accordance with Appendix C – Information Required in Phase 2 Authorization Requests.

(1) Phase 2 approval and funding requests will usually be evaluated at the ~~quarterly~~ Ocbober budgeting meeting~~s~~, in accordance with Section 6.a.(2). Federal Sponsors should provide a list of projects eligible for Phase 2 approval. Projects shall not be eligible for Phase 2 approval and funding until the requirements listed in Appendix C are satisfied. Approval to proceed to Phase 2 implies permission to proceed to construction. Due to limited funding,

[5]Note: Agencies are cautioned to review the requirements for the "innocent landowner defense" under CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9601(35)(B), in cases involving the discovery of HTRW on lands, easements, servitudes and/or rights-of-way acquired for a project.

approval and budgeting of Phase 2 would involve competition among successful projects from Phase 1.

(2) At the time that a Federal Sponsor requests Phase 2 approval, the Federal Sponsor shall provide an estimate of the project based on the 5 subcategories along with a spending schedule. The Task Force shall approve the total funds necessary for Phase 2 implementation, but shall only allot funds on an as needed basis and will therefore generally fund the entire amount of Subcategory C (Construction) and the first 3 years of both Subcategory D (Post-Construction Monitoring) and Subcategory E (OMRR&R) upon Phase 2 approval.

At subsequent ~~December~~ September Technical Committee and ~~January~~ October Task Force meetings, the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor should request approval to maintain 3 years of Subcategory D and E funding for each approved project; however, any additional funding (after the initial 3-year funding) shall not be allotted until project construction is completed. Individual project requests will be grouped with other requests and submitted for approval. Requests should be consistent with the previously approved budget for the project, unless additional information can be provided to justify the need for additional funds. When the request is more than the amount in the approved project's budget, the Technical Committee should review each specific request to determine if the amount should be approved. This programming procedure will ensure that, at any one time, an approved project has sufficient funds for about 3 years of Subcategories D and E.

(3) Subsequent to the ~~quarterly~~ October budgeting meeting~~s~~, Federal Sponsors may make a request to the committees at any time for additional funding that is needed for the current fiscal year when there is evidence that the project is progressing faster than expected, as long as those funds are utilized for the current phase of the project. Federal Sponsors shall specify under which subcategory additional funding is being requested.

(4) If construction award has not occurred within 2 years of Phase 2 approval, the Phase 2 funds will be placed on a revocation list for consideration by the Task Force at the next Task Force meeting. Requests to restore these funds may be considered at subsequent ~~quarterly~~ October budgeting meetings.

k. CONSTRUCTION FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS:

(1) Upon approval to begin Engineering and Design (E&D) by the Task Force, the Corps of Engineers will issue to the Federal Sponsor a MIPR in the amount requested to cover up to a maximum of 75% of the E&D phase (85 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for

which the percentage is 90 percent), as described in paragraph 6.d.(2).

(2) Upon approval to begin construction for non-cash flow-managed projects or upon approval to begin Phase 2 for cash flow-managed projects by the Task Force and deposit by the Local Sponsor of the required funds into the escrow account, the Federal Sponsor shall request that the Corps of Engineers issue a MIPR in the amount sufficient to cover the total construction and related costs of the project.

(3) In those cases where the Local Sponsor's annual work-in-kind plus cash contribution exceeds the project expenditures required cost sharing percentage, and at the request of the Federal Sponsor, the Corps of Engineers will disburse funds directly to the Local Sponsor to bring the project expenditures to the required cost sharing. The Federal Sponsor must approve the "work-in-kind" exceedance in advance.

(4) Annually, agencies shall review all projects approved for funding in Phases 1 or 2, identify excess funds in those phases, and make a recommendation to the Task Force as to how much of these funds to return at that time. Returned funds shall be available for reprogramming. At the ~~quarterly~~ October budgeting meetings, the Task Force may also consider reprogramming excess funds that have not yet been returned to the Task Force. Agencies may return funds by returning a MIPR to the Corps of Engineers with a request to deobligate funds.

l. PROJECT BID OVERRUNS - Pre-award (Amended by Task Force on 21 Oct. 98):

(1) Statement of Problem: Occasionally bids on CWPPRA projects may exceed the project cost limits. When bids exceed the project cost limits, the options are:

(a) Option 1): allow the acceptance period to expire and abandon the project

(b) Option 2): reject all bids, reduce the scope of the project and re-advertise

(c) Option 3): request additional funding from the Technical Committee and subsequently the Task Force and award the contract

(2) Discussion:

(a) Option 1): is not an acceptable option if the project is needed.

(b) Option 2): may be required if the bids are obviously so far over the available funding that the Technical Committee and/or Task Force would not consider additional funding requests.

(c) Option 3): the most desirable option if the overrun is not excessive enough to be considered under Option 2) as a candidate for rejection, scope reduction and re-advertisement.

If option 2 or 3 is selected, the resulting cost effectiveness should be evaluated for substantial increases in cost/habitat unit (i.e. 25% above original). This will require a review of the change in benefits by the Environmental Work Group and approval by the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee. Provisions in bidding procedures by the State of Louisiana allow for acceptance of a bid within a 30-calendar day window after the offer is made. Provisions in bidding procedures by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) allow for acceptance of a bid within a 60-calendar day window after the offer is made. Provisions in bidding procedures by the Corps of Engineers, under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), mandate acceptance of a construction bid within a 30 calendar day window after the offer is made, unless the bidder grants an extension in 30 day increments.

(3) Required Procedure:

(a) The final engineers cost estimate must have been reviewed and updated within 90 days prior to advertisement.

(b) If the final estimate, prior to advertising, equals or slightly exceeds the project cost limits, the bid package should contain a base bid, and additive or deductive alternatives that would allow the project to be awarded within the project cost limits. The base bid with additive or deductive alternates provides additional flexibility if the base bid is lower than anticipated.

(c) If the final estimate is within the available funds (authorized amount) prior to bidding and the base bid without alternates approach was used but the bid exceeded the project cost limits, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, will notify each of the agencies on the Task Force of their intention to request additional funds within 15 days of receipt of bids. The Federal Sponsor should also provide the other members of the Task Force bid data and any information that supports the request for additional funds at the same time.

(d) If the final estimate is within the available funds (authorized amount) prior to bidding and the base bid with alternates approach was used but the bid

exceeded the project cost limits, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, would apply deductive alternates to get the project within available funds. In no case should the Federal Sponsor implement, without Task Force approval and Local Sponsor concurrence, a deductive alternative that would reduce the original project's cost-effectiveness by more than 25%; this will require prior consultation with the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee and the appropriate work groups. If after taking deductive alternatives the base bid still exceeds the project cost limits, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, will notify each of the agencies on the Task Force of their intention to request additional funds within 15 days of receipt of bids. The Federal Sponsor should also provide the other members of the Task Force bid data and any information that supports the request for additional funds at the same time.

(4) Mandates:

(a) The State of Louisiana must agree to cost share in the additional funds requested prior to bid acceptance.

(b) If a project has already received approval for a cost increase above project cost limits then it must stay within the budgeted amount for construction.

m. MONITORING:

(1) The Monitoring Plan and OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects) shall be developed in conjunction with the engineering and design to ensure that the plan will be completed prior to the Task Force granting approval for construction in accordance with paragraph 6.i. and j.

(2) Project monitoring shall be accomplished following the monitoring plan developed for the project by the Technical Advisory Group and as specified in the Cost Sharing Agreement. Funding for the monitoring activities shall be as required in paragraphs 5.c.(2), 6.a.(4)(a), 6.j.(2), and 6.k.

(3) Federal Sponsors shall maintain oversight over the Local Sponsor's expenditure of Post-Construction Biological Monitoring funds. The Local Sponsor shall submit invoices, requests for work-in-kind credits, etc., to the Federal Sponsor for its review. Subsequent to its review and approval of the expenditures, and within 90 days of receipt from the Local Sponsor, the Federal Sponsor shall forward the appropriate documentation to the Corps for payment.

(4) Monitoring contingency funds are available for both project-specific and programmatic activities as outlined in "Monitoring Contingency Fund - Standard Operating Procedure" dated December 8, 1999. The P&E Subcommittee has authority to approve or disapprove requests submitted by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Monitoring Program Manager.

n. OMRR&R: Project OMRR&R shall be as specified in the project's Cost Sharing Agreement. Funding for OMRR&R activities shall be as required in paragraphs 5.c.(2), 6.j.(2), and 6.k.

(1) Federal Sponsors shall maintain oversight over the Local Sponsor's expenditure of OMRR&R funds. The Local Sponsor shall submit invoices, requests for work-in-kind credits, etc., to the Federal Sponsor for its review. Subsequent to its review and approval of the expenditures, and within 90 days of receipt from the Local Sponsor, the Federal Sponsor shall forward the appropriate documentation to the Corps for payment.

(2) From time to time there will be projects that have completed construction, but that need modification to ensure their success, cover a design deficiency, or to handle some critical unanticipated requirement. Federal Sponsors may make a request through the Technical Committee to the Task Force for funding of such modifications. In its recommendation to the Task Force, the Technical Committee will make a determination whether the funds are needed to meet a time critical requirement or whether funding could be postponed for consideration during the October budgeting meeting.

o. PROJECT CLOSEOUT:

(1) The Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor shall keep books, records, documents, and other evidence pertaining to costs and expenses incurred by the project to the extent and in such detail as will properly reflect total project costs. The Local Sponsor and Federal Sponsor shall maintain such books, records, documents and other evidence for a minimum of three (3) years after completion of construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, and monitoring of the project and resolution of all relevant claims arising therefrom, and shall make available at their offices at reasonable times, such books, records, documents, and other evidence for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the Local Sponsor and Federal Sponsor.

(2) Upon completion of all work and certification by the Federal Sponsor of the final accounting on the project, the Corps of Engineers shall release any excess project funds from the escrow account and/or reimburse the Local Sponsor for any overpayment of their cost sharing requirements, provided funds are

available, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Cost Sharing Agreement and the Escrow Agreement.

(3) If the Corps of Engineers advances funds to a Federal Sponsor for a project, any excess funds identified at the completion of the project shall be returned to the Corps of Engineers for credit to the CWPPRA accounts.

(4) Any excess funds in an escrow account shall be returned to the Local Sponsor, or at its option, transferred to another project in accordance with paragraph 5.c.(4).

p. PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION: (amended by Task Force on June 21, 1995)

(1) When the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor agree that it is necessary to deauthorize a project prior to construction, they shall submit a letter to the Technical Committee explaining the reasons for requesting the deauthorization and requesting approval by the Task Force.

(2) If agreement between the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor is not reached, either party may then appeal directly to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will forward to the Task Force a recommendation concerning deauthorization of the project. Nothing herein shall preclude the Federal Sponsor or the Local Sponsor from bringing a request for deauthorization to the Task Force irrespective of the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

(3) Upon submittal of a request for deauthorization to the Technical Committee, all parties shall suspend all future obligations and expenditures as soon as practicable, until the issue is resolved.

(4) Upon receiving preliminary approval from the Task Force to deauthorize a project, the Chairman of the Technical Committee shall send notice to Louisiana Congressional delegation, the State House and Senate Natural Resources Committee chairs, the State Senator (s) and State Representative (s) in whose district the project falls, senior parish officials in the parish (es) where the project is located, any landowners whose property would be directly affected by the project, and any interested parties, requesting their comments and advising them that, at the next Task Force meeting, a final decision on deauthorization will be made.

(5) When the Task Force determines that a project should be abandoned or no longer pursued because of economic or other reasons, all expenditures shall cease immediately or as soon as practicable. Congress and the State House and

Senate Natural Resources Committee chairs will be informed of the decision.

(6) Once a project is deauthorized by the Task Force, it shall be categorized as "deauthorized" and closed-out as required by paragraph 6.o.

q. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AMENDMENTS AND TRACKING :

An official, current version of these Standard Operating Procedures shall be maintained by the COE New Orleans District as part of their support of the Technical Committee. This document shall be available on the internet, and shall be appended with sufficient documentation so that the origin and approval of amendments can be traced. Approval will involve, at a minimum, formal acceptance by the Technical Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the changes involve policy-level decisions, then any such changes must also be ratified by the Task Force. Amendments to the SOP are tracked in Appendix G.

Enclosures:

Appendix A - Priority List 15 Selection Process
Appendix B - Ecological Review
Appendix C - Information Required in Phase 2 Authorization Requests
Appendix D - Calendar of Required Activities
Appendix E - Demonstration SOP
Appendix F - Prioritization Criteria
Appendix G - Tracking of Changes

APPENDIX A

PRIORITY LIST 15 SELECTION PROCESS

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Guidelines for Development of the 15th Priority Project List
Draft, 14 Jul 04

I. Development of Supporting Information

A. COE staff prepares spreadsheets indicating status of all restoration projects (CWPPRA PL 1-14; 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 1-14; 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 plus PL 1-6) (Suhayda).
4) Regional boundary maps with basin boundaries and parish boundaries included.

II. Areas of Need and Project Nominations

A. The four Regional Planning Teams meet, examine basin maps, discuss areas of need and Coast 2050 strategies, and choose no more than one project per basin, except that two projects may be selected from Terrebonne and Barataria basins because of the high loss rates in those basins. A total of up to 11 projects could be nominated. 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 DNR will have one vote.

B. The nominated projects will be indicated on a map and paired with Coast 2050 strategies. A lead Federal agency will be designated 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 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.

C. Engineering and Environmental Work Groups meet to review project features, discuss potential benefits, and estimate preliminary fully funded cost ranges for each project.

D. P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of cost estimates and other pertinent information 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 six candidate projects for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic work groups.

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. 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.

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 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 15th Priority Project List

A. Technical Committee meets and considers matrix, Project Information Sheets, and pubic comments. The Technical Committee will recommend up to four projects for selection to the 15th PPL.

B. The CWPPRA Task Force will review the TC recommendations and determine which projects will receive Phase 1 funding for the 15th PPL.

C. State Wetlands Authority reviews projects on the 15th Priority List and consider for Phase I approval and inclusion in the upcoming Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan.

15th Priority List Project Development Schedule

October 2004	Distribute public announcement of PPL15 process and schedule
January 26, 2005	Task Force Meeting (PPL 14 selected)
February 1, 2005	Region IV Planning Team Meeting (Rockefeller Refuge)
February 2, 2005	Region III Planning Team Meeting (Morgan City)
February 3, 2005	Regions II and I Planning Team Meetings (New Orleans)
February 8, 2005	Mardi Gras
February 4 – February 25	Agencies prepare fact sheets for RPT nominated projects
February 21, 2005	President's Day Holiday
March 8 & 9, 2005	Engineering/ Environmental work groups review project features, benefits & prepare preliminary cost estimates for nominated projects (DNR)
March 10, 2005	P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of nominated projects showing initial cost estimates (DNR)
March 16, 2005	Technical Committee meets to select PPL15 candidate projects (NOD)
April 13, 2005	Spring Task Force meeting (Lafayette)
April/May	Candidate project site visits
May/June/July/August	Env/Eng/Econ work group project evaluations
July 13, 2005	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
August 17, 2005	Task Force meeting (New Orleans) - announce public meetings
August 30, 2005	PPL 15 Public Meeting (Abbeville)
August 31, 2005	PPL 15 Public Meeting (New Orleans)
September 14, 2005	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
October 19, 2005	Task Force meeting to select PPL 15 (Baton Rouge)
December 7, 2005	Technical Committee meeting (New Orleans)
January 25, 2006	Task Force meeting (New Orleans)
February 2006	RPT meetings for PPL 16

APPENDIX B
ECOLOGICAL REVIEW

Project Ecological Review **(revised 2/23/01)**

The transition to a planning-phase/phase-one/phase-two approach was done to ensure a higher standard of project development and evaluation prior to the decision to commit construction dollars. It is essential that proposed projects have been well designed and evaluated and can demonstrate a high probability of successfully achieving the purpose as assigned by Congress in CWPPRA, i.e. "...significantly contribute to the long-term restoration or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the coastal wetlands in the State of Louisiana…" While there exists clear guidance as to how planning efforts develop proposed projects prior to Phase One, there is little in the way of a clear rationale for how a proposed project's biotic benefits will be assessed during Phase One. The following approach will allow for a consistent, clear, and logical assessment. The goal, strategy and goal-strategy relationship should have been worked out prior to Phase One. They are listed again in this Phase One process in order to ensure that these vital links between planning and Phase One are stated in a consistent manner and readily available to those responsible for Phase One project E&D and evaluation. The Project Feature Evaluation and Assessment of Goal Attainability would be Phase One activities - these are being done to varying degrees already; however, not on a consistent, standardized basis.

Ecological Review

Phase 0 activities:

A **Goal statement.** What is (are) the main biotic goal(s) of the proposed project?
State the biotic response desired from the project, *e.g. restore intermediate marsh acreage, increase marsh sustainability, reduce loss rates, increase productivity and or biodiversity, restore barrier island plant communities, etc.* The goal should be determined in the planning phase (pre-Phase One).

B **Strategy statement.** What is (are) the strategy(ies) for achieving the goal stated in "A"?
Describe the physical factors that will cause the desired biotic responses, *e.g. periodically expose water bottoms, reduce water and/or salinity levels, create sheet-flow over the marsh in designated areas, use rock rip-rap along the canal bank to reduce erosion rates, reintroduce alluvial sediments, create a barrier island platform that after settlement will support the desired habitat, etc.* The strategy(ies) should be determined in the planning phase.

C **Strategy-goal relationship.** How will the strategy(ies) achieve the goal(s)?
Describe how the physical factors affected by the project will cause the desired

biotic response, *e.g. by reducing the average salinities and tidal amplitudes the marsh loss rate will be reduced in this predominantly intermediate marsh, by reducing edge erosion the marsh will be protected, by creating a stable platform from dredged material a barrier island plant community can be reestablished.* The strategy-goal relationship should be defined in the planning phase.

Phase 1 activities:

D **Project Feature evaluation.** Do quantitative, engineering evaluations of specific project features such as weirs, culverts, siphons, etc. support the contention that the intended strategy will be achieved? If so, to what degree?

Quantitatively evaluate the project features and an evaluate them in terms of the desired physical causal factors, *e.g. compute how many cfs of river water the culverts will discharge into the project area, and how much sediment will be associated with it over the course of an average twelve-month period, quantify average water level or salinity reduction, etc.* If there are more than one design alternative, this step should be performed on each alternative. This evaluation would be conducted during the initial E&D of Phase One with the results being reviewed during the 30% design conference.

E **Assessment of goal attainability.** Does the relative degree of the project's physical effects, as determined in step "D", support the contention that the project will achieve the desired biotic goal(s) stated in "A"?

Assess the degree to which the project features would cause the stated biological goal: based on expert judgment, assisted with appropriate statistical and other computational tools, such as computer models, and a review of monitoring data and other scientific information. This would also be the appropriate time to identify and assess the potential risks associated with the project. Again, if more than one design alternatives are involved, step "E" should be performed on each alternative. Steps "D" and "E" may be used in an iterative fashion, such that if designs do not support biological goal attainment other designs could be developed and reassessed. This step evaluates the desired project biotic response based on the level of physical changes induced by the project, e.g. determine the results are associated with projects that have caused similar hydrological responses in similar marsh settings, evaluate the evidence that supports the contention that a barrier island platform with the predicted after-settlement profile and grain-size composition will sustain the desired plant community, etc. This evaluation would be conducted during the initial E&D of Phase One with the results being reviewed during the 30% design conference.

APPENDIX C
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PHASE 2 AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

1. Description of Phase One Project

   Describe the candidate project as selected for Phase One authorization, including PPL/Fact Sheet scale map depicting the project boundary and project features, written description of the conceptual features of the project as authorized for Phase One, a summary of the benefits attributed to the Phase One project (e.g., goals/strategies, WVA results and acreage projections) and project budget information as estimated at Phase One authorization (e.g., anticipated costs of construction, O&M, monitoring, etc.).

2. Overview of Phase One Tasks, Process and Issues

   Brief description of Phase One analyses and tasks (engineering, land rights, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW), etc.), including significant problems encountered or remaining issues.

3. Description of the Phase Two Candidate Project

   - Easily reproducible, PPL/Fact Sheet scale map which clearly depicts the current project boundary and project features, suitable for inclusion in the formal PPL documentation.
   - Detailed description of project features/elements, updated assessment of benefits, current cost estimates, and updated Fact Sheet suitable for inclusion in the formal PPL documentation. In cases of substantial modifications to original conceptual design or costs, describe the specific changes both qualitatively and quantitatively.

4. Checklist of Phase Two requirements:

   A. List of Project Goals and Strategies.

   B. A Statement that the Cost Sharing Agreement between the Lead Agency and the Local Sponsor has been executed for Phase I.

   C. Notification from the State or the Corps that landrights will be finalized in a short period of time after Phase 2 approval.

   D. A favorable Preliminary Design Review (30% Design Level). The Preliminary Design shall include completion of surveys, borings, geotechnical investigations, data analysis review, hydrologic data collection and analysis, modeling (if necessary), and development of preliminary designs.

E. Final Project Design Review (95% Design Level). Upon completion of a favorable review of the preliminary design, the Project plans and specifications shall be developed and formalized to incorporate elements from the Preliminary Design and the Preliminary Design Review. Final Project Design Review (95%) must be successfully completed prior to seeking Technical Committee approval.

F. A draft of the Environmental Assessment of the Project, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act must be submitted thirty days before the request for Phase 2 approval.

G. A written summary of the findings of the Ecological Review (See Appendix B).

H. Application for and/or issuance of the public notices for permits. If a permit has not been received by the agency, a notice from the Corps of when the permit may be issued.

I. A hazardous, toxic and radiological waste (HTRW) assessment, if required, has been prepared.

J. Section 303(e) approval from the Corps.

K. Overgrazing determination from the NRCS (if necessary).

L. Revised cost estimate of Phase 2 activities, based on the revised Project design.
Funding/Budget information:
1.) - Specific Phase Two funding request (updated construction cost estimate, three years of monitoring and O&M, etc.)
2.) - Fully funded, 20-year cost projection with anticipated schedule of expenditures

M. Estimate of project expenditures by state fiscal year subdivided by funding category.

N. A revised Wetland Value Assessment must be prepared if, during the review of the preliminary NEPA documentation, three of the Task Force agencies determine that a significant change in project scope occurred.

O. A breakdown of the Prioritization Criteria ranking score, finalized and agreed-upon by all agencies during the 95% design review.

P. Agencies should submit a spreadsheet with the categorical breakdown for Phase 2, as outlined below:

REQUEST FOR PHASE II APPROVAL

PROJECT: _____

PPL: _____ **Project No.** _____

Agency: _____

Phase I Approval Date: _____

Phase II Anticipated Approval Date: _____

	Original Baseline Phase I (100% Level) 1/	Original Baseline Phase II (100% Level) 2/	Recommended Baseline Phase II (100% Level) 3/	Recommended Baseline Phase II Incr 1 (100% Level) 4/
Engr & Des				
Lands				
Fed S&A				
LDNR S&A				
COE Proj Mgmt				
Ph II Const Phase				
Ph II Long Term				
Const Contract				
Const S&I				
Contingency				
Monitoring				
Ph II Const Phase				
Ph II Long Term				
O&M				
Total	-	-	-	-
Total Project		-	-	-

Prepared By: _____ **Date Prepared:** _____

NOTES:

1/ Original Baseline Phase I: The project estimate at the time Phase I is approved by Task Force.

2/ Original Baseline Phase II: The Phase II estimate reflected at the time Phase I is approved.

3/ Recommended Baseline Phase II (100%): The total Phase II estimate at the 100% level developed during Phase I, and presented at the time Phase II approval is requested.

4/ Recommended Baseline Phase II Increment 1 (100%): The funding estimate (at the 100% level) requested at the time Phase II approval is requested. Increment 1 estimate includes Phase II Lands, Phase II Fed S&A, Phase II LDNR S&A, Phase II Corps Proj Mgmt, Phase II Construction Costs, Phase II S&I, Phase II Contingency, Phase II Monitoring, 3 years of Long Term Monitoring, 3 years of Long Term O&M, and 3 years of Long Term Corps PM.

APPENDIX D
CALENDAR OF REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Jan 1	Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps of Engineers.
Jan 15	Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor.
Jan 20	Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects to Agencies and Local Sponsor.
Mar 10	Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agencies for updating.
Apr 1	Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps of Engineers.
Apr 15	Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor.
Apr 20	Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects to Agencies and Local Sponsor.
Jun 10	Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agencies for updating.
Jun 15	Corps of Engineers informs Local Sponsor of funds required to be placed in escrow account for each Project by July 1.
Jul 1	Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps of Engineers.
Jul 1	State fiscal year starts. Local Sponsor receives funds. Funds placed in escrow account.
Jul 15	Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor,
Jul 20	Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects Agencies and Local Sponsor.
Aug 31	The Corps of Engineers and the Local Sponsor forwards the Agency a tabulation of actual project expenditures for the last State fiscal year.
Sep 10	Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agency for updating.

Sep 30	Agencies forward to the Local Sponsor a report on all project expenditures for the last State fiscal year.
Oct 1	Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps Engineers.
Oct 1	Federal fiscal year starts. Federal funds received.
Oct 15	Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor.
Oct 20	Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects Agencies and Local Sponsor
Nov 1	For budgetary purposes, the Agencies furnish the Local Sponsor estimate of funds required for next State fiscal year.
Nov 30	Priority List submitted to HQUSACE or ASA (CW).
Dec 10	Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agency for updating.
Dec 31	Corps of Engineers furnishes MIPR to Agencies for Preliminary Engineering and Design

APPENDIX E
DEMONSTRATION SOP

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Revised Standard Operating Procedure for
Demonstration Projects

Section 303(a) of the CWPPRA states that in the development of Priority Project List, ". . . [should include] due allowance for small-scale projects necessary to demonstrate the use of new techniques or materials for coastal wetlands restoration."

The CWPPRA Task Force on April 6, 1993, stated that: "The Task Force directs the Technical Committee to limit spending on demonstration projects to $2,000,000 annually. The Task Force will entertain exceptions to this guidance for projects that the Technical Committee determines merit special consideration. The Task Force waives the cap on monitoring cost for demonstration projects."

What constitutes a demonstration project:

1. Demonstration projects contain technology that has not been fully developed for routine application in coastal Louisiana or in certain regions of the coastal zone.

2. Demonstration projects contain technology which can be transferred to other areas of the coastal zone.

3. Demonstration projects are unique and are not duplicative in nature.

What is required to evaluate a demonstration project:

1. Demonstration projects must be submitted to the Engineering Work Group by a sponsoring agency prior to August 1 of any calendar year to allow time for evaluation prior to the public meetings that are held to present the results of the annual evaluation of candidate projects.

2. The Engineering Work Group will select a site for the proposed demonstration project based upon criteria provided by the sponsoring agency.

3. No Wetland Value Assessments (WVA) will be performed on candidate demonstration projects.

4. CWPPRA projects are designed and evaluated on a 20-year project life. However, demonstration projects are unique and each project must be developed accordingly. A specific plan of action must be developed, and operation and maintenance and project monitoring costs

included. Monitoring plans are developed to evaluate the demonstration project's technique and the wetland response. Monitoring plans should provide sufficient details of the status of all constructed features of the project such that the performance of all engineered features can be determined. Monitoring should be only long enough to evaluate the demonstration's performance and may be less than 20 years.

5. The evaluation must include a comparison of the demonstration project's method of achieving the project objectives vs. a traditional method of accomplishing the project objectives, if available, including a concise statement as to what is going to be demonstrated and how the demonstration project meets the project objectives;

6. The Engineering Work Group will review costs to ensure consistency and adequacy; address potential cost effectiveness; compare the cost of the demonstration project to the cost of traditional or other methods of achieving project objectives, when such information is available; and report the pros and cons of the demonstration vs. traditional or other methods. The Engineering Work Group will check monitoring costs with the Monitoring Work Group.

7. Demonstration projects do not need to be in the Restoration Plan.

<u>The evaluation criteria:</u>

Each candidate demonstration project will be evaluated and compared to other demonstration projects competing for funding on the annual priority list based on the following criteria:

- innovativeness
- applicability (or transferability)
- potential environmental benefits
- recognized need for the information to be acquired
- potential for technological advancement
- adequacy of the monitoring plan described in paragraph 4 above to determine the success or failure of the project and the relative performance of the constructed project features

The lead Federal agency will present the information shown in the evaluation section to the CWPPRA work groups and committees during the annual evaluation of candidate projects. The Environmental and Engineering Work Groups will review the information on each candidate demonstration project and will prepare a joint evaluation to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee outlining the merits of each project. The recommendation will be based on the above established evaluation criteria. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will present information on the demonstration projects at the public meetings that are held to present the results of the annual evaluation of candidate projects, including any such meetings of the Technical Committee or the Task Force. At these meetings the public will be notified that demonstration projects are testing unproven technology and, for that reason, have a relatively high risk of being unable to provide long-term wetlands benefits.

Funding approval:

Demonstration projects shall only be funded on an annual basis as (a) part(s) of a priority project list.

Demonstration projects do not need to be funded under the cash flow procedures in place for regular priority list projects. Agencies may choose to employ cash flow procedures if they feel it is necessary to maintain consistent accounting procedures or if they feel it would improve dissemination of project information to the Task Force and public.

Reporting of results:

The sponsoring agency will prepare a report for the Technical Committee as soon as meaningful results of the demonstration project are available. The report will describe the initial construction details, including actual costs and the current condition of all constructed features. The report will summarize the results and assess the success or failure of the project and its applicability to other similar sites. The sponsoring agency will prepare follow-up reports for the Technical Committee if and when more information becomes available.

APPENDIX F
PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA FOR UNCONSTRUCTED PPL 1 - 12 PROJECTS
8 Oct 2003

I. Cost-effectiveness

Scoring for this criterion should be based on current estimated total fully funded project cost and net acres created/protected/restored at Target Year (TY) 20. See appendix for calculation of swamp net acres. The fully funded cost estimate (100%) must be reviewed and approved by the Engineering and Economics Workgroups. Monitoring costs should be removed from the fully funded cost estimate, unless the project has a project-specific monitoring cost not covered by CRMS. The net acreage figure must be derived from the official WVA conducted for the project and any new figures must be reviewed and approved by the Environmental Workgroup.

Less than $20,000/ net acre	10
Between $20,000 and $40,000/net acre	7.5
Between $40,000 and $60,000/net acre	5
Between $60,000 and $80,000/net acre	2.5
More than $80,000/net acre	1

Alternate Net Acres for Swamps: The "cost/net acre" approach used above does not work for swamp projects because the wetland loss rates estimated for Louisiana coastal wetlands using historical and recent aerial photography have not detected losses for swamps. However, future loss rates for swamps have been estimated by Coast 2050 mapping unit. This information, combined with other information regarding project details/benefits can be used to provide an "alternate net acres" estimate for swamp projects. Attachment 1 contains a description of how alternate net acres will be derived for the purposes of assessing the cost-effectiveness of swamp projects, along with the assessment of alternate net acres for two listed swamp projects.

II. Address area of need, high loss area

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage the funding of projects that are located in basins undergoing the greatest loss. Additionally, projects should be located, to the maximum extent practicable, in localized "hot spots" of loss when they are likely to substantially reduce or reverse that loss. The appropriate basin determination on the following table should be selected based on the location of the majority of the project benefits, and the project's Future Without Project (FWOP) loss rates should be applied. Either table or a combination of both tables (pro-rating) may be used for scoring depending upon what type of loss rates were developed for use in the WVA. Specific basins are assigned to high, medium, low, and stable/gain categories based on recent basin-wide loss rates (1990 to 2001).

For projects with sub-areas affected by varying land loss or erosion rates, the score shall be a weighted average which reflects the proportion of the total project area affected by each loss rate.

*Example: Project located in Calcasieu/Sabine basin. Project area of 1,000 acres of which sub-area 1 is 200 acres and experiences a shoreline internal loss rate of 3%/yr, and 800-acre subarea 2 has an internal loss rate of 1%/yr. The project would receive a score of (0.2*7)+(0.8*5) = 5.4*

For project areas affected by both internal wetlands loss and shoreline loss, the score shall be a weighted average which reflects the proportion of the total project area affected by each loss rate. *Example: Project located in Calcasieu/Sabine basin. Project area of 1,000 acres of which sub-area 1 is 200 acres and experiences a shoreline erosion rate of 30 feet/yr, and 800-acre subarea 2 has an internal loss rate of 0.1%/yr. The project would receive a score of (0.2*7.5)+(0.8*3) = 3.9*

FOR NON-SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECTS

Internal Loss Rates

Basin	High ≥2.0%/yr	Medium < 2.0% to ≥ 0.5%/yr	Low < 0.5%/yr to ≥ 0.01%/yr
Barataria and Terrebonne	10	7.5	5
Calcasieu/Sabine, Mermentau, and Pontchartrain	7.5	5	4
Breton, Mississippi River	5	4	3
Atchafalaya and Teche/Vermilion	4	3	1

FOR SHORELINE PROTECTION AND BARRIER ISLAND PROJECTS

Average Erosion Rate

Basin	High ≥ 25 ft/yr	Medium ≥ 10 to < 25 ft/yr	Low 0 to < 10 ft/yr
Barataria Terrebonne	10	7.5	5
Calcasieu/Sabine Mermentau Pontchartrain	7.5	5	4
Breton Mississippi River	5	4	3
Atchafalaya Teche/Vermilion	4	3	1

III. Implementability

Implementability is defined as the expectation that a project has no serious impediment(s) precluding its timely implementation. Impediments include issues such as design related issues, land rights, infrastructure relocations, and major public concerns. The Workgroups will, by consensus or vote, agree on impediments which will warrant a point score deduction. Other

issues which sponsoring agencies believe may significantly affect implementability may also be identified.

The predominant land rights issue affecting implementability is identified as non-participating landowners (i.e., demonstrated unwilling to execute required servitudes, rights-of-way, etc.) of tracts critical to major project features, unless the project is sponsored by an agency with condemnation authority which has confirmed its willingness to use such authority. Other difficult or time-consuming land rights issues (e.g., reclamation issues, tracts with many owners/undivided interests) are not defined as issues affecting implementability unless identified as such by the agency procuring land rights for the project.
Infrastructure issues are generally limited to modifications/relocations for which project-specific funding is not included in estimated project costs, or if the infrastructure operator/owner has confirmed its unwillingness to have its operations/structures relocated/modified.

Significant concerns include issues such as large-scale flooding increases, significant navigation impacts, basin-wide ecological changes which would significantly affect productivity or distribution of economically- or socially-important coastal resources.

The project has no obvious issues affecting implementability 10 pts

Subtract 3 points for each identified implementability issue, negative scores are possible.

IV. Certainty of benefits

The Adaptive Management review showed that some types of projects are more effective in producing the anticipated benefits. Factors that influence the certainty of benefits include soil substrate, operational problems, lack of understanding of causative factors of loss, success of engineering and design as well as construction, etc. Scoring for this criterion should be based on selecting project types which reflect the planned project features. If a project contains more than one type of feature, the relative contribution of each type should be weighed in the scoring, as in the example below.

Example: A project in the Chenier plain with two major project components: inland shoreline protection and hydrologic restoration. Approximately 80% of the anticipated benefits (i.e., net acres at TY20) are expected to result from shoreline protection features and approximately 20% of the benefits (i.e. net acres at TY 20) are anticipated to result from hydrologic restoration. Scoring for this project should generally be (0.8*10)+(0.2*5) = 9

Certainty of Benefits – Project Type Table

Inland shoreline protection - chenier plain	10
River diversions- deltaic plain	9
Terracing - chenier plain	8
Inland shoreline protection - deltaic plain	8

Marsh creation - chenier plain	7
Marsh creation - deltaic plain	7
Barrier island projects*	7
Gulf shoreline protection - chenier plain**	6
Gulf shoreline protection - deltaic plain**	5
Freshwater diversion -chenier plain	5
Freshwater diversion - deltaic plain	5
Hydrologic restoration - chenier plain	5
Vegetative plantings (low energy area)	5
Terracing - deltaic plain	3
Hydrologic restoration - deltaic plain	2
Vegetative plantings (high energy area)	2

* Refers to traditional barrier island projects creating marsh and dune habitats by dedicated dredging. If shoreline protection is a project component, then the score should be weighted by apportioning the benefits between shoreline protection (score of 5) and traditional dedicated dredging techniques (score of 7).

** Gulf shoreline protection means typical structures currently being used around the state and nation such as breakwaters, revetments, concrete mats, etc. Does not include experimental structures being tested at various locations.

V. Sustainability of benefits

This criterion should be scored as follows:

The net acres (i.e., TY20 FWP acres – TY20 FWOP acres) benefited at TY 20 should be projected through TY 30 based on application of FWOP conditions (i.e., internal loss) to the TY20 net acres. The net acres benefited at TY 20 and the percent decrease in net acres from TY20 to TY30 are combined in the matrix below to produce an indicator of sustainability. Assume that, after year 20, project features such as water control structures would be locked open, controlled diversions and siphons would be closed, and shoreline protection structures only would provide full protection until the next projected maintenance event would be necessary (i.e, future with project (FWP) conditions would continue from TY20 until the next maintenance event would be required.

For shoreline protection projects in the Deltaic Plain, shoreline protection effectiveness will be reduced by 50% from the year the next scheduled maintenance event is required to TY30. For shoreline protection projects in the Chenier Plain, shoreline protection effectiveness will be reduced by 25% from the year the next scheduled maintenance event is required to TY30. The effectiveness of shoreline protection projects utilizing concrete panels will be reduced by 10%. A 50% reduction in effectiveness will also be applied to barrier island projects using rock shoreline protection. Vegetative plantings used for shoreline protection return to FWOP

erosion rates after TY20. For all shoreline protection projects, it is critical that information be provided to substantiate when the next projected maintenance event would occur.

Selected project types (e.g., uncontrolled sediment diversions) may be considered for continued application of FWP conditions provided that a valid rationale is provided.

% decrease in net acres between TY20 and TY30	Score
0 to 5% (or gain)	10
6 to 10%	8
11 to 15%	6
16 to 20%	4
21 to 30%	2
> 30%	1

VI. Consistent with hydrogeomorphic objective of increasing riverine input in the deltaic plain or freshwater input and saltwater penetration limiting in the Chenier plain

DELTAIC PLAIN PROJECTS

The project would significantly increase direct riverine input into the benefitted wetlands (structure capable of diverting $\geq$ 2,500 cfs) 10

The project would result in the direct riverine input of between 2,500 cfs and 1,000 cfs into benefitted wetlands 7

The project would result in some minor increases of direct riverine flows into the benefitted wetlands (structure or diversion <1,000 cfs) 4

The project would result in an increase of indirect riverine flows into the benefitted wetlands 2

The project will not result in increases in riverine flows 0

CHENIER PLAIN PROJECTS

The project will divert freshwater from an area where excess water adversely impacts wetland health to an area which would be benefitted from freshwater inputs OR the project will provide a significant level of salinity control to an area where it is in need 6

The project will result in increases in freshwater inflow to an area where it is

in need OR the project may provide some minor and/or local salinity control benefits 3

The project will not affect freshwater inflow or salinity 0

VII. Consistent with hydrogeomorphic objective of increased sediment input

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage projects that bring in sediment from exterior sources (i.e., Atchafalaya River north of the delta, Mississippi River, Ship Shoal, or other exterior sources). Therefore, for projects to score on this criterion at all, they must have some outside sediment sources as project components. Large river diversions similar to Benny's Bay (i.e. >-12 ft bottom elevation) and large marsh creation projects (i.e. $\geq$ 5 million cubic yards) can be expected to input a substantial amount of sediment into areas of need and should rank higher than diversions and marsh creation projects of smaller magnitude. Quantities of sediment deposited by river diversions must be reviewed and approved by the Engineering Workgroup. Mining sediment from outside systems should receive emphasis. Large scale mining of river sediments such as proposed in the Sediment Trap project represent a major input of sediment from outside the system. Major mining of Ship Shoal for use on barrier islands also should be considered to be more beneficial than dredging minor volumes of sediment for placement on barrier islands. Mining ebb tidal deltas also should receive less emphasis than major mining of Ship Shoal due to the limited quantity of high quality sand available from ebb tidal deltas. Ebb tidal deltas are sediment sinks disconnected from input into the system and should be emphasized over flood tidal deltas or other similar interior bay borrow sites. In all cases, to receive any points, the source of the sediment should be considered to be exterior to, and have no natural sediment input into, the basin in which the project is located. Because of the recognized differences in logistics between river-source marsh creation projects/diversions and barrier island projects, a separate scoring category is used for barrier island projects. Projects which do not supply sediment from external sources cannot receive points for this criterion.

Scoring categories for diversions and marsh creation projects utilizing the Mississippi River or Atchafalaya River as a sediment source:

The project will result in the significant placement of sediment ($\geq$ 5 million cubic yards) from exterior sources 10

The project will input some sediment (< 5 million cubic yards) from external sources 5

The project will not increase sediment input over that presently occurring 0

Scoring categories for barrier island projects utilizing offshore and ebb tidal delta sediment sources:

The project will result in the significant placement of sediment ($\geq$ 1 million cubic yards) from an offshore sediment source 10

The project will input some sediment (> 2 million cubic yards) from an ebb tidal delta

source 5

The project will not increase sediment input over that presently occurring 0

VIII. Consistent with hydrogeomorphic objective of maintaining or establishing landscape features critical to a sustainable ecosystem structure and function

Certain landscape features provide critical benefits to maintaining the integrity of the coastal ecosystem. Such features include barrier islands, lake and bay rims/shorelines, cheniers, landbridges, and natural levee ridges. Projects which do not maintain or establish at least one of those features cannot receive points for this criterion.

The project serves to protect, for at least the 20 year life of the project, landscape features which are critical to maintaining the integrity of the mapping unit in which they are found or are part of an ongoing effort to restore a landscape feature deemed critical to a basin (e.g., Barataria land bridge, Grand and White Lake land bridge) or the coast in general (e.g., barrier islands) 10

The project serves to protect, for at least the 20 year life of the project, any landscape feature described above. 5

The project does not meet the above criteria 0

Once all the projects have been evaluated and scored by the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups, each score will be weighted using the following table and the following formula to create one final score. A maximum of 100 points is possible.

Weighting per criteria:

1.	Cost-Effectiveness	20
2.	Area of Need	15
3.	Implementability	15
4.	Certainty of Benefits	10
5.	Sustainability	10
6.	HGM Riverine Input	10
7.	HGM Sediment Input	10
8.	HGM Structure and Function	10
	TOTAL	100%

(C1*2.0) + (C2*1.5) + (C3*1.5) + (C4*1.0) + (C5*1.0) + (C6*1.0) + (C7*1.0) + (C8*1.0)

Attachment 1

COST / "ALTERNATE NET ACRES" (SWAMP)

"COST / NET ACRE" does not work for swamp projects because the wetland loss rates estimated for Louisiana coastal wetlands using historical and recent aerial photography, have not detected losses for swamps. In spite of this, swamp ecologists and others know that the condition of many of swamps is very poor, and that the trend is for rapid decline. They also know that the ultimate result of this trend will be conversion of the swamps to open water. This conversion is expected to happen very quickly when swamp health reaches some critical low threshold. Because of this, it is not possible to estimate "net acres" as is done for marsh projects. However, future loss rates for swamps have been estimated by Coast 2050 mapping unit (Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority 1998). This information, combined with other information regarding project details/benefits can be used to provide an **"alternate net acres"** estimate for swamp projects.

EXAMPLES

Maurepas Diversion Project: Wetland loss rates for the Coast 2050 Amite/Blind Rivers mapping unit for 1974-90 were estimated by USACE to be 0.83% per year for the swamps, and 0.02% per year for fresh marsh. Based on these rates, about 50% of the swamp, and 1.2% of the fresh marsh will be lost in 60 years (LCWCRTF 1998. Appendix C). For the purposes of this example, in order to be consistent with other approaches, one can estimate the acres that would be lost in the project area in 20 years without the project. The project area is 36,121 acres (Lee Wilson & Associates 2001). The Amite/Blind Rivers mapping unit consisted of 138,900 acres of swamp and 3,440 acres of fresh marsh in 1990 (LCWCRTF 1998. Appendix C). Since we don't have an estimate of the proportion of swamp and fresh marsh in our study area, we will assume the same proportions as in the Amite/Blind Rivers mapping unit, 98% swamp, 2% fresh marsh. Applying these proportions and the loss rates for the mapping unit, to the project area, about 17,699 acres of swamp and about 9 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 60 years in the Maurepas project area, without the project. With the project, we assume none of this will be lost. Assuming a linear rate of loss (not really the case for swamps), 5,900 acres of swamp and 3 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 20 years without the project. With the project, we assume none of this will be lost, so the "alternate net acres" for this project are 5,903. COST / "ALTERNATE NET ACRES" is equal to the project cost estimate, $57,500,000, divided by 5,903 = $9,741. This then would fall within the "Less than $20,000 / net acre" category for a score of 10.

Small Diversion into NW Barataria Basin: This project is in the Coast 2050 Des Allemands mapping unit. It is estimated that 60% of the swamp and 30% of the marsh in this unit will be lost in 60 years (LCWCRTF 1998. Appendix D). The project area includes 4,057 acres of swamp and 20 acres of fresh marsh (USGS & LDNR 2000). Applying the estimated future loss rates from Coast 2050 to this project area, we estimate that 2,434 acres of swamp and 6 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 60 years without the project. Assuming a linear rate of loss (not really the

case for swamps), we estimate that 811 acres of swamp and 2 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 20 years without the project. With the project, we assume none of this will be lost. In addition, this project will restore 200 acres of existing open water to swamp (U.S. EPA 2000), for a total "alternate net acres" for this project of 1,013 acres. COST / "ALTERNATE NET ACRES" is equal to the project cost estimate, $7,913,519, divided by 1,013 = $7,812. This then would fall within the "Less than $20,000 / net acre" category for a score of 10.

REFERENCES

Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority. 1998. Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana. Appendices C and D. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Baton Rouge, La.

Lee Wilson and Associates. 2001. Diversion Into the Maurepas Swamps. Prepared for U.S. EPA Region 6, Dallas, Texas.

U.S. EPA Region 6. 2000. Wetland Value Assessment Project Information Sheet- Small Freshwater Diversion to the Northwestern Barataria Basin.

USGS & LDNR. 2000. Northwestern Barataria Basin Habitat Analysis.

APPENDIX G
TRACKING OF CHANGES

Revisions 1-5 of this document were maintained in a "draft" format that utilized redline and strikeout text in an attempt to track changes. Because of the extensive changes that had been made throughout the years, this "draft" format made it very difficult to follow the intent of the procedures. Beginning with Revision 6 (15 Apr 03), the document will be maintained in a "clean" format. This appendix was added in Revision 7 to track the origin and approval of amendments made to the document in all future revisions of the SOP. The table below outlines all amendments to the SOP, beginning in Revision 7 (approved by the Technical Committee on 30 Sep 03).

#	First Appears in Revision #	Requested Change/Reason for Requested Change	Amendment Requested by?	When Amendment Was Approved	Approval Date
1	7	All instances where the words "OMRR&R Plan" occur, replace with "Project Operations & Schedule Manual" when referencing the Corps of Engineers. Change was requested to satisfy the requirements of Corps' attorneys. The name change is only applicable to the Corps.	Proposed by LDNR, Dr. Bill Good.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #8).	16 Jul 03
2	7	During the 15 Apr 03 meeting to modify the SOP, it was agreed that the Corps would provide suggested language in order to clarify the funding cap for cash flow and non-cash flow projects. The Corps-suggested revisions to all of Section 5.d. were incorporated into the SOP.	Requested by USACE, Ms. Gay Browning, as a clarification of the baseline estimate. At the 10 Dec 02 Technical Committee meeting, the Engineering Workgroup was tasked with looking at this issue and developing a proposal for consideration by the Technical Committee. At the 26 Mar 03 Technical Committee meeting (Agenda Item F), the Technical Committee accepted the Engineering Workgroup recommendation that the most current Phase 2 estimate should be used as the baseline estimate and that there was no basis for changing the currently-allowable 25% cap above the baseline estimate.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #8).	16 Jul 03
3	7	Incorporation of language to allow Phase 2 authorizations at any regular quarterly Task Force meeting into the SOP.	Originally proposed by USFWS, Mr. Darryl Clark. Approved by the Technical Committee at the	Task Force, at a regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #4)	14 Aug 03

			16 Jul 03 meeting (Agenda Item #8), for recommendation to the Task Force.		
4	7	Incorporation of language into the SOP regarding updates to the Prioritization Criteria scoring of un-constructed projects at the 95% design review. Incorporation of language into the SOP regarding prioritization of candidate projects as part of the Phase 0 analysis.	Originally proposed by the Engineering/ Environmental Workgroups. Approved by the Technical Committee at the 16 Jul 03 meeting (Agenda Item #1), for recommendation to the Task Force.	Task Force, at a regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #5)	14 Aug 03
5	7	Incorporation of language into the SOP outlining the process for requesting approval for OM&M funding beyond the first three years.	Originally proposed by the USACE, Ms. Julie Z. LeBlanc, in order clarify the procedure for the monitoring funding request under consideration at the 14 Aug 03 Task Force meeting. Approved by the Technical Committee via email vote on 13 Aug 03 (LDNR abstaining), for recommendation to the Task Force.	Task Force, at a regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #5)	14 Aug 03
6	8	Incorporation of clarifications to 30/95% design review requirements, as recommended by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups.	At the 30 Sep 03 Technical Committee meeting, the Technical Committee tasked the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups with providing clarifications on what is included in 30/95% design reviews. Following a joint workgroup meeting on 13 Nov 03, the workgroups recommended changes to the language.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not "policy-level" and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	10 Dec 03
7	8	Revision of SOP language to clarify that requests for Phase 2 funding, construction approval, and other funding approvals must first be obtained from the Technical Committee prior the requesting same from the Task Force. In practice, this is how the process is currently working (requests before the Task Force must first be recommended by the Technical Committee), but it is not clearly reflected in the SOP.	Originally proposed by Dr. Bill Good to more clearly define the CWPPRA approval process.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not "policy-level" and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	10 Dec 03
8	8	Revision of SOP language to require successful 95% design review prior	Requested during 10 Dec 03 Technical Committee	Technical Committee, at	10 Dec 03

		requesting funding approval from the Technical Committee. The previous revision of the SOP allowed completion of 95% design review after the Technical Committee recommendation, but prior to Task Force approval. This change allows the Technical Committee to take the material provided as part of the 95% design review into account in making their recommendation.	meeting.	regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not "policy-level" and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	
9	8	Include Demonstration SOP and most recent Prioritization Criteria as appendices to the CWPPRA SOP.	Originally proposed by the Corps of Engineers to consolidate the location of other procedures used by the CWPPRA agencies.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not "policy-level" and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	10 Dec 03
10	9	Modify SOP language to reflect 14 Apr 04 Task Force decision to move to an annual cycle for Phase 1/ Phase 2 funding (September Technical Committee/October Task Force). The exception is that Phase 1 funding for PPL14 will be approved in January 2005	Task Force	Task Force, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #4). Revisions approved by Technical Committee during regularly scheduled meeting on 14 Jul 04 (Agenda Item #2).	14 Apr 04
11	9	Replaced Appendix A language to include PPL15 process. In addition to only making changes to the dates, the process was modified to move Phase 1 funding approval up to October (in lieu of January).	Task Force	Task Force, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #4). Revisions approved by Technical Committee during regularly scheduled meeting on 14 Jul 04 (Agenda Item #2).	14 Apr 04

Decision: Recommendation to Restrict Ongoing Budget Requests Approval of Phases I or II Projects to a Cap Less than 125% (including contingency)

Technical Committee Agenda Item 3: Decision: Recommendation to Restrict Ongoing Budget Request Approvals of Phase I or Phase II to a Cap Less than 125% (including contingency)

July 14, 2004

A Technical Committee procedure recommendation is requested to give further guidance concerning the SOP allowance of project costs to be increased to 125% "at any time" in light of the current construction budget situation. We recommend one of the following options be considered and recommended to the Task Force by the Technical Committee.

Option 1) Reduce the 125% to 100% with the provision that sponsoring agencies would have to request Task Force approval for any amounts over the 100%, or

Option 2) Reduce the 125% to 110% (or another amount greater than 100%) and maintain project budgets "on the books" at that amount (i.e., 110%) to ensure funding is present, or

Option 3) Keep the 125% cap and present and request Task Force approval of project budgets at the 125% level to ensure the funding is present.

Agenda Item No. 2 (Implementation of the April Taskforce Decisions Regarding Phase I/II Funding Requests) may result in a Technical Committee recommendation that this 125% funding level be reduced. If not, the TC will be faced with the question of what procedure to use, if any, to equitably continue the 125% funding limit on projects. Only Option 3 above addresses keeping the 125% cap.

Discussion / Decision: Phase II Funding Status for Projects Not Yet Under Construction Within Two-Years of Phase II Approval

PROJECT	BASIN	PARISH	ACRES	SCHEDULES CSA	SCHEDULES Const Start	SCHEDULES Const End	ESTIMATES Baseline	ESTIMATES Current	ESTIMATES %	Actual Obligations/ Expenditures
Lead Agency: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 6										
Priority List 9										
New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration	TERRE	TERRE	102	01-Sep-2000 A			$7,393,626	$10,329,068	139.7 !	$9,124,812 $667,907
Phase I Approved:		11-Jan-2000	A			**Phase I Estimate:**	$746,274	$926,637		
Phase II Approved:		10-Jan-2001	A			**Phase II Estimate:**	$6,647,352	$9,402,431		
Status: Preliminary investigations indicate the presents of a possible sand source Gulfward of the island. DNR is in the process locating/verifying a suitable sand source. It is expected to have revised plans and specs completed in time for an early 2005 construction start.										
Lead Agency: DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE										
Priority List 10										
Delta Management at Fort St. Philip	BRET	PLAQ	267	16-May-2001 A	01-Apr-2005	01-Jul-2005	$3,183,938	$2,053,216	64.5	$1,635,920 $246,099
Phase I Approved:		10-Jan-2001	A			**Phase I Estimate:**	$363,276	$363,276		
Phase II Approved:		07-Aug-2002	A			**Phase II Estimate:**	$2,820,664	$1,689,940		
Status: In May 2004, oyster lease buyout letters were sent to a portion of the leaseholders in the affected area. None of the leaseholders contacted accepted their buyout offers. Letters to the remaining leaseholders will be sent sometime during Summer 2004. This project continues to be delayed by the oyster lease acquisition process. DNR and FWS will continue to contact the leaseholders and attempt to reach an agreed upon buyout price. Construction may occur in Spring 2005 assuming that the leases are acquired in 2004.										

October 2003

Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2001
Cost: $3.2 million
Project Area: 1,305 acres
Status: Construction
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 267 acres
Project Type: Outfall Management/Sediment and Nutrient Trapping

Location

The project is located on the east side of the Mississippi River near the crevasse (a break in the levee) that formed during the 1973 flood at Fort St. Philip in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

Because of the crevasse, the area has been in transition since the early 1970s. It was once an organic, low-energy system consisting of brackish-saline marsh that was in decline. It is now a deltaic environment dominated by the formation of fresh and intermediate marshes.

Recent aerial photography indicates that marsh loss has decreased considerably in the project area, and marsh building now occurs over a substantial portion of it. Many areas that historically experienced marsh loss are now becoming shallower with the introduction of river sediments.

Emergent marsh is forming throughout the area on the newly accreted mineral soils. Even though this area is experiencing a net gain in emergent marsh, this project proposes to enhance the natural marsh-building processes and increase the growth rate of emergent wetlands.

Restoration Strategy

The project will include the construction of terraces in open water habitat and the construction of seven crevasses to increase marsh-building processes.

The terraces will be planted with seashore paspalum *(Paspalum vaginatum)* and smooth cordgrass *(Spartina alterniflora)*.

Marshes in the BS-11 project area.

Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved construction funding in August 2002. Construction plans and specifications for crevasses and terraces are complete. Permitting of the proposed features is complete and land rights have been obtained.

Oyster surveys of leases that may be affected by the crevasses are complete and are being reviewed by the appraisers. If the holders of the leases accept appraised offers, construction could begin in spring 2004.

This project is on Priority Project List 10.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA
(337) 291-3100

Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11)

Crevasse*

Terrace*

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 Kilometers

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: August 21, 2002
Map ID: 2002-11-706
Data accurate as of: August 21, 2002

BREAUX ACT

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
Technical Committee Meeting
July 14, 2004

Agenda Item - Discussion / Decision: Phase II Funding Status for Projects Not Yet Under Construction Within Two Years of Phase II Approval

The CWPPRA SOP indicates "If construction award has not occurred within 2 years of Phase 2 approval, the Phase 2 funds will be placed on a revocation list for consideration by the Task Force at the next Task Force meeting. Requests to restore these funds may be considered at subsequent quarterly meetings."

BS-11 Delta Management at Fort St. Philip – Phase 2 History

Task	Date Completed
Phase 2 Approval	August 2002
404 Permit/WQC/Consistency	November 2002
Final Environmental Assessment	January 2003
Landrights Certification	April 2003

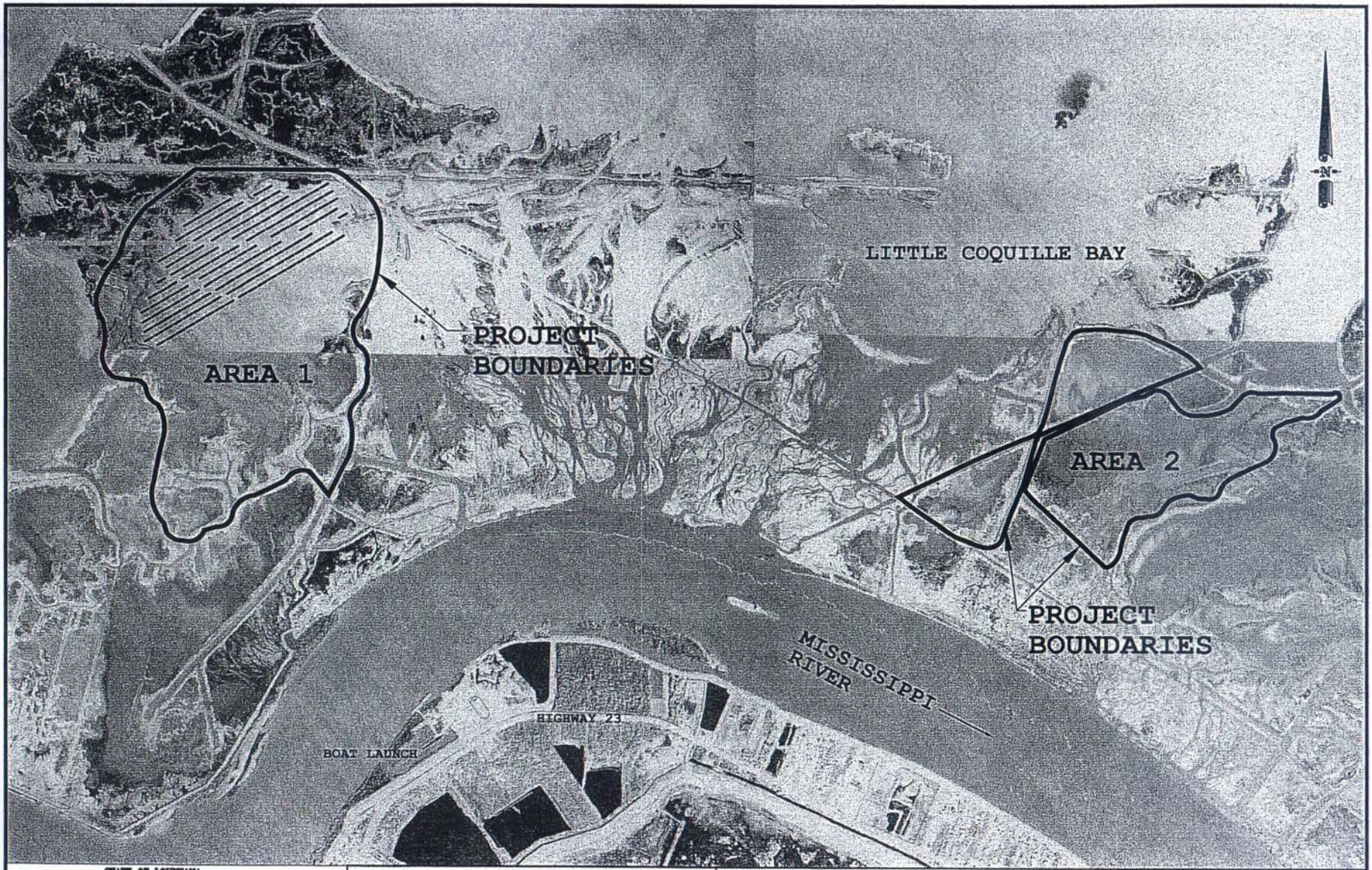
BS-11 Oyster Lease Acquisition

Task	Date Completed
Contract Awarded to Survey Leases	October 2002
Survey Report Completed (initial 5 leases)	February 2003
Program Approved by Task Force	April 2003
Contract Awarded for Appraisals	September 2003
Appraisal Methodology Developed	January 2004
Appraisals Completed (initial 5 leases)	January 2004
Initial Offer Letters Sent (initial 5 leases)	May 14, 2004 (no responses received)

As indicated, no official written responses have been received for the initial 5 offer letters that were sent out on May 14, 2004. Only 1 verbal response was received indicating an interest to participate, however, no counter-offer has been received from the leaseholder. The 30-day response window expired at the end of June 2004.

Due to a change in the methodology for determining the impact zone, 8 additional leases must be acquired. Those leases are currently being surveyed and buyout offers should be sent in August 2004.

Due to the amount of time that was required to develop the Oyster Lease Acquisition Program, the complexity of the program, and the fact that BS-11 is the first project to "test" the program, bid advertisement for construction has been delayed considerably from the original project work plan. Based on the above, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources request an extension of the two-year time limit to award a construction contract.



STATE OF LOUISIANA INSET MAP

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES COASTAL RESTORATION DIVISION 617 N 3rd STREET BATON ROUGE, LA 70802	DELTA MANAGEMENT AT FT. ST. PHILIP PLAQUEMINES PARISH	VICINITY MAP
		SCALE: 1" = 3000'
APPROVED BY: CPK	STATE PROJECT NO.: BS-11	DATE:
DESIGNED BY: APR	FEDERAL PROJECT NO.:	SHEET 1 OF 7

Decision: Request to Separate the Raccoon Island Shore Protection/Marsh Creation Project (TE-48) into Two Construction Units - Phase A and Phase B

NRCS and DNR requests that the following item be included on the Technical Committee agenda for the July 14th meeting:

"Request for separating the TE-48 Raccoon Island Shore Protection/Marsh Creation Project into 2 Construction Units - Phase A and Phase B"

The reason for this request is that all information relative to the Shore Protection components of the project has been obtained. NRCS is proposing to conduct the 30% and 95% Design Review meetings within 3 months and solicit Phase II funding at the upcoming October Task Force meeting. Due to the damage the island has sustained from 2002 storm events, the continued regression of the gulf shoreline and loss of critical avian habitat, it is imperative that shore protection measures be implemented as soon as possible. The shore protection and marsh creation components of this project are independent of each other. We intend to provide a stand alone draft WVA and prioritization for each phase to the agencies for review prior to the Technical Committee meeting.

DNR and NRCS are currently pursing a geotechnical scope of work to search for suitable material for marsh creation in the back bay area of the project. Completion of this work is not expected till early next year. Therefore, Phase II funding for this portion of the project will be sought in October 2005.
Thanks

Britt

W. Britt Paul, P.E.
Assistant State Conservationist WR/RD
Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
PH#: 318-473-7756
Fax#: 318-473-7682
E-mail: britt.paul@la.usda.gov

January 2002

Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/ Marsh Creation (TE-48)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2002
Cost: $10.4 million
Project Area: 327 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 167 acres
Project Type: Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation

Location

The project is located in the Terrebonne Basin on the western-most island of the Isles Dernieres barrier island chain in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The Isle Dernieres barrier island chain is experiencing some of the highest erosion rates of any coastal region in the world. Raccoon Island is experiencing shoreline retreat both gulfward and bayward, threatening one of the most productive wading bird nesting areas and shorebird habitats along the gulf coast.

Restoration Strategy

An existing demonstration project on the eastern end of the island has proven that segmented breakwaters can significantly reduce, and perhaps even reverse, shoreline erosion rates. The primary goal of this project is to protect the Raccoon Island rookery and seabird colonies from the encroaching shoreline by: 1) reducing the rate of shoreline erosion along the western, gulfward side and 2) extending the longevity of northern backbay areas by creating 60 acres of intertidal wetlands that will serve as bird habitat.

This project includes: the construction of 8 additional segmented breakwaters along the gulf side of the island just west of the Raccoon Island Breakwaters Demonstration project; closing existing gaps between breakwaters 0, 1, and 2 with rock riprap; and the construction of an earthen dike along the northern shore to create a back bay enclosure that will be filled with sediments dredged from the bay, followed by vegetative plantings. The proposed features are not anticipated to require maintenance.

Rock breakwater construction for the prior demonstration phase of this project was completed on the east end of the island in June 1997. Taken immediately after construction was complete, this 1997 photograph shows no sand behind the breakwaters.

Sand deposits or "tombolos" have developed behind the breakwaters that protect and enhance the island. A similar effect is expected to occur behind the 8 additional breakwaters being constructed to the west of the existing project.

Progress to Date

This project was selected for Phase I (engineering and design) funding at the January 2002 Breaux Act Task Force meeting. It is included as part of Priority Project List 11.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7816

Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/ Marsh Creation (TE-48)

- Existing Breakwater
- Proposed Breakwater
- Marsh Creation
- Project Boundary

USGS science for a changing world

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Kilometers

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles

Map Date: March 10, 2002
Map ID: 2002-11-221

Announcement: PPL 14 Demonstration Projects

Proposals for demonstration projects for consideration for PPL14 must be submitted to the Engineering Workgroup chair by COB August 2, 2004.

Email to: christopher.j.monnerjahn@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Mail to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – PM-C
c/o Chris Monnerjahn
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA. 70160-0267

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
PPL 14 Demonstration Projects – Standard Operating Procedures

Section 303(a) of the CWPPRA states that in the development of Priority Project List, ". . . [should include] due allowance for small-scale projects necessary to demonstrate the use of new techniques or materials for coastal wetlands restoration."

The CWPPRA Task Force on April 6, 1993, stated that: "The Task Force directs the Technical Committee to limit spending on demonstration projects to $2,000,000 annually. The Task Force will entertain exceptions to this guidance for projects that the Technical Committee determines merit special consideration. The Task Force waives the cap on monitoring cost for demonstration projects."

What constitutes a demonstration project:

1. Demonstration projects contain technology that has not been fully developed for routine application in coastal Louisiana or in certain regions of the coastal zone.

2. Demonstration projects contain technology which can be transferred to other areas of the coastal zone.

3. Demonstration projects are unique and are not duplicative in nature.

What is required to evaluate a demonstration project:

1. Demonstration projects must be submitted to the Engineering Work Group by a sponsoring agency prior to August 1 of any calendar year to allow time for evaluation prior to the public meetings that are held to present the results of the annual evaluation of candidate projects.

2. The Engineering Work Group will select a site for the proposed demonstration project based upon criteria provided by the sponsoring agency.

3. No Wetland Value Assessments (WVA) will be performed on candidate demonstration projects.

4. CWPPRA projects are designed and evaluated on a 20-year project life. However, demonstration projects are unique and each project must be developed accordingly. A specific plan of action must be developed, and operation and maintenance and project monitoring costs included. Monitoring plans are developed to evaluate the demonstration project's technique and the wetland response. Monitoring plans should provide sufficient details of the status of all constructed features of the project such that the performance of all engineered features can be determined. Monitoring should be only long enough to evaluate the demonstration's performance and may be less than 20 years.

5. The evaluation must include a comparison of the demonstration project's method of achieving the project objectives vs. a traditional method of accomplishing the project objectives, if available, including a concise statement as to what is going to be demonstrated and how the demonstration project meets the project objectives;

6. The Engineering Work Group will review costs to ensure consistency and adequacy; address potential cost effectiveness; compare the cost of the demonstration project to the cost of traditional or other methods of achieving project objectives, when such information is

available; and report the pros and cons of the demonstration vs. traditional or other methods. The Engineering Work Group will check monitoring costs with the Monitoring Work Group.

7. Demonstration projects do not need to be in the Restoration Plan.

The evaluation criteria:
Each candidate demonstration project will be evaluated and compared to other demonstration projects competing for funding on the annual priority list based on the following criteria:

- innovativeness
- applicability (or transferability)
- potential environmental benefits
- recognized need for the information to be acquired
- potential for technological advancement
- adequacy of the monitoring plan described in paragraph 4 above to determine the success or failure of the project and the relative performance of the constructed project features

The lead Federal agency will present the information shown in the evaluation section to the CWPPRA work groups and committees during the annual evaluation of candidate projects. The Environmental and Engineering Work Groups will review the information on each candidate demonstration project and will prepare a joint evaluation to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee outlining the merits of each project. The recommendation will be based on the above established evaluation criteria. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will present information on the demonstration projects at the public meetings that are held to present the results of the annual evaluation of candidate projects, including any such meetings of the Technical Committee or the Task Force. At these meetings the public will be notified that demonstration projects are testing unproven technology and, for that reason, have a relatively high risk of being unable to provide long-term wetlands benefits.

Funding approval:
Demonstration projects shall only be funded on an annual basis as (a) part(s) of a priority project list.

Demonstration projects do not need to be funded under the cash flow procedures in place for regular priority list projects. Agencies may choose to employ cash flow procedures if they feel it is necessary to maintain consistent accounting procedures or if they feel it would improve dissemination of project information to the Task Force and public.

Reporting of results:
The sponsoring agency will prepare a report for the Technical Committee as soon as meaningful results of the demonstration project are available. The report will describe the initial construction details, including actual costs and the current condition of all constructed features. The report will summarize the results and assess the success or failure of the project and its applicability to other similar sites. The sponsoring agency will prepare follow-up reports for the Technical Committee if and when more information becomes available.

Additional Agenda Items

Date of Upcoming Task Force Meeting

The summer Task Force meeting will be held August 18, 2004 at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN)
Division Assembly Room
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA

14 July 2004

INTERESTED PARTIES

Breaux Act

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Task Force Meeting

The CWPPRA Task Force will meet at 9:30 a.m. on August 18, 2004, at the following location:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana
District Assembly Room

Task Force

Chair Col. Peter Rowan	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Sam Hamilton	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ms. Sidney Coffee	Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Mr. Rollie Schmitten	National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Miguel Flores	Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Donald Gohmert	Natural Resources Conservation Service

Coastal America Award Ceremony

In the afternoon following the Breaux Act (CWPPRA) Task Force meeting, Coastal America will presents its 2004 Coastal America Partnership Award to the Breaux Act Task Force and supporting participants. The ceremony will start at 2:00 p.m. and be held in the same location as the Task Force meeting.

The public is invited to attend (RSVP is required by August 13, 2004). Please call or email Dr. John Lopez to make a reservation. (504) 862-1945 john.a.lopez@mvn02.usace.army.mil

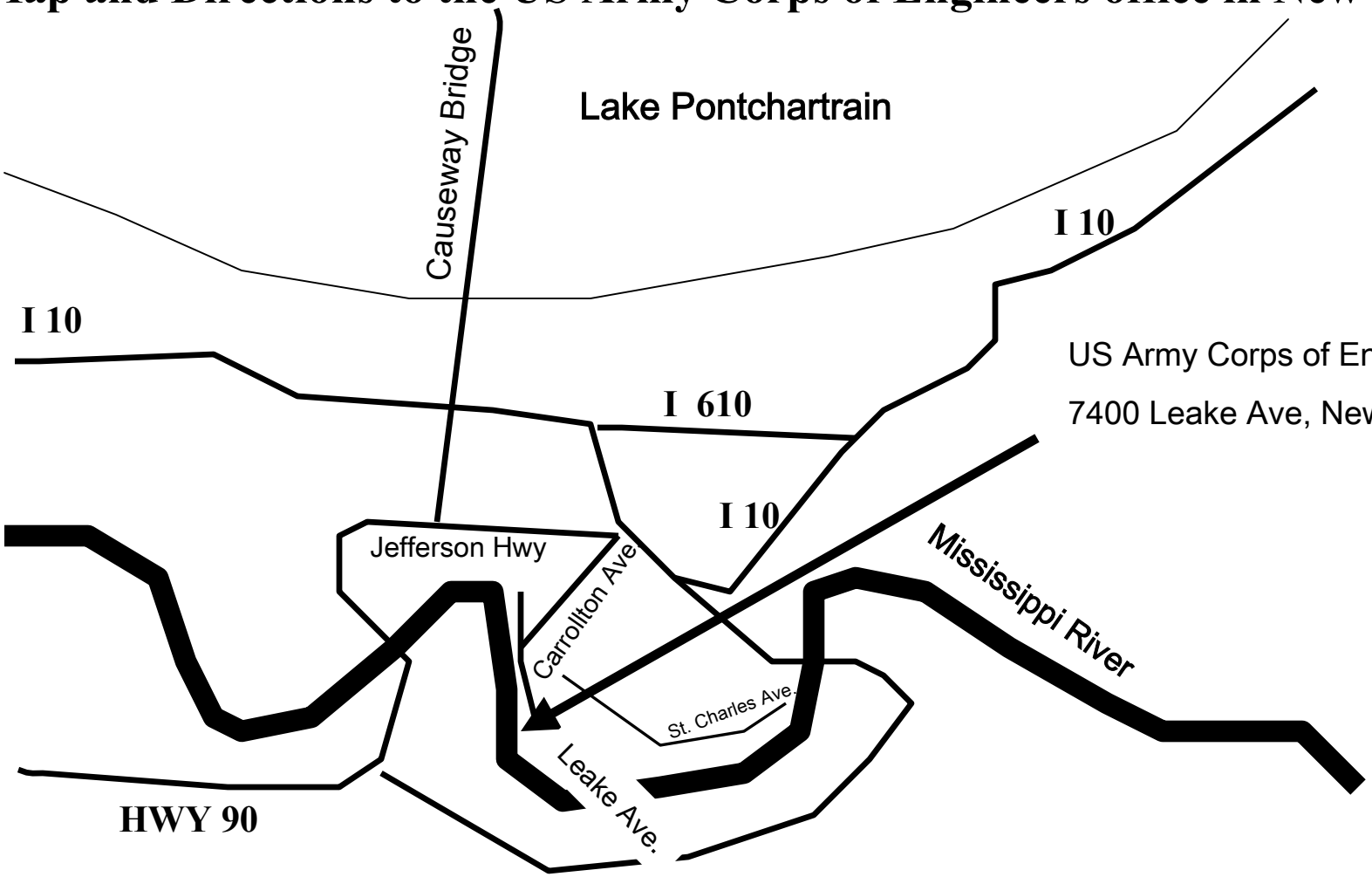
More Information Regarding CWPPRA Activities may be Found at:

www.lacoast.gov/cwppra/
or
www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Julie Z. LeBlanc, at (504) 862-1597.

Julie Z. LeBlanc - Chairperson
Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee

Map and Directions to the US Army Corps of Engineers office in New Orleans



US Army Corps of Engineers 7400 Leake Ave., Office Building is on the river side of the Mississippi River levee **If lost, call (504) 952-9515.**

Those arriving by Interstate 10: Exit Carrollton south toward the river and make a left on Leake Ave., Office will be .3 miles from Carrollton on the right across the levee. Look for the driveway entrance with a guard house.

Announcement: Dates and Locations of Upcoming CWPPRA Administrative Meetings

August 18, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
September 9, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 13, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
December 16, 2004	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
January 26, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
March 16, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
April 13, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
July 13, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
August 17, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
September 14, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
October 19, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
December 7, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
January 25, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans