

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Guidelines for Development of the 13th Priority Project List

I. Development of Supporting Information

A. COE staff prepares spreadsheets indicating status of all restoration projects (CWPPRA PL 1-12; Coast 2050 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 1-12; Coast 2050 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).

II. Identification of 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 two projects per basin. A total of up to 18 projects could be nominated. Selection of the two 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 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 project proposed for nomination will prepare a brief Project description (no more than one page plus a map) that discusses possible features and the Coast 2050 Criteria.

C. Engineering Work Group meets to estimate preliminary fully funded cost ranges for each project, based on engineering judgment.

D. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups apply Coast 2050 Criteria to each project to achieve a consensus description for each project.

E. P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of cost estimates and Coast 2050 Criteria descriptions 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, Coast 2050 Criteria, and potential wetland benefits of the nominees. Technical Committee will select eight candidate projects for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic work groups.

B. Technical Committee assigns one project to each agency 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.

B. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups and academic advisors 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. 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 design/cost reviews. Revisit goals in light of additional data. Also determine risk/uncertainty and longevity/sustainability.

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

F. Economics Work Group reviews cost estimates and develops annualized costs.

G. 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 (AAHU's), cost effectiveness (average annual cost/AAHU), risk/uncertainty, and longevity/sustainability;
- 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).

H. Technical Committee hosts two public hearings to present information from G above and allow public comment.

VI. Selection of 13th Priority Project List

A. Technical Committee meets and considers matrix, Project Information Sheets, and public comments. The Technical Committee will recommend up to four projects for selection to the 13th PPL.

B. The CWPPRA Task Force will review the TC recommendations and determine which projects will receive Phase 1 funding for the 13th PPL.

C. State Wetlands Authority approves projects for 13th Priority List Phase 1 funding.

13th Priority List Project Development Schedule

January 22, 2003	Distribute public announcement of PPL13 process and schedule
February 17, 2003	President's Day Holiday
February 19, 2003	Region IV Planning Team meeting (Rockefeller)
February 20, 2003	Region III Planning Team meeting (Morgan City)
February 26, 2003	Region II Planning Team meeting (NOD)
February 27, 2003	Region I Planning Team meeting (NOD)
February 21 – March 14	Agencies prepare fact sheets for RPT nominated projects
March 4, 2003	Mardi Gras
March 18, 2003	Engineering work group prepares preliminary cost estimates for nominated projects (DNR)
March 19, 2003	Env/Eng work groups jointly apply Coast 2050 criteria (DNR)
March 20, 2003	P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of nominated projects showing initial cost estimates and Coast 2050 descriptions (narratives) (DNR)
March 26, 2003	Tech Comm meets to select PPL13 candidate projects (NOD)
April 23, 2003	Spring Task Force meeting (Lafayette)
May/June	Candidate project site visits
June/July/August/September	Env/Eng work group project evaluations
July 16, 2003	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
August 14, 2003	Task Force meeting (New Orleans)
September 17, 2003	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
October 16, 2003	Task Force meeting (Baton Rouge) – announce public meetings
November 19, 2003	PPL13 Public Meeting (Abbeville)
November 20, 2003	PPL13 Public Meeting (New Orleans)
December 10, 2003	Technical Committee meeting (New Orleans)
January 21, 2004	Task Force meeting to select PPL 13