

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Team (RPT) Region 4, LSU Cooperative Extension Service, Abbeville, LA, 10 Jan 06, 10:00 am

1. Agenda Item #1, Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Darryl Clark, RPT Region 4 Leader, opened the meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Clark expressed his appreciation to the LSU Agriculture Center for allowing us to use this location for the meeting. He recognized representatives from the parishes (Cameron and Vermilion) and asked for introductory remarks from the parishes. Mr. Judge Edwards, representing Vermilion Parish, welcomed everyone to Abbeville. Miles Hebert, representing Cameron Parish, had no opening comments. A representative from Calcasieu Parish stated that he attended the Calcasieu long term planning meeting and Pam Mattlingly asked that he express her regrets that she wasn't able to attend today.

Mr. Clark expressed his condolences for this side of the state from the damage they suffered from Hurricane Rita. He personally measured the high salinities in marshes north of the cheniers following landfall of the hurricane. He announced that there are four projects currently under construction in Region 4: 1) Corps South White Lake, 2) Hwy 82 Freshwater Introduction, 3) East Sabine Lake Hydrologic Restoration and 4) NRCS Black Bayou Culverts. He also noted that the Technical Committee will recommend the PPL15 South Pecan Island project for E&D (Phase 1) to the Task Force on Feb 8th, 2006.

Mr. Clark recognized agency representatives and indicated that the State wanted to make an announcement about Energy Bill funds. Mr. Greg Grandy, LDNR, indicated that they were getting started on Energy Bill and will have a series of public meetings (to give out more information about the Energy Bill) scheduled in February 2006. The meeting in Abbeville is scheduled for Friday, 17 Feb, 6:30 – 8:00 pm in this room. Thirty-five percent of the \$540M will go directly to parishes, with 65% going to the State (to construct projects in all parishes). If the public is interested in nominating projects, they will have information and criteria at these public meetings. He asked that contact information be provided to the State if the public is interested in receiving information on the bill. Meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Monday, Feb 13th in Hammond, LA
Tuesday, Feb 14th in New Orleans, LA
Thursday, Feb 16th in Thibodaux, LA
Friday, Feb 17th in Abbeville, LA

The Region 4 sign in sheet is attached. Nearly 40 people were in attendance at the Region 4 RPT meeting. Mr. Clark noted that members of the P&E Subcommittee (Julie LeBlanc, chair from the Corps; John Jurgensen, NRCS; and Dan Llewellyn, LDNR) were present at the meeting. Mr. Rick Hartman and Mr. Darryl Clark were present from the Technical Committee. Introductions were made around the room.

2. Agenda Item #2, PPL 16 Selection Process Brief Overview and Ground Rules for Today's PPL 16 Nomination Meeting. Mr. Clark went over "Points of Order" for the meeting. He noted that this first round of meetings would be to accept project and demo nominations. Voting will take place at a coast-wide voting meeting in February 1, 2006 at LDWF in Baton Rouge, LA. Parishes that can vote at the coast-wide meeting in Mermentau Basin are Cameron and Vermilion Parishes. In the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin, Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes can vote.

Mr. Clark went over the PPL16 process. Mr. Clark reiterated that we will not be voting at this meeting and that the PPL15 candidate projects that are not approved for Phase I funding by the Task Force at the February 8th, 2006 meeting will automatically become nominees under PPL16. Mr. Hartman noted that PPL15 demonstration projects had to be re-nominated under PPL16. Demonstration projects under PPL15 will need to be re-nominated under PPL16 in order to be considered this funding cycle.

3. Agenda Item #3, Brief Overview of Region 4 Coast 2050 Regional and Coastwide Strategies. Mr. Clark mentioned that the nominated projects should be consistent with the Coast 2050 strategies and should consider CWPPRA's prioritization criteria (handouts of both were provided for the meeting attendees). Mr. Darryl Clark went over the regional ecosystem and coastwide strategies and noted that land loss maps were available in hardcopy form at the front of the meeting room.

4. Agenda Item #4, PPL 16 Project Nominations. Mr. Clark mentioned that demonstration projects must utilize a new coastal technology that can be transferred to other areas in the coast. Proposed demonstration projects should not be site-specific, the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups will select sites for the proposed demonstration projects. Regional Planning Teams (RPTs) will select 6 demos at the Coast-wide voting meeting on February 1st, 2006. The Technical Committee will then select up to 3 demos at their March 2006 meeting. Mr. Clark reiterated that PPL15 demonstration projects would need to be re-nominated in order to be considered under PPL16.

a. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominations in the Mermentau Basin.

#1 – Southwest Louisiana Gulf Shoreline Restoration Project. Ms. Melanie Goodman, Corps, presented this project. Ms. Goodman stated that she attended a Vermilion Parish Coastal Advisory Board meeting where the idea came about and stated that Mr. Judge Edwards noted that the Corps placed dredged material westward of the Freshwater Bayou Canal mouth. The Corps has been placing material dredged from Freshwater Bayou Canal beneficially within an 8-mile reach along the Gulf shore. The shoreline along the rest of the Gulf shore from the Dewitt Canal westward has been eroding between 35-39' per year. This project mimics the Corps' beneficial use in the area immediately west of Freshwater Bayou Canal. It would transfer material from Freshwater Bayou further west or use dedicated dredging in the Gulf of Mexico (between Dewitt Canal and Little Constance Bayou) to restore the gulf shore. Currently there is a need to dredge Freshwater Bayou north of the lock (according to Corps Operations Division).

#2 – Rockefeller Refuge Gulf of Mexico Shoreline Stabilization – Joseph’s Harbor East Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. Tom Hess, with Rockefeller Refuge, stated that the project would complement test sections currently being designed on Rockefeller Refuge and the project that Ms. Goodman just proposed. He was hopeful to get the PPL10 project started and then work on the entire section. This project is from Joseph’s Harbor east 25,000 LF to the east of Big Constance Lake. It fits multiple regional strategies (beneficial use material, stabilize shoreline, maintenance of gulf bay and gulf shoreline) and was previously nominated as a PPL14 project. He is excited about the project that Melanie proposed as well to protect Dewitt canal west. Mr. Dan Llewellyn asked if the project was “shoreline stabilization” or “nourishment”? Mr. Hess responded that the project would be similar to the PPL10 test sections once they are started. He stated that hopefully we can utilize this technology to stabilize the shoreline.

#3 –Restoration of Longshore Sediment Flow Across the Mouth of the Mermentau Ship Channel/Mermentau Ship Channel By-Pass Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. David Richard stated that this project would be located on the shoreline of Mermentau Cut where there is disturbed sand. The project would take sand from the eastern side and put it on the western or channel side. The highest incidence of erosion along Cameron shoreline is west of Mermentau Cut. There was a previous project under another funding source that was successful. Moving the existing sand to the west side is not a permanent solution. Erosion rates are >50’ per year. Rick Hartman said that this is done on the east coast and it isn’t a “demo”. Mr. Richard stated that this project is not being proposed as a demo, it is being proposed as a project. The Coast 2050 strategy is “restore long shore sediment flow across the mouth of the Mermentau Ship Channel.”

#4 – Humble Canal Spillway at Mermentau River Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. David Richard stated that the project is located in the area north of Humble Canal at Marsailles Bayou. With Rita, as with other storms, there was 25 ppt (salinity) water was in the area. He proposed an emergency spillway to remove excess water during high salinity events (hurricanes). John Jurgensen suggested not calling it “emergency spillway”, just “a spillway”.

#5 – Grand Lake Shore Protection at Lacassine Point Project. Mr. Roy Walter, with USFWS, proposed this project. It is approximately 2.8 miles miles in length. There is a tremendous amount of wind fetch across Grand Lake at the project area and the GIWW. This project would stabilize the northwestern Grand Lake shoreline of Lacassine Point (currently losing 2-9 feet per year). Shoreline erosion tripled to 9.8’ over a recent time period. The project would consist of a rock breakwater with sediment and plantings before the rock and existing shore.

#6 – Umbrella Bay Shoreline Protection. Mr. Chris Monnerjahn, Corps presented the project. It consists of shoreline protection along 11,000 LF of Grand Lake shoreline with a construction cost of \$3.5M. John Jurgensen asked if the project was along the GIWW? Mr. Monnerjahn stated that it was further south at Umbrella Bay.

Nominations were closed for Mermentau Basin.

b. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominees for Calcasieu-Sabine Basin.

#1 – North Black Lake Marsh Creation Project. Dr. John Foret, NMFS, presented this project. It consists of creating a rock dike across the old Black Lake northern rim. The Corps dredges this stretch of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel only every other year or so. There is more open water year by year. The project would consist of pumping material into the area over two dredging cycles. 3.7 M cubic yards are needed to fill in the 500 acres. If CWPPRA cannot partner with the Corps, the cost would be \$17M. If CWPPRA can coordinate with Corps O&M program, we could provide the Corps with a dredged disposal area. The project will create 520 acres to start, 480 acres after 20 years. Mr. David Richard stated that the Calcasieu Channel is under a dredged material plan and the Corps is out of places to put material, but they are constrained by the Federal standard. Mr. Richard doesn't think that CWPPRA should spend money to maintain a Federal channel. The cost for the project is \$17M when there are dredges available that can pump material to this location, the dredge size just needs to be specified by the Corps. Dr. Foret noted that preliminary discussion with the Corps indicates that we will have cooperation. The Port of Lake Charles is in favor. We need to get through the Corps' bureaucracy so the material can be used for beneficial use. David Richard stated that if the Corps had specified the horsepower of the dredge that was in the channel, we would not have had to spend the extra money to do the Brown Lake project. Under the Federal standard the Corps would only have to pump to the shoreline and not pay the cost above it. Dr. Foret stated that the project is also synergistic with the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation project that is putting a permanent pipeline in the area. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that the Federal standard is outdated, and a new Federal standard is needed for the Calcasieu Ship Channel. He has encouraged the Corps for years to redefine the Federal standard. Maybe we could pay to put a containment dike with CWPPRA funds (5,100 LF rock dike needed). Mr. Chris Monnerjahn stated that Cycle 3 of the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation project might move before Cycle 2 (which is dependent upon the permanent pipeline). Landowner negotiations were underway before Rita came through.

#2 – East Sabine Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project. Mr. Roy Walter, USFWS, presented this project. There is erosion on the banks of Sabine Lake of 3-12' per year. Proposed project includes creating 21,000 LF of rock riprap from 3,000' north of Willow Bayou to Three Bayous. The area took a direct hit from Rita. Behind the rock rip rap there would be 100 acres of dredged material placement, with gaps every 1,000 feet for fisheries access. The project would provide protection to the CS-32 and CS-18 projects. Mr. Rick Hartman asked if the Galveston District Corps of Engineers office is proposing to protect this area as part of the mitigation package for the Sabine-Natchez? Mr. Darryl Clark stated that there has been such discussions on the project to enlarge the Sabine-Natchez Channel, however, it is not final as to what the mitigation will be. If the mitigation package is approved as it is now, the project can be withdrawn. John Jurgensen stated that if the project is not yet approved, we cannot assume that it is "in place". Darryl Clark stated that they would try to have answer in next few weeks. Mr. David Richard asked if the mitigation included the complete shoreline, or only one

segment? Mr. Clark indicated that the Sabine-Natchez mitigation plan includes most of it (from Willow Bayou to near Black Bayou), but some segments may drop off. Mr. David Richard asked: why stop at Three Bayous? The private land above Three Bayous up to Grays Ditch could be included (another 5,000 LF). Mr. Darryl Clark stated that he didn't see a problem with that and would make a note of it. Therefore the project has changed from 21,000 to 26,000 LF.

#3 – East Cove Marsh Creation Project. The project was presented by Ralph Libersat, LDNR. The project would fill in the open water areas in Cameron-Creole area south of No-Name Bayou structure where open areas have developed due to subsidence and saltwater intrusion from the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The project would beneficially use material dredged from the Calcasieu River Ship Channel and would create 260 acres in shallow open areas with possible plantings. The project would include retention dikes. The storm removed parts of the Cameron-Creole levee, but, there will likely be FEMA dollars to repair it.

#4 – Rabbit Island Restoration Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. David Richard proposed to restore Rabbit Island, beneficially using dredged material from the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Rabbit Island has subsided over time, partially due to wave action from the ship channel. It is a vital bird nesting area, and he proposed doing a similar project as was done for Queen Bess Island by building it into a higher island on a site suitable for nesting birds. The State Lands office owns the island. The first pelicans were seen there in 2001-2002, and they are now successfully nesting there. John Foret asked if he was talking about encircling the island. There are oysters in the area and he doesn't think that we need to build retention levees. There is no deepwater draft channel to get rock into the area. Mr. Rick Hartman indicated that he had a question about this project and the last one: if the Corps is looking for disposal areas, why does CWPPRA need to fund this one or the other if they can be done under the Federal Standard? Mr. David Richard stated that we have not been successful in changing the Federal Standard. He would like to see this addressed by the LDNR Consistency program. Mr. Hartman also stated that there are roseate spoonbills and herons nesting, therefore the construction timeframe would be short (July – Sept timeframes). It was asked if plantings would be needed? Mr. Richard answered: yes. It was stated that the Corps would not do plantings. We need to answer if the Corps can incorporate this into the Federal standard before the Feb 1st coastwide voting meeting. It was noted that there are oyster reefs all over East Cove that cannot be covered with silt.

#5 – Calcasieu River Ship Channel Sediment Bypass Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. David Richard presented this project. He showed an area on the aerial map where sand is building on the Gulf shore on the east side of the mouth of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. On the west side there is severe erosion, when only 10 years ago the dunes were intact. We need to move sediment from one side to the other. Mr. Judge Edwards asked if it were cheaper to remove the jetties and maintain the channel more often in order to take care of the problem. Mr. Richard stated that the material isn't channel material, it is littoral flow along the Gulf. He stated that the channel would have to be continually dredged if the jetties were removed. There is currently no dredging northward to St. John Island because of the strong currents from the ship channel

“commode flushing” action. He added that there are a lot of things that we have done under CWPPRA that we felt should be done under routine channel maintenance, but we’ve done the right thing. We are not going to take the jetties out. Let’s just get it done. It is cost efficient. He stated that he would like to see the Task Force put the Mermentau and Calcasieu-Sabine Basin projects together as one project.

#6 – Salinity Reduction in Sabine Lake at the Causeway Structure Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. David Richard presented this project: restriction of Sabine Lake at the Causeway. Mr. Darryl Clark stated that the project is not in the official Sabine-Natchez mitigation plan, and the Galveston Corps modeled it. To choke it down for salinity reduction, the Corps model predicted there would be rapids in the channel that would be dangerous to navigation. Mr. Richard proposed a means to reduce salinity the Causeway by adding a low level weir that will constrict amount of salinity that enters the southern end of Sabine Lake (with a boat bypass in the center). The freshest part of Sabine Lake is at the northern end. He also proposed building a continuous spoil bank or levee in Texas to prevent excessive salinity flow into the north part of Sabine Lake. Mr. Judge Edwards asked why this isn’t done as mitigation. Mr. Clark stated that this was on the list, but was dropped due to lack of benefits. The project would continue the spoil bank from Port Arthur to the northern part of Sabine Lake. The higher salinities are in north and south of lake.

#7 Toledo Bend Outflow (Maintain Sabine River Inflows) Project. No fact sheet was handed out during the meeting. Mr. David Richard stated that there had to be a means to manage Sabine River inflows. Maybe the CWPPRA Task Force should meet with the Sabine River Authority on a monthly basis. He would like to see it as a Task Force directive, as a “no-cost project” that should be implemented. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that he should contact the Colonel or Sidney Coffee and request that it needs to be added to the agenda at a future Task Force meeting. Mr. John Jurgensen stated that this needs to be brought up to the Task Force and there have been instances when other projects had been done for “awareness” purposes. It was agreed to leave it listed as a project. Mr. Clark stated that Texas has been going through water management planning, and there are no large plans to take water out of Sabine River at this time. The water is managed by the Sabine River Authority and the CWPPRA Task Force can only make suggestions to that authority

Nominations were closed for the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin.

c. Mr. Clark opened the floor for nominees for demonstration projects.

#1 – Hurricane Organic Debris for Chenier Restoration Demo Project. There was no fact sheet provided for this project. Mr. David Richard presented the project related to sand mining in Cameron Parish. The parish has been unable to stop sand mining and DNR has not stopped it. What we need is to use the tremendous amount of organic refuse to fill in the sand mining areas and cap them with sand to rebuild cheniers. It doesn’t have to be site specific, but, he knows of sites that can be used. After Hurricane Rita there were channels going through the cheniers. Mr. John Jurgensen asked “what are you demonstrating?” Isn’t it more educational to say that you should not mine sand?

Mr. Richard indicated that the demo would be to use organic material, cap it with sand, and plant with oak trees to rebuild cheniers. Ms. Honora Buras asked if the proposal would be to use whole material, or will it be chipped/composted. Mr. Richard indicated that the material would be chipped organic debris. Mr. Jurgensen stated that he could see how this can be put into a demo category with this further explanation. Mr. Richard indicated that there is a willing landowner. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that if you already have a willing landowner, why don't you just talk to Entergy and get them to place it there now, if right-of-entry is available? Mr. Richard stated that this has been brought up in multiple meetings with FEMA. There are project areas where he wants to put the material. FEMA indicated that they didn't think that they could put organic refuse in the marsh.

#2 – Dredged Containment Demo Project. Mr. Judge Edwards, submitted this project under PPL15. The idea was to contain dredged material with something like an oil boom. We have an opportunity where we can have a project between the private sector and CWPPRA. There could be material placed in the ME-4 management area (northeast of Pecan Island) that sustained significant damage during Rita. It used to be marsh, now it is broken marsh. They are currently waiting on a dredge to move the material into the management area. They are willing to donate 1,000' of material to contain the dredged material and would like CWPPRA to perform monitoring. CWPPRA needs to put its blessing on this, monitor it, and maybe put a few dollars into it. Mr. Rick Hartman stated that maybe he could approach LDNR to use the monitoring contingency fund to do this work. It will be a year from now before it could be funded. Mr. Hartman continued that this could potentially be taken up at the P&E meeting (coastwide voting meeting on Feb 1st) for a vote on the monitoring contingency fund.

#3 - Bioengineered Oyster Reef Demo Project, was re-nominated by Dr. John Foret. The demo fared well in last years review.

Nominations were closed for the demonstrations.

5. Agenda Item #6, Announcements of Upcoming PPL16, Task Force, Technical Committee and Other Meetings. Mr. Darryl Clark went over the PL16 voting process that would be conducted at the Feb 1st coast-wide voting meeting. He stated that we will not accept additional public comments at the meetings and that PPL15 projects not approved for Phase I will automatically be nominees. He asked for each parish to state who was going to vote for them at the coast-wide voting meeting: Vermilion Parish (Judge Edwards or Sherrill Sagera), Cameron Parish (Tina Horn or Miles Hebert or designee), and Calcasieu Parish (Pam Mattingly or designee). Mr. Clark went over the voting process – each parish or agency will participate in a ranked vote for each basin. Everyone should come to the meeting with votes in mind. Upcoming meetings are:

Feb 1st – Coast-wide Voting Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA

Feb 8th - Task Force meeting, PPL15 Phase I selection and Phase II construction

March 15th – Technical Committee meeting to reduce 22 nominees to 6, and reduce 6 demos to 3

Aug 30th and 31st– PPL16 public meetings

Sept 13th – Technical Committee meeting to recommend up to 4 projects under PPL16
Oct 18th – Task Force to select PPL16

Mr. Randy Morteale asked that since there will be no discussion or further comment at the Feb 1st meeting, how will “joe public” voice their support? Mr. Clark stated that comments can be made here today. Mr. John Jurgensen stated that the public can let the agencies and parishes know what projects they support between now and the Feb 1st meeting. They should contact P&E Subcommittee members and let them know what they support and why. It was suggested that support can be provided to Ms. Julie Z. LeBlanc, P&E Subcommittee Chairman (email – julie.z.leblanc@mvn02.usace.army.mil or fax 504-862-1892), and she can disseminate to the P&E members. Mr. Jurgensen added that this was one of the reasons that the parish individuals were announced today so that the public would know who is charged with casting votes in each parish.

6. Agenda Item #7, Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) January 10, 2006 10:00 a.m.	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT	LOCATION LSU Coop Extension Service Abbeville, LA
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PURPOSE

MEETING OF THE
PPL 16 REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM - REGION 4

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Deetra Washington	Environmental Specialist / GOCA	225-342-3968
Honora Bura	Coastal Resources Scientist / DNR/CRD	225-342-4103
Susan Hill	Coastal Resources Scientist / DNR/CRD/RB	225-342-7359
Amanda Phillips	Eng. / DNR / CED	225-219-0380
GREG GRANBY	DNR / CEO	225-342-6412
JOE WEST	LDWF / Biologist	337-491-2495
MARZIN FENN	NRCS / Biologist	318-473-7690
Will Norman	DNR/CRD	225-342-9432
Bob Dew	Ducks Unlimited / RB	337-291-3065
Sherrill Spigurn	Vermilion	337-893-0368
DAN LLEWELLYN	DNR	225-342-5159
MICHAEL D. TULLOS	USDA-NRCS	337-893-5644
Lawrence Brandon	Erath	937-5431
Ann Ballard	TAPUS/NWRC	225-578-7488
Beth McCasland	USACE	504-862-2021
RALPH L. BERST	LDNR / CED	225-392-1952
JOHN FORET	NMFS, LAFAYETTE	337-291-2107
Pat Landry	LDNR / CED / LFO	337-482-0680
David Richards	Stream	337-433-1055
John Jurgensen	USDA NRCS	318-473-7694
Rick Hardin	NMFS	
Tom Mallick	NRCS	337/291-3064



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MEETING OF THE
PPL 16 REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM - REGION 4

PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Charles Stokovich	NRLS-FO - Lake Charles F.D.	337-436-5020
Charles Sasser	LSU	225-578-6375
Randy Moertle	M.O. Miller Estates	985-532-6388
Martin O. Miller		504-832-7936
Sara McConnell	Student - Eckerd College	337-896-4975
TOM HESS	BIOLOGIST - LOWF	337-538-2276
Sue Hewes	COE	318-419-9319
Judge Edmunds	Vermilion Corporation	337-893-0268
Melanie Goodwin	USACOE	504-862-1940
Myles Herbert	Cameron Parish Police Jury	337-275-5718
Donald Serrano	Tech Vermilion Freshwater District	337-233-6902
 Charles Broussard 23604 S La Hwy. 82 Kaplan, LA 70548-7304	VPPJ CCAC	337-642-5287
Neil McEllen	Shirley Moseley Assoc.	713-925-0033
Julie Z. LeBlanc	Coops	504-862-1597
Ryan Cole	USACE / CHAMMILL	504-593-9421

* If you wish to be furnished a copy of the attendance record, please indicate so next to your name.