

APPENDIX A

PRIORITY PROJECT LIST 23 SELECTION PROCESS

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Guidelines for Development of the 23rd Priority Project List

Final

I. Development of Supporting Information

A. COE staff prepares spreadsheets indicating status of all restoration projects (CWPPRA Priority Project Lists (PPL) 1-22; Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program, 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. CPRA/USGS staff prepare basin maps indicating:

- 1) Boundaries of the following projects types (PPLs 1-22; LCA program, COE 1135, 204, 206; and State only).
- 2) Locations of completed projects.
- 3) Projected land loss by 2050 including all CWPPRA projects approved for construction through January 2013.
- 4) Regional boundary maps with basin boundaries and parish boundaries included.

II. Project Nominations

A. The four Regional Planning Teams (RPTs) will meet individually to examine basin maps, discuss areas of need, discuss strategies within Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (State Master Plan), and accept project nominations by hydrologic basin. Project nominations will be accepted in the following hydrologic basins – Pontchartrain, Breton Sound, Barataria, Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, Teche/Vermilion, Mermentau, and Calcasieu/Sabine. Project nominations will not be accepted in the Mississippi River Delta Basin as strategies for this basin are not included within the State Master Plan. Project nominations that provide benefits or construct features in more than one basin shall be presented in the basin receiving the majority of the project's benefits. The RPT leaders, in coordination with the project proponents and the P&E Subcommittee, will determine which basin to place multi-basin projects. Alternatively, multi-basin projects can be broken into multiple projects to be considered individually in the basins which they occur. Project nominations that are legitimate coast-wide applications will be accepted separate from the eight basins at any of the four RPT meetings.

Proposed project nominees shall be consistent with the State Master Plan. Representatives of the State will be present at the RPT meetings to provide guidance on the consistency of project nominations. Nominations for demonstration projects will also be accepted at any of the four RPT meetings.

The RPTs will not vote to select nominee projects at the individual regional meetings. Rather, voting will be conducted after the individual regional meetings via email or fax. All CWPPRA agencies and parishes will be required to provide the name and contact information during the RPT meetings for the official representative who will vote to select nominee projects.

B. Voting for project nominees (including basin, coast-wide and demonstration project nominees) will be conducted after the individual RPT meetings (date to be determined). The RPTs will select four projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins and three projects in the Breton Sound and Pontchartrain Basins based on the high loss rates (1985-2010) in those basins. Two projects will be selected in the Mermentau, Calcasieu/Sabine, and Teche/Vermilion Basins. Because the Atchafalaya Basin is currently in a land gain situation, only one project will be selected in that basin.

A total of up to 21 basin projects could be selected as nominees. Each officially designated parish representative in the basin will have one vote and each federal CWPPRA agency and the State will have one vote. If coast-wide projects have been presented, the RPTs will select one coast-wide project nominee to compete with the 21 basin nominees for candidate project selection. Selection of a coast-wide project nominee will be by consensus, if possible. If voting is required, officially designated representatives from all coastal parishes will have one vote and each federal CWPPRA agency and the State will have one vote. The RPTs will also select up to six demonstration project nominees at this coast-wide meeting. Selection of demonstration project nominees will be by consensus, if possible. If voting is required, officially designated representatives from all coastal parishes will have one vote and each federal CWPPRA agency and the State will have one vote.

C. Prior to voting on project nominees, the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups will screen each coast-wide project nominated at the RPT meetings to ensure that each qualifies as a legitimate coast-wide application. Should any of those projects not qualify as a coast-wide application, then the RPT leaders, in coordination with the project proponents and the P&E Subcommittee, will determine which basin the project should be placed in.

Also, prior to voting on project nominees, the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups will screen each demonstration project nominated at the RPT meetings. Demonstration projects will be screened to ensure that each meets the

qualifications for demonstration projects as set forth in the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Appendix E.

D. A lead Federal agency will be designated for the nominees and demonstration project nominees to prepare preliminary project support information (fact sheet, maps, and potential designs and benefits). The RPT Leaders will then transmit this information to the P&E Subcommittee, Technical Committee and other RPT members.

III. Preliminary Assessment of Nominated Projects

A. Agencies, parishes, landowners, and other individuals informally confer to further develop projects. Nominated projects shall be developed to support the strategies and goals of the State Master Plan.

B. The lead agency designated for each nominated project will prepare a brief Project Description that discusses possible features. Fact sheets will also be prepared for demonstration project nominees.

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

D. P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of cost estimates and other pertinent information for nominees and demonstration project nominees and furnishes to Technical Committee.

IV. Selection of Phase 0 Candidate Projects

A. Technical Committee meets to consider the project costs and potential wetland benefits of the nominees. Technical Committee will select ten candidate projects for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic Work Groups. At this time, the Technical Committee will also select up to three demonstration project candidates for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic Work Groups.

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

V. Phase 0 Analysis of Candidate Projects

A. Sponsoring agency coordinates site visits for each project. A site visit is vital so each agency can see the conditions in the area and estimate the project area boundary. There will be no site visits conducted for demonstration projects.

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

C. Sponsoring agency develops a draft WVA and prepares Phase 1 engineering and design cost estimates and Phase 2 construction cost estimates. Sponsoring agency should use formats approved by the applicable work group.

D. Environmental Work Group reviews and approves all draft WVAs. Demonstration project candidates will be evaluated as outlined in Appendix E of the CWPPRA SOP.

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. Corps of Engineers staff prepares information package for Technical Committee. Packages consist of:

- 1) updated Project Fact 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), and cost effectiveness (average annual cost/AAHU); and
- 3) a qualitative discussion of supporting partnerships and public support.

H. Technical Committee will host a public hearing to present the results from the candidate project evaluations. Public comments will be accepted during the meeting and in writing.

VI. Selection of 23rd Priority Project List

A. The selection of the 23rd PPL will occur at the Winter Technical Committee and Task Force meetings.

B. Technical Committee meets and considers matrix, Project Fact Sheets, and public comments. The Technical Committee will recommend up to four projects for selection to the 23rd PPL. The Technical Committee may also recommend demonstration projects for the 23rd PPL.

C. The CWPPRA Task Force will review the Technical Committee recommendations and determine which projects will receive Phase 1 funding for the 23rd PPL.

23rd Priority List Project Development Schedule (dates subject to change)

December 2012	Distribute public announcement of PPL 23 process and schedule
December 12, 2012	Winter Technical Committee Meeting, approve Phases I and II (Baton Rouge)
January 24, 2013	Winter Task Force Meeting (New Orleans)
January 29, 2013	Region IV Planning Team Meeting (Abbeville)
January 30, 2013	Region III Planning Team Meeting (Morgan City)
January 31, 2013	Regions I and II Planning Team Meetings (New Orleans)
February 19, 2013	Coast-wide RPT Voting (via electronic vote)
February 25 – March 8, 2013	Agencies prepare fact sheets for RPT-nominated projects
March 20-21, 2013	Engineering/ Environmental Work Groups review project features, benefits & prepare preliminary cost estimates for nominated projects (Baton Rouge)
March 27, 2013	P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of nominated projects showing initial cost estimates and benefits
April 16, 2013	Spring Technical Committee Meeting, select PPL 23 candidate project (Baton Rouge)
May/June	Candidate project site visits
June 4, 2013	Spring Task Force Meeting (Lafayette)
July/August/ September	Env/Eng/Econ Work Group project evaluations
September 11, 2013	Fall Technical Committee Meeting, O&M and Monitoring funding recommendations (Baton Rouge)
October 10, 2013	Fall Task Force meeting, O&M and Monitoring approvals (New Orleans)
October 18, 2013	Economic, Engineering, and Environmental analyses completed for PPL 23 candidates
November 13, 2013	PPL 23 Public Meeting (Baton Rouge)
December 12, 2013	Winter Technical Committee Meeting, recommend PPL 23 and Phase I and II approvals (Baton Rouge)
January 2014	Winter Task Force Meeting, select PPL 23 and approve Phase II requests (New Orleans)