



**State of Louisiana  
Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Engineering Division**

**2005/2006 Annual Inspection  
Report**

for

**CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE  
PROTECTION PROJECT  
(ME-09)**

State Project Number ME-09  
Priority Project List 1

October 21, 2005  
Cameron Parish

Prepared by:

Mel Guidry, Engineering Tech.  
LDNR/Coastal Restoration and Management  
Lafayette Field Office  
635 Cajundome Blvd.

## **Table Of Contents**

I. Introduction.....	1
II. Inspection Purpose and Procedures .....	1
III. Project Description and History.....	1
IV. Summary of Past Operation and Maintenance Projects.....	2
V. Inspection Results .....	2
VI Conclusions and Recommendations .....	2

## **Appendices**

Appendix A	Project Features Map
Appendix B	Photographs
Appendix C	Three Year Budget Projections
Appendix D	Field Inspection Notes
Appendix E	Map showing areas to be monitored

## **I. Introduction**

The Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection project is located in north central Cameron Parish and includes 247 acres of highly organic freshwater wetlands located within the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. (See Appendix A).

The Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project was authorized by Section 303(a) of Title III Public Law 101-646, the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) enacted on November 29, 1990 as amended and approved on the first Priority Project List. The Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project has a twenty –year (20 year) economic life, which began in August 1994.

## **II. Inspection Purpose and Procedures**

The purpose of the annual inspection of the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project (ME-09) is to evaluate the constructed project features to identify any deficiencies and prepare a report detailing the condition of project features and recommended corrective actions needed. Should it be determined that corrective actions are needed, LDNR shall provide, in the report, a detailed cost estimate for engineering, design, supervision, inspection, and construction contingencies, and an assessment of the urgency of such repairs (O&M Plan, 2003). The annual inspection report also contains a summary of maintenance projects, if any, which were completed since completion of constructed project features and an estimated projected budget for the upcoming three (3) years for operation, maintenance and rehabilitation. The three (3) year projected operation and maintenance budget is shown in Appendix C.

In 2003, the CWPPRA Task Force determined, due to the fact that LDNR was responsible for the operation and maintenance phase of the vast majority of CWPPRA projects, that LDNR would be the responsible party for all Post Storm/Hurricane Assessments. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, every project appeared to have been impacted by the storms; therefore, LDNR determined that all projects should be assessed for damages (Broussard, 2006). With concurrence from the federal sponsor, LDNR has decided to use the information obtained during this post hurricane assessment in this Annual Maintenance Inspection.

An inspection of the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project (ME-09) was held on October 21, 2005 under clear skies and cool temperatures. In attendance were Stan Aucoin, Mel Guidry, Darrell Pontiff of LDNR, and Marty Floyd of NRCS (for other inspections). Representatives of USFWS were invited but were unable to attend. The annual inspection began at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the western end of the rock dike along the northern bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

The field inspection included a complete visual inspection of all features. Staff gauge readings were not available to be used to determine approximate elevations of water and rock dikes. Photographs were taken at each project feature (see Appendix B) and Field Inspection notes were completed in the field to record measurements and deficiencies (see Appendix D).

### **III. Project Description and History**

Since the construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) between 1935 and 1940, wave erosion of the marsh adjacent to the GIWW has greatly increased due to the increased use of navigational vessels in the area. Wave erosion along the shoreline of the project area has caused most of the spoil banks to be depleted and allows for abnormal overtopping of the spoil banks to occur. In 1994, a 13,200-ft limestone breakwater was constructed 0-50 ft from (and parallel) to the northern bank of the GIWW in 3-4 ft of water. The purpose of the breakwater was to prevent the encroachment of the GIWW into 247 acres of highly organic wetlands and to prevent the channel from overtopping and eroding the existing spoil bank.

The principal project features include:

- Approximately 13,200 linear feet of foreshore rock dike along the northern bank of the GIWW.

### **IV. Summary of Past Operation and Maintenance Projects**

**General Maintenance:** Below is a summary of completed maintenance projects and operation tasks performed since August 1994, the construction completion date of the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project (ME-09).

**2001 – Warning Sign Addition (USACE)** – The US Army Corps of Engineers added warning signs along the northern boundary of the project in August 2001 in response to complaints from the commercial traffic traveling along the GIWW. This is not a project feature to be maintained through CWPPRA.

**2005/2006 Structure Operations:** There are no operations associated with this project.

### **V. Inspection Results**

#### **Foreshore Rock Dike**

The dike is in excellent post construction condition and appears to be in the same condition as to what existed prior to the storm. There is a short section of dike that is low with some displaced rock. Vegetation in the area as well as trees along the canal bank was observed to be experiencing stress due to salt water inundation and strong winds. No need for any maintenance in the foreseeable future. (Photos: Appendix B, Photos 1 - 4)

### **VI. Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project is in excellent condition and functioning as designed and did not sustain any discernable damage from Hurricane RITA.

**Appendix A**  
**Project Features Map**



**Cameron Prairie  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Shoreline Protection  
(ME-09)**

 Shoreline Protection  
 Project Boundary



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

Background Imagery:  
 Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery 2000

Map Date: June 6, 2002  
 Map ID: 2002-11-716  
 Data accurate as of: June 6, 2002

**Appendix B**  
**Photographs**

Annual Inspection Report  
CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE PROTECTION PROJECT  
State Project No. ME-09



Photo 1, Tie in to North Prong Canal



Photo 2, Signs installed by USACE





Photo 3, Typical foreshore dike section.



Photo 4, Low area/displaced rock area along dike.

## **Appendix C**

### **Three Year Budget Projection**

**CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE SP/ ME-09 / PPL 1**  
**Three-Year Operations & Maintenance Budgets 07/01/2005 - 06/30/08**

<u>Project Manager</u> Pat Landry	<u>O &amp; M Manager</u> Mel Guidry	<u>Federal Sponsor</u> USFWS	<u>Prepared By</u> Mel Guidry
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	----------------------------------

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
<b>Maintenance Inspection</b>	\$ 4,955.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 5,407.00
<b>Structure Operation</b>			
<b>Administration</b>		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Maintenance/Rehabilitation</b>			

**05/06 Description:**

---

E&D	
Construction	
Construction Oversight	
<b>Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**06/07 Description:**

---

E&D	\$ -
Construction	\$ -
Construction Oversight	\$ -
<b>Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**07/08 Description:**

---

E&D	\$ -
Construction	\$ -
Construction Oversight	\$ -
<b>Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
<b><u>Total O&amp;M Budgets</u></b>	<b>\$ 4,955.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,407.00</b>

<b><u>O &amp; M Budget (3 yr Total)</u></b>	<b>\$ 15,612.00</b>
<b><u>Existing O &amp; M Budget</u></b>	<b>\$ 185,213.00</b>
<b><u>Remaining O &amp; M Budget (Projected)</u></b>	<b>\$ 169,601.00</b>

## **Appendix D**

### **Field Inspection Form**

**MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REPORT CHECK SHEET**

Project No. / Name: ME-09 Cameron Prairie

Date of Inspection: October 21, 2005

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Structure No. 1

Inspector(s): LDNR-Stan Aucoin, Mel Guidry, Darrell Pontiff, LDNR  
Marty Floyd, NRCS (For other inspections)

Structure Description: \_ Foreshore Rock Dike

Water Level N/A

Type of Inspection: Annual

Weather Conditions: Clear & cool

Item	Condition	Physical Damage	Corrosion	Photo #	Observations and Remarks
Steel Bulkhead / Caps	N/A				
Steel Grating	N/A				
Stop Logs	N/A				
Hardware	N/A				
Timber Piles	N/A				
Timber Wales	N/A				
Galv. Pile Caps	N/A				
Cables	N/A				
Signage /Supports	Good			2	
Rip Rap (fill) (foreshore dike)	Excellent			1,3 & 4	One area of dike is low with displaced rock.
Earthen Embankment	N/A				

What are the conditions of the existing levees?  
 Are there any noticeable breaches?  
 Settlement of rock plugs and rock weirs?  
 Position of stoplogs at the time of the inspection?

## **Appendix E**

### **Locations to be Monitored**