COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT (CWPPRA) DEMONSTRATION: LA-06 SHORELINE PROTECTION FOUNDATION IMPROVEMENTS VERMILION PARISH, LA

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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT (CWPPRA) DEMONSTRATION: LA-06 SHORELINE PROTECTION FOUNDATION IMPROVEMENTS VERMILION PARISH, LA

Objective:

White Lake is located 55 miles southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana in Vermilion Parish. The south shoreline of White Lake is retreating at an estimated average rate of 15 feet-per-year. As the shoreline erodes, the potential increases for low marsh management levees to breach and subject interior marsh to increased wave erosion. Poor soil conditions limit the effectiveness of shoreline protection dikes because of high rates of subsidence which require frequent and expensive project maintenance, lowering overall project cost effectiveness. The objective is to improve the cost effectiveness of shoreline protection projects by applying a sand foundation beneath rock dikes to achieving bearing capacity and consolidation settlement design tolerances to reduce 20-year project life cycle costs, as compared to traditional approaches.

Design and Instrumentation:

The demonstration project proposed a rigorous test design that included two replicates of two foundation improvement treatments with a separate control to meet engineering and statistical data and analysis requirements. The test design located with design soil reach #6 included six 900-linear foot sample sections with 50 foot intervals between sections. For engineering data control, all improved sample sections were adjacent to one control sample section. To determine the effects of the foundation improvements, each sample section was instrumented with four sets each of crown, front and rear settlement plates, inclinometers, and extensometers, at approximately 180-foot intervals. See Figure 1 for the dimensions of the demonstration sections and Figure 2 for the location of each demonstration section.

Demonstration Section A: This design included two 900-foot improved sample sections (A1 and A2) consisting of a sand foundation that displaced soft near-surface material. During construction, 2.5 feet of sand fill was placed on the existing ground to elevation $+1.0$ to induce initial settlement. Rock armor was then placed to an elevation of $+3.5$.

Demonstration Section B: This design included two 900-foot improved sample sections (B1 and B2) with soft near-surface material removed via dredging and backfilled with sand to match the existing ground surface. Rock armor was then placed to an elevation on $+3.5$.

Demonstration Section C: This design included two 900-foot unimproved control sections (C1 and C2) consisting of rock armor placed to an elevation on +3.5 without sand.

Instrumentation Results:

Settlement and deflection data was collected over a five-year period from 2006 to 2011 for each of the 6 demonstration reaches. Settlement data collected in 2009 and 2010 was not used for determining a preferred construction procedure since there appears to be some error in the surveys. The data points during this timeframe show results much lower than the previous data points from 2008 and showed an increase in the rate of settlement. This is not expected since no extra load was added so the 2009 and 2010 settlement data was removed. From the compiled data, average settlement and deflection was determined for each of the designs.

Deflection: The lateral deflection is determined by inclinometers at the P/S toe and F/S toe.

Demonstration Section A

Demonstration Section B

Demonstration Section C

*Note: Direction $A =$ perpendicular to the dike centerline

Direction $B =$ parallel to the dike centerline

The inclinometer data shows about an inch of lateral movement of the foundation soil for each of the sections. The expected result was Demonstration Section B would have had the least amount of lateral deflection because the foundation soils (expected to deflect laterally) were dredged and replaced by sand (expected to deflect laterally a small amount). With the minimal lateral movement of the foundation soils and the similarity in the values, all sections performed well and a more preferred section cannot be chosen.

Settlement: The settlement of the demonstration sections was determined by settlement gauges placed in the centerline of the demonstration section.

Demonstration Section A

Demonstration Section B

Demonstration Section C

The settlement data shows between 2 inches and 5 inches of foundation settlement for the sections tested. Demonstration Section B (excavate and replace design) appears to have performed marginally worse than Section A and Section C. However, with the similarity in the results and minimal foundation settlement, all sections performed well and a more preferred section cannot be chosen. Graphs of the centerline elevations vs. time and log_{10} trend-line of the elevations vs. time of the demonstration section are shown in Appendix A.

Conclusions:

Given the data, all three sections proved to be stable structures with minimal foundation settlement and lateral movement in the foundation. The purpose of the test was to find a suitable construction procedure to building rock dikes. At this site, all three sections would be suitable and a more preferred construction procedure cannot be recommended from the test data.

Lesson Learned:

For a more effective demonstration section, a site with more expected foundation settlement and lateral movement should have been chosen. This would provide a greater magnitude of values and most likely, a range of values from one section to the other. The site chosen predicted settlements too small to be compared because the survey error of 0.2 feet overlaps some of the data and small differences in values (settlement and lateral movement) between sections are too similar to provide a recommendation.

APPENDIX A

SETTLEMENT GRAPHS

Demonstration Section B1 Settlement

APPENDIX B

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

SOUTH WHITE LAKE SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT FEDERAL PROJECT AND STATE PROJECT #ME-22 VERMILION PARISH, LA

SOILS REPORT

CEMVN-ED-FD 12 MARCH 2004

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT (CWPPRA) SOUTH WHITE LAKE SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT FEDERAL PROJECT AND STATE PROJECT #ME-22 VERMILION PARISH, LA

1. General. White Lake is located 55 miles southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana in Vermilion Parish. The south shoreline of White Lake is retreating at an estimated average rate of 15 feet-per-year. As the shoreline erodes, the potential increases for low marsh management levees to breach and subject interior marsh to increased wave erosion. The objective of this project is to reduce shoreline erosion along the southern shoreline of White Lake in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. Shoreline stabilization will diminish the threat of wave erosion on the low marsh levees and the interior marshes.

2. Field Investigations.

a. Surveys. Surveys extend the entire project length (~11-miles) and were taken in September 2003 at intervals of approximately 500 feet. The 109 cross sections varied in length from approximately 500 to 2000-feet extending lakeward from the near shoreline. The survey coverage fully defines the proposed dike and floatation channel placement area. The surveys revealed a very gradually sloping shoreline into the lake. The surveyed points range in elevation from El. +3.3 near the shoreline to El. –6.6 out into the lake.¹ The average elevation of the nearest shoreline points is El. +1.4 with the majority of points ranging between El. +1.0 to +2.0.

b. Soil Borings. Five 40-foot undisturbed borings (5-inch diameter), four 25-foot undisturbed borings, and four 25-foot general-type borings (3-inch diameter) were taken in September 2003 and were spaced over the proposed project's length. Additionally, five vibra-core borings ranging in length from 8.4 to 11.2-feet were obtained in July 2001 during the initial planning effort for CWPPRA's 11th Project Priority List. These borings provided all of the soils information necessary to design the shoreline

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 1 All elevations refer to feet NAVD₈₈ unless otherwise specified.

protection measures. Boring locations are shown in plate 1 of this report and boring logs can be found on plates 2 thru 11.

3. General Geology. The study area is located in a region of low relief with surface elevations averaging between El. +1.0 to +2.0 along the banks of White Lake.

 The surface and shallow subsurface deposits are generally composed of marsh, swamp, lacustrine, and Pleistocene deposits. The project area is defined by 2 geologic profiles (Plate 12 and Plate 13) that parallel the shoreline of White Lake. The project area is overlain by approximately 8 to 24 feet of marsh and swamp deposits that generally thicken towards the east end. Marsh and swamp deposits interfinger throughout the area and were therefore classified as marsh/swamp on the sections. Marsh/swamp deposits consist of very soft to soft fat clay with lenses and layers of lean clay, silt, and peat with relatively high moisture contents and wood. Approximately 4 to 10 feet of lacustrine deposits are found within the marsh/swamp deposits from approximate distance 11,000 to 16,250-feet and from $45,000$ to $53,000$ -feet². Lacustrine deposits consist of very soft to soft fat and lean clays with shell fragments. Pleistocene age deposits underlie marsh/swamp, and lacustrine deposits. The top of the Pleistocene is found between approximately –6 to –10 feet $MLG³$ at the western end of the study area and trends down to between approximately –18 to –25 feet MLG towards the eastern end. Although Pleistocene deposits were not encountered in borings SWL-11G and SWL-12U, it is estimated that the Pleistocene is at approximately –25 feet MLG. Pleistocene deposits extend to the bottom of the borings and consist of stiff to very stiff clays, silts, silty sand, and sands with low water content. Groundwater is at or near the surface in the study area.

 Long-term relative subsidence rates average approximately 0.25 ft/century in the study area. Future eustatic sea level rise is currently estimated to contribute an additional 1.0 foot/century to the relative subsidence rates (EPA, 1995). Combined, the relative

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 2 All distances are referenced from the west end of the project with 0 beginning at the western-most boring SWL-1U.

³ All boring surface elevations were referenced to the gage at Schooner Bayou which is in Mean Low Gulf (MLG). The conversion from MLG to $NAVD_{88}$ for this project area is -1.5 feet.

subsidence rate is estimated to be 1.25 feet/century over the next 100 years.

4. Design Parameters. The alignment for the project was selected to generally coincide with the El. –1.5 contour and generally parallel the shoreline of the lake. Centerline stationing along the project alignment went from Sta. 0+00 (west end)to 576+87(east end). Since the depth of the marsh/swamp deposits vary from 8 to 24-feet along the project alignment, the project length was divided into seven soils reaches mainly based upon the depth of the very soft to soft marsh/swamp deposits. The limits of the seven reaches are summarized in Table 1 and are listed according to the centerline stationing along the length of the proposed segmented rock dike.

The design shear strengths and unit weights for the proposed construction area were based on the results of shear strength (3- and 1-point unconsolidated-undrained triaxial compression tests (Q-tests) and unconfined compression tests (UCT)) and unit weight testing. The design shear strengths and unit weights for each of the seven reaches are shown on plates 14 thru 20. The vertical datum for all of the shear strength and unit weights plates is in MLG. Conversion of all the stratum breaks to $NAVD_{88}$ is shown for each soil stratum on each of these plates. Shear strengths for the upper marsh/swamp layer range from 150 to 250 pounds-per-square-foot (psf). For all soils reaches the shear strength starts off with a value of 150 psf at the surface and extends down to an elevation ranging from El. -4.5 to -26.5 depending upon the reach. Shear strengths for all but reach 2 increase slightly with increasing depth to values ranging from 200 to 250 psf at the bottom of the marsh/swamp strata depending upon the reach.

For all soils reaches the saturated unit weight starts off with values ranging from 80 to 95 pounds-per-cubic-foot (pcf) and in reaches 4 thru 7, generally increases to values ranging from 95 to 109 pcf at the bottom of the marsh/swamp deposits. All shear strength data for the Pleistocene clays were grouped on one shear strength plate (see plate 21) and a single design trend for the Pleistocene clays shear strength was used for the entire project extent. The design shear strength chosen for the Pleistocene clays was 650 psf and the saturated unit weight used for this layer was 119 pcf.

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Borings SWL-1U and SWL-4U show sand layers extending from El. -38.5 and El. –28.5 to the extent of each boring, respectively. In reach 1 which reflects the stratigraphy from boring SWL-1U, the sand is poorly graded. In reach 3 which reflects the stratigraphy of boring SWL-4U, the sand layer consists of both a silty-sand and a poorly graded sand. Design parameters for the sand layers were conservatively assumed to be $\gamma=122$ pcf and $\phi=30^\circ$. For the stability analyses, it was assumed conservatively that the sand layer did not extend into reach 2 and pleistocene clay was assumed below the extent of the borings for this reach. Substantial and continuous silt and sand strata were not evident in any other borings taken. For design purposes, continuous clay layers were conservatively assumed for the project length. Design parameters for the stone were assumed to be $\gamma=132$ pcf and $\phi=40^\circ$. The potential for silt inclusion within the stone is considered low to moderate given the location of the proposed dike and especially for consideration of the controlling end–of-construction case.

5. Design Procedure, Methodology and Recommendations. The minimum dike section required to meet the objectives of the project was developed by Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch, Coastal Section. This dike section consisted of a crown width of four feet, crest of El. +3.5, side slopes of 1 V on 1.5 H, and the following rock gradation:

The estimates for construction settlement ranged from 30 to 50 percent of the dike height which is typically 5 feet and is summarized according to reach in Table 1. The construction settlement estimates were solely based upon previous experience in this type of soils environment. Factors influencing the estimates were depth of marsh/swamp deposit and quantity of organics present in the borings. Data from the rock dike built by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) on the banks of Grand Lake which is in the close vicinity were utilized as a check of these estimates in similar stratigraphy. The Grand Lake

project was a similar rock dike project and the area contained similar depths of marsh/swamp soils strata as found in the White Lake Reaches 1 thru 4. The construction settlement experienced on the Grand Lake Project was an average of 33 percent for the entire project. Estimates for Reaches 1 thru 4 for White Lake vary from 30 to 35 percent which is very similar to what was experienced at the Grand Lake project. Estimates for Reach 5 thru 7 for White Lake vary from 35 to 50 percent due to the greater depth of marsh/swamp deposits.

A consolidation settlement estimate was conducted for each reach and results are also summarized in Table 1. Ultimate consolidation settlement estimates for the rock dike vary from approximately 0.5 to 1.3-feet and the timerate consolidation settlement estimates for the 20-year project life vary from approximately 0.4 to 1.0-feet. Estimates for Reaches 1 thru 3 assume double drainage given the available shallow sand strata for bottom drainage, and therefore the 20-year estimates are almost equivalent to the ultimate values. As stated earlier, with the estimated combined relative subsidence rate of 1.25-feet-per-century, the total estimated settlement for the 20-year project life ranges from approximately 0.7 to 1.3-feet.

Table 1. CWPPRA, South White Lake Shoreline Stabilization Summary of Construction and Consolidation Settlement Estimates

Bearing capacity analyses indicated an adequate factor of safety $(FS_{min}=1.30)$ against failure for the given dike section. In checking bearing capacity, the applied loading for the proposed dike included the amount of construction

settlement as additional loading for each reach analyzed. For reaches 5 and 6, adjacent surcharge loading applied to the equivalent footing widths for embankments was utilized to accomplish the necessary factor of safety of 1.3. The adjacent surcharge loading is provided by the supporting dike slope and increases the bearing capacity of an equivalent footing width. This method for bearing capacity analyses of embankments was summarized in a paper by R.K. Rowe and $K.L.$ Sodeman⁴.

For each reach, a stability analysis was conducted for each cross section with the given dike section including the additional load due to estimated construction settlements. Using these analyses, we identified the two cross sections for each reach having the lowest factors of safety for further detailed analyses. Shear sliding stability analyses were conducted for the two worst cross sections for each reach for two cases of water levels, extreme low and average low, $E1. -0.2$ and $E1. 0.6$, respectively. These analyses determined the required geotextile reinforcement strength and checked for adequate embedment. Table 2 summarizes the results of these analyses. Stability analysis plates graphically show the results of the most critical cross section for each reach for each water case on plates 22 thru 35. The minimum acceptable factors of safety against failure were 1.20 for the extreme low water level and 1.30 for the average low water level including geotextile reinforcement. These design criteria are summarized in Table 3. The minimum factors of safety without consideration of the geotextile reinforcement were 1.02 for the extreme low water case and 1.06 for the average low water case, both in reach 2 for line number 101^5 . For the rock dike design, a geotextile reinforcement was required for all reaches to meet the minimum required factors of safety. We recommend the use of a reinforcement geotextile embedded from toe to toe with a minimum tensile strength of 200 pounds-per-inch at 5 percent strain based upon the wide-width test. A printout of spreadsheets that were used to calculate the tensile strength requirements and to check for sufficient embedment

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⁴Rowe, R. K. and Soderman, K. L. (1988), "*Stabilization of Very Soft Soils Using High Strength Geosynthetics: the Role of Finite Element Analyses*," Proc. GRI-1, Soft Soil Stabilization Using Geosynthetics, Jour. Geotextiles and Geomembranes, Vol. 6, Nos. 1-3, pp. 53-80.

 $⁵$ Line numbers are referred to in lieu of station numbers since a baseline of the surveyed sections was not</sup> conducted.

of the geotextile reinforcement is included in the Appendix.

Loading Case	Minimum Factor of Safety
Average Low Water Case	1.30 with Shear Strengths from Q-Test with geotextile reinforcement included.
3Extreme Low Water Case	1.20 with Shear Strengths from Q-Test with geotextile reinforcement included.

Table 3. Design Cases and Parameters

6. List of Plates:

Plate 34 Reach 7 Stability Analysis Line 2 Water El. -0.2 Plate 35 Reach 7 Stability Analysis Line 2 Water El. +0.6 Plate 36 Soil Boring Legend Plate

GENERAL NOTES

CLASSIFICATION STRATIFICATION SHEAR STRENGTHS AND UNIT WEIGHTS OF THE SOIL WERE BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL AND UNDISTURBED BORINGS. SEE PLATES 19 AND 21 FOR DESIGN PARAMETERS.

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