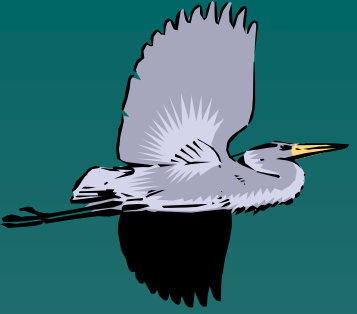
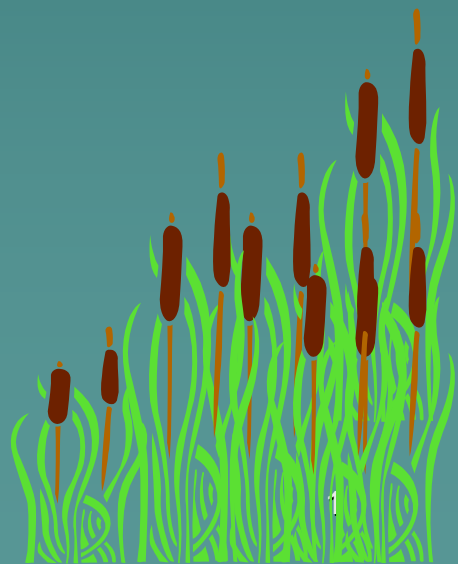
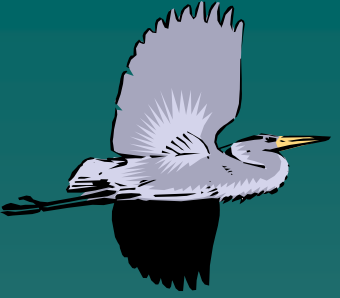


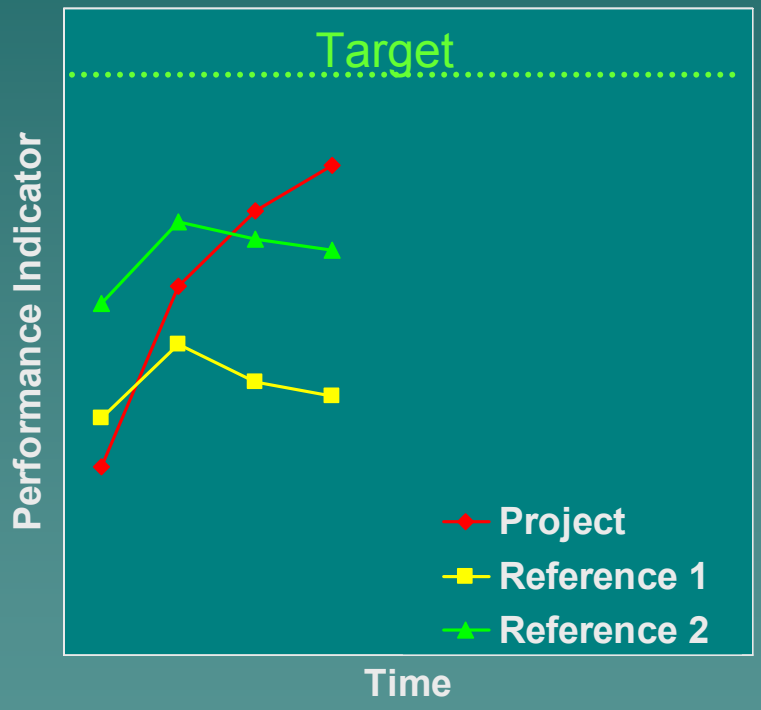
CWPPRA Adaptive Management Programmatic Lessons

Jenneke M. Visser
Richard Raynie



Planning



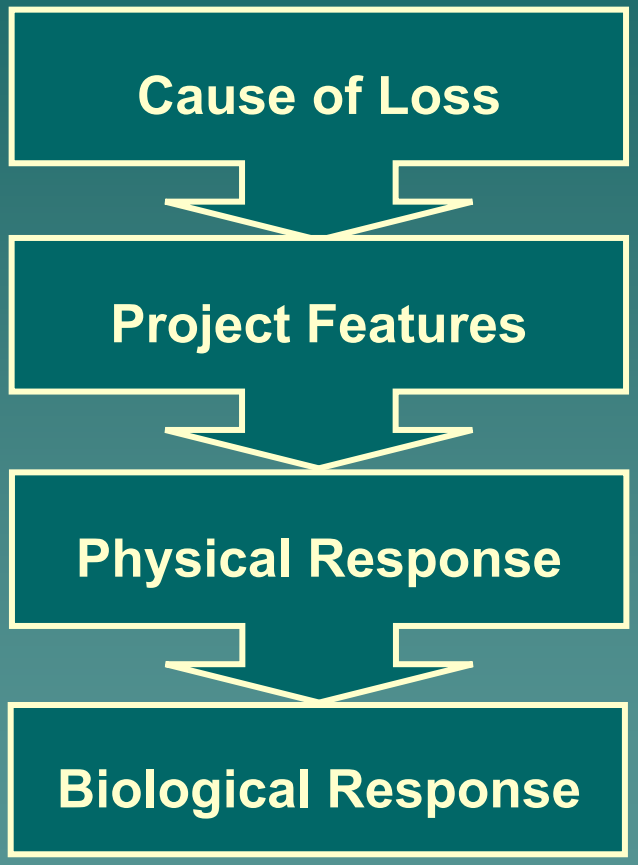


Goals

- Success/Failure mind set leads to vague goals and objectives
- Need targets and trajectories to evaluate project performance over the 20 year life of the project

For Example See Zedler and Callaway (2000) Ecological Engineering

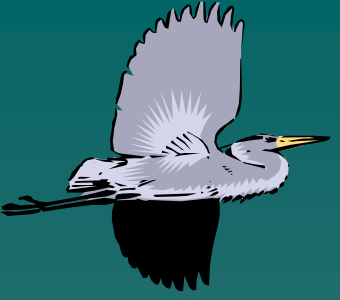
Planning



Conceptual Model

- Need better connection between causes of loss and project features
- Need better connection between project features and physical responses
- Need better connection between physical responses and biological responses

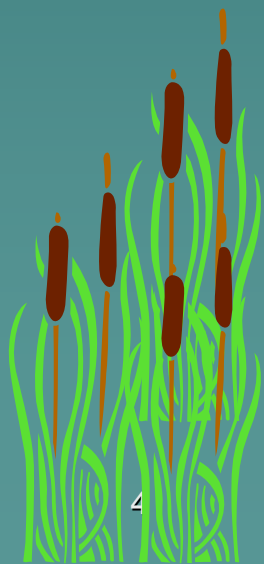
For Example See Thom (2000) Ecological Engineering



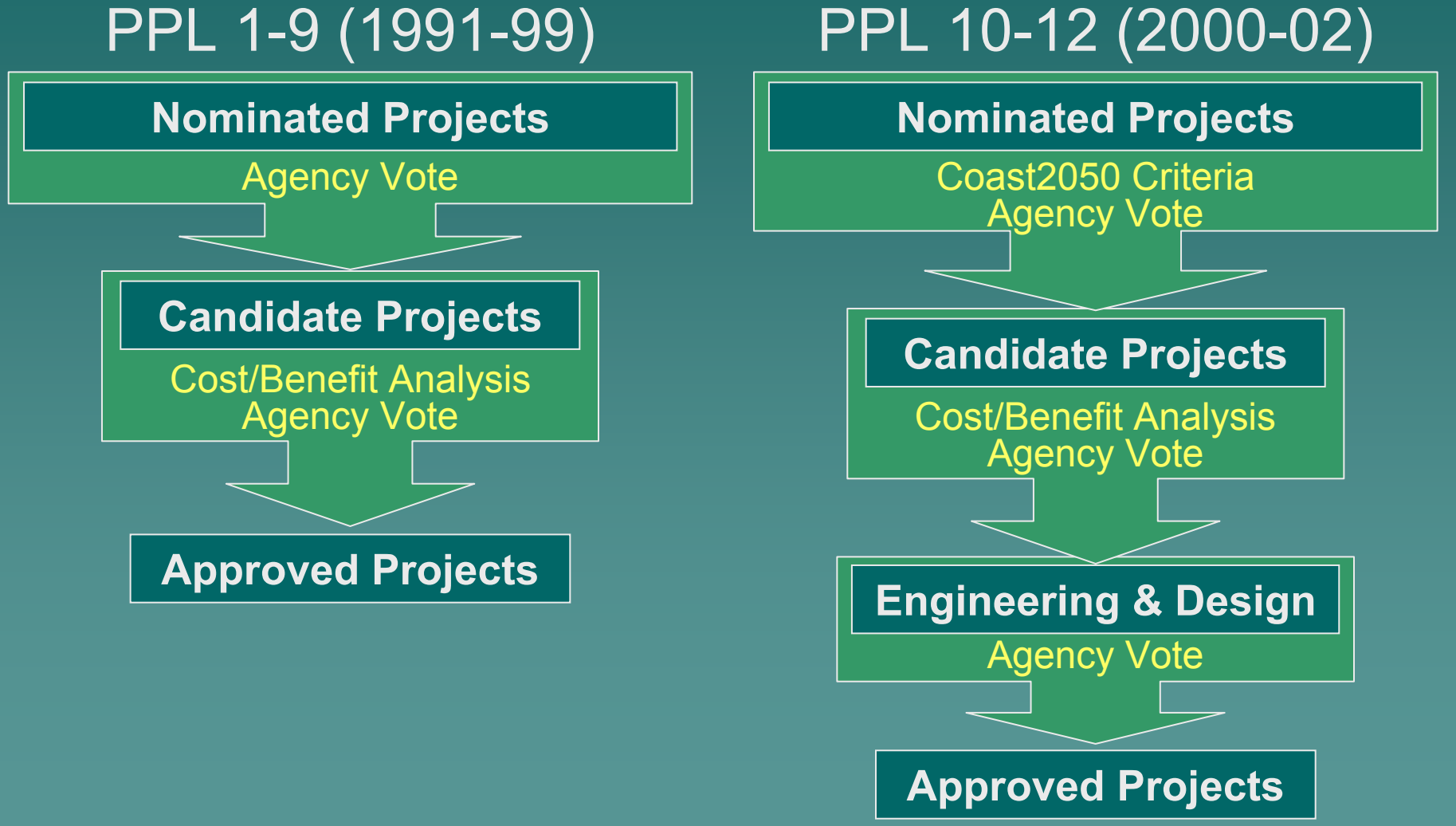
Planning/Engineering

- Early cost benefit analyses over estimated benefits and under estimated cost

  - Perceived cost restrictions lead to design of features that are suboptimal to reach the objectives of the project
  - This problem is alleviated by the revised selection procedure. Projects compete for construction funds after 90% completion of engineering and design



CWPPRA
Project Approval Process



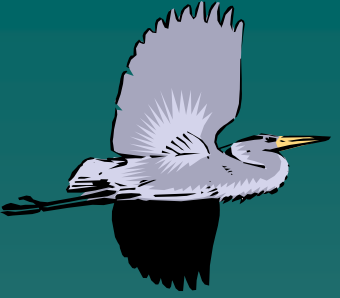
Engineering

Elevation

- Elevation differences of a few inches can make a large impact on vegetation health and composition in Louisiana coastal wetlands
- Coastal GPS system will improve this

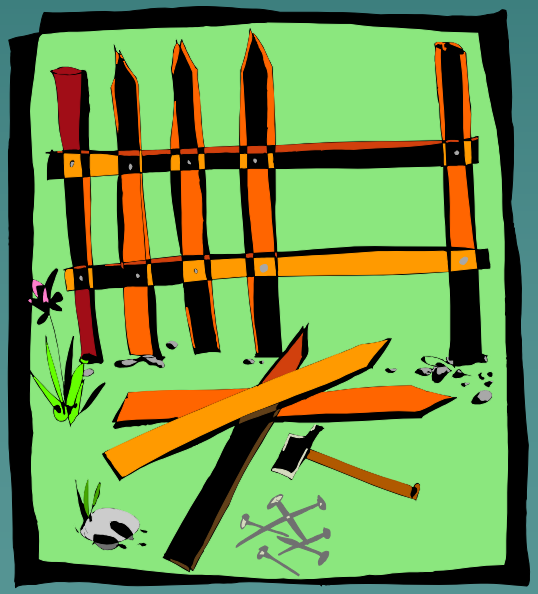
Engineering

- Vandalism of Structures
  - Structures should be engineered to make unauthorized changes impossible

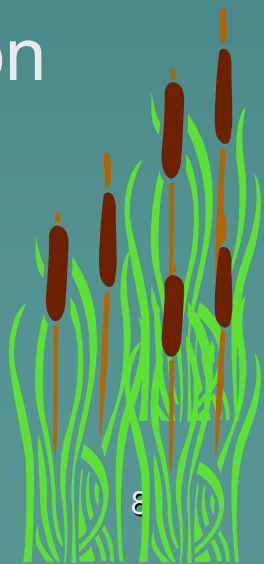


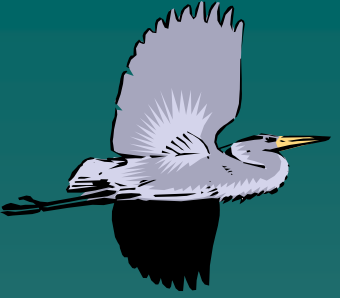
Engineering

- Demonstration projects should be engineered for a 20 year lifetime



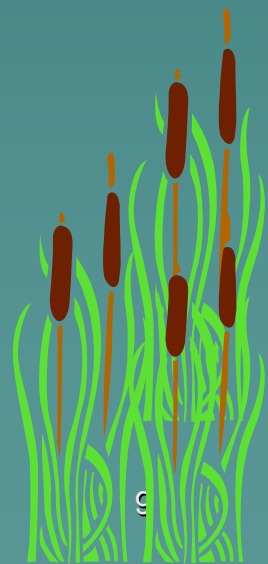
  - Features designed for a 5 year lifespan, failed within two years making evaluation of techniques impossible

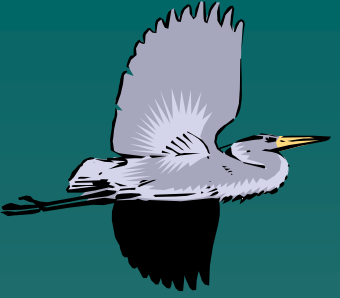




Construction

- Construction and Operation should be controlled by CWPPRA
  - Landowners and local governments have not followed the planned construction designs and operation schedules
  - Revise land-rights agreements
  - Close supervision of construction contractors

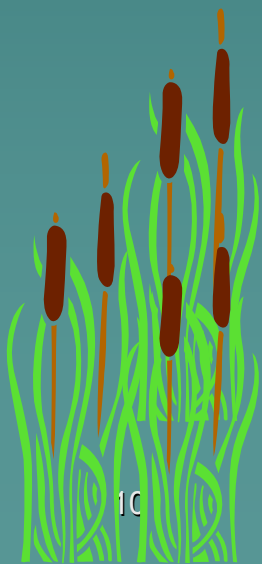


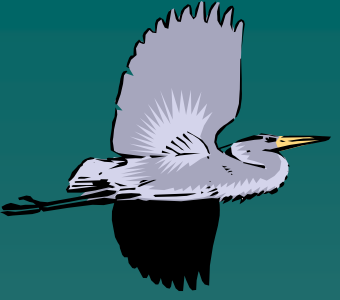


Construction

- Improve Communication between Planning Biologists and Construction Engineers

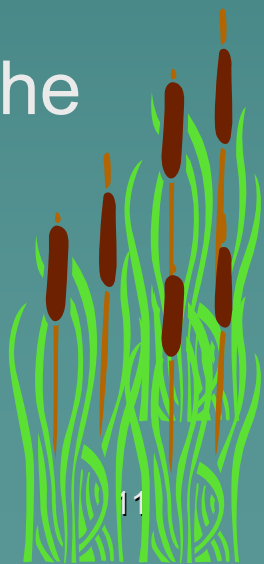
  - Identify the function of each feature
  - Project Management Team





Monitoring

- Project performance needs to be put in context of the larger landscape, not one reference site
  - Proposed coast wide monitoring system should provide this context
  - Basin level evaluation reports
- Monitoring budget should be based on data necessary to adaptively manage and evaluate the project, not on project type
  - Emphasize operation monitoring
  - De-emphasize success/failure mind set



“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking that we were at when we created them.”
Albert Einstein

The CWPPRA community is learning from its mistakes and is moving forward