

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Team (RPT) Region 1, New Orleans, LA, 12 Jan 06, 1:00 pm

1. Agenda Item #1, Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Dan Llewellyn, RPT Region 1 Leader, opened the meeting and all participants introduced themselves and announced their affiliation. The sign in sheet from the Region 1 meeting is attached. Nearly 30 people were in attendance at the Region 1 RPT meeting.

2. Agenda Item #2, PPL 16 Selection Process Brief Overview and Ground Rules for Today's PPL 16 Nomination Meeting. Mr. Llewellyn went over "Points of Order" for the meeting. He noted that this first round of meetings would be to accept project and demo nominations. The significant change to the process this year is that we will vote on Feb 1st and not today. Voting will take place at a coast-wide voting meeting on February 1, 2006 at LDWF in Baton Rouge, LA. There is about a month between now and the voting meeting to let agencies and parishes know what projects are supported. Parishes that can vote at the coast-wide meeting in February are: Pontchartrain Basin (Ascension, Jefferson, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parish).

Mr. Llewellyn went over the PPL16 process. He reiterated that we will not be voting at this meeting and that the PPL15 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. Demonstration projects will be nominated today as well. PPL15 demonstration projects will not automatically re-nominated, will have to be nominated at these meetings in order to be considered again under PPL16. There could be 20 nominees plus the ones rolled over from PPL15 under consideration.

3. Agenda Item #3, Brief Overview of Region 2 Coast 2050 Regional Strategies. Mr. Llewellyn 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. Llewellyn went over the regional ecosystem strategies and noted that land loss maps were available in hardcopy form in the meeting.

4. Agenda Item #4, PPL 16 Project Nominations. Mr. Llewellyn 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. Llewellyn reiterated that PPL15 demonstration projects would need to be re-nominated in order to be considered under PPL16.

a. Mr. Llewellyn opened the floor for nominations in the Pontchartrain Basin.

#1 – Goose Point Project Expansion Project. Mr. Brian Fortson, St. Tammany Parish, stated that he was nominating 3 projects. The first was the Goose Point project (expansion of existing PO-33) which consisted of dedicated delivery focusing on Point Platte and Goose Point, for an addition of 500 acres. In a 2004 photo of Goose Point the loss is linear and perpendicular to Lake Pontchartrain shoreline. Mr. Quin Kinler, NRCS, asked for the status of the Goose Point project. Mr. Kevin Roy, FWS, stated that they are trying to get survey crew out and geotech work done (in Phase I). Dr. John Lopez asked if Mr. Fortson was suggesting a separate project or one that will expand on the existing Phase I project. Mr. Fortson replied that he would like to add this into the existing Phase I project that is ongoing. Mr. Jurgensen asked if he was asking FWS to add it to the existing Goose Point project. He stated that it may make the first Goose Point project so expensive that it would not be a viable project. Mr. Kevin Roy, FWS, stated that if you have a \$30M marsh creation project, it may make it harder to move forward. Mr. Fortson stated that he thinks it could stand-alone. It looks like \$6M for this as a standalone project. Kevin Roy stated that the refuge folks are interested in this as well.

#2, Northshore Beach Marsh Creation/Restoration Project. Mr. Brian Fortson presented this project. It is to restore Northshore Beach and the marsh behind it. There was drastic loss after Katrina. St. Tammany marshes were doing okay before Katrina, when they lost large swatches of marsh. On Northshore Beach the proposal is to restore what is gone, with 600 acres of restoration in the open marsh areas. The only thing left is the shoreline on the lake. A vortex pattern in the marsh reflects what is believed to be caused by a tornado going through the area during the storm. The mud from the marsh is mostly in the subdivision farther north. They propose a dedicated delivery using the lake as a borrow source.

#3, Fritchie Marsh Creation/Restoration (PO-06 Revisited) Project. Presented by Mr. Brian Fortson. The PPL2 PO-6 project was working well until Katrina wiped out the marsh. The PPL2 project doubled the capacity of flow under Hwy 90 and diverted water from W-14 and Doubloon Bayou. It was the first time in years that they were seeing sediment laden water entering the marsh. This area experienced some of the greatest loss from Hurricane Katrina. The phenomenon that has happened here is that the water came in from the south, picked up the marsh like a carpet and slid the marsh vegetation up into the tree lines on the north ridges. Subdivisions will not drain because of the marsh debris blocking flows in areas to the south. The loss is 1,500 acres. He is proposing construction of around 1,000 acres of marsh.

Mr. Fortson continued that all the St. Tammany proposals are dedicated delivery, with two piggybacked on other CWPPRA projects. Pearl River is an authorized channel and there may be dredging there and this could be used as a source of material. Salt Bayou was dredged out to facilitate freshwater flow into the marsh for the Fritchie Marsh project. It is now silted in to about 2” deep and is more or less marsh. It could be redredged to facilitate flow and provide some of the borrow material. Mr. Fortson indicated that all three project areas had water depths of 6 inches to 1 foot.

The next two project proposals were combined.

#4 – Alligator Bend Marsh Restoration and Shoreline Project. Ms. Wynecta Fisher, City of New Orleans Office of Environmental Affairs introduced herself. Mr. Greg Miller presented this project. It is located in the Alligator Bend area near Lake Borgne. It is on the East Orleans landbridge which separates Lake Borgne from Lake Pontchartrain. The area had experienced relatively little loss in interior marshes prior to the storm. There are large area of wetlands that were destroyed with passage of Katrina. On both sides of Bayou Platte there is significant loss. Surface vegetation has been sheared off. The idea would be to come in and restore the area before losing additional sediments. The concern is that we now have an area of severe land loss where if nothing is done, it could open an area through the landbridge and connect lake and the GIWW. He is looking at 3 sites to restore marsh (400, 250 and 300 acres). Prior to storm, it was stable marsh, and overnight we lost 1,000 acres. There is now a thin slip of marsh between Lake Borgne and the marsh area. A strong southeast wind could open up the shoreline and create a direct connection linking the GIWW and Lake Borgne. The project would include dredging up to 5M cubic yards of material, no specific borrow site located as of yet, but could look at areas in Lake Borgne without oysters. The project would be semi-confined areas of 500-750 acres of marsh restoration, and plantings.

Leo Richardson, speaking in support of this project, asked for a show of hands of someone not affected by the storm or doesn't know anyone affected by the storm. He represents the Lake Catherine Civic Association, and the Lake Catherine S&W District, and has landholdings in the landbridge area. He described the area as an island completely outside of the levee system, yet an integral part of the entire levee system strategy. All communities along the shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain are impacted by the amount of water that comes into Lake Pontchartrain. During a summer storm, the water level is 3' higher on the gulf side. Bottom line is that if it holds 3' of water in a common storm, it has to hold much more than that during a hurricane. He expressed his thanks to John Lopez for putting a name on the "lines of defense". The East Orleans landbridge is a critical "line of defense". He'd choose this before the St. Tammany project because this one keeps some of the water out of St. Tammany. This island is necessary for the people of New Orleans. There was 20' storm surge recorded by homeowners who stayed during the storm. A house built at 22' had no water at all. He stated that this project addresses needs that are consistent with objectives of the CWPPRA program and needs and urgency of the population of the Pontchartrain Basin.

Ms. Vickie Dufforc, representing Jefferson Parish, supports the project. The landbridge is critical in keeping water out of Lake Pontchartrain. Ms. Wynecta Fisher, spoke on behalf of City of New Orleans. The landbridge directly protects three parishes, and others as well. It protects a way of life that is unique. Dr. John Lopez, LPBF, mentioned the concept of lines of defense. The LPBF is using this concept to develop its restoration program. There are nine major lines of defense needed for restoration. East Orleans landbridge is one that is important in Region 1.

#4, Alligator Point Landbridge Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation Project. This project was proposed by Mr. Marty Floyd, NRCS. This is one of the lines of defense.

Their idea is a little different from Greg's: filling small ponds to create a total of 200 acres of marsh to keep cost down. He also proposed looking at the shoreline and seeing if there is a need for shoreline protection with vegetative plantings. Since thought it was worthwhile in the 5th year, talked to John Lopez and he agreed. He thinks that the aspect of shoreline protection is what we need to include in Greg's proposed project in order to combine them. Dr. John Lopez stated that there are some natural ponds along Alligator Point and asked if he was proposing to fill those in. Mr. Marty Floyd stated that they need to look at what is necessary. He would like to make these two projects into one project total and include the shoreline plantings. Mr. Miller noted that it is important that we aren't talking a small scale, 100 acre project. There is a significant area that was impacted and we want to make sure that the entire area is addressed. Want to make sure that we rebuild the marsh and not focus on shoreline protection. Marty said that it's not rock he is proposing on the shoreline, but vegetative plantings. Ms. Fisher indicated that the City of New Orleans would like to work together on combining the two projects. Mr. Allen Bolotte, NRCS, stated that the shoreline in the bend has not breached, but it is rolling back upon itself. There may be some weak spots where there are ponds which may need to be filled to avoid a breach.

#5 – Hydrologic Restoration in the Swamps West of Lake Maurepas Project. Ms. Beverly Etheridge, EPA, presented this project. Ken Teague has worked on this project from PPL12. It originally involved gapping the spoil bank in several locations on the Amite River Diversion Canal. There have been changes from the PPL12 project being proposed as a result of rain gage/flow data that has been collected over the last year showing hydrologic connections between the two sides of the spoil bank. This project had the highest AAHU rating of any project ever nominated. The original project involved purchase of pricey land. This project proposes to introduce freshwater by breaks in different areas than last time, not along Amite River Diversion Canal, but on either side of it, with possibly one gap in the spoil bank.

The next two projects were combined by the RPT.

#6, Mississippi River Reintroduction at Violet Project. Ms. Beverly Etheridge, EPA, presented this project. Mr. Ken Teague, EPA, is proposing diversion of approximately 5,000 cfs from the Mississippi River, affecting 23,000 acres at the location of the existing Violet Siphon. Bren Hasse, NMFS, has a similar project which also includes sediment pumping, which EPA supports.

#6, Violet Siphon Enlargement and Marsh Creation Project. Bren Haase, NMFS, presented this project. There is a large chunk of land that, due to excavation of MRGO and placement of spoil, has been disconnected from the Mississippi River and has problems with elevated salinities. He is proposing an expansion of the Violet Siphon there. There are currently 2-50" pipes there that can pump 500 cfs, probably less. He proposed a 10 pipe structure to increase flows to 2500-3000 cfs. He indicated that maybe a gated structure is better than a siphon. He also proposed sediment mining of the river to create marsh. There are potential issues with landrights, water management, and navigation. Estimated cost with marsh creation and enlargement of siphon is \$22.5M. He asked Mr. Chris Andry if he had anything else to add. A consultant in the audience

asked why the two projects were proposing different flows and which is better. Mr. Haase replied that he didn't know, and would need to do further investigation to see what will do the most good. Mr. Dan Llewellyn asked if there were any outfall management features proposed. Mr. Haase replied that there likely would be something. It could include gapping the canal bank and plugging as well and marsh nourishment type work. Violet Canal may need to be dredged. Ms. Sue Hawes, Corps, mentioned that there is a boat launch right by that siphon. Ms. Beverly Ethridge voiced her support in combining the two projects because the perfect way to maintain a marsh once you pump it in is to add a water source. Mr. Pat Williams, NMFS, asked if perhaps we should give the agencies and public an opportunity to think about this before combining them. Mr. Miller stated that coastal zone advisory boards will be meeting, so we need to have this information ASAP to help them to make decisions. Dr. John Lopez stated that they (LPBF) had just come out with a comprehensive habitat management plan and they have found that key to restoration for St. Bernard/Plaquemines is to constrict the MRGO and introduce water. The Violet diversion is an essential element for restoration to the basin. Right now it only benefits the central basin. If something happens on the MRGO, this project has implications to a larger area. It was agreed to combine them and use the more inclusive features, with the type of structure and flow not yet fixed, and the possibility of outfall management. Mr. Chris Andry, St. Bernard Parish, stated he would like the agencies to work together and he doesn't want to have competing projects.

#7 Irish Bayou to Chef Menteur Pass Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. Mr. Robert DuBois, presenting this project for James Harris, FWS. This is a resubmittal of a project first submitted 3 years ago. There is now only a narrow strip of marsh and some areas have breached through. The project would be to put a rock dike on the -2' contour, and create 46 acres of marsh through dedicated dredging from Lake Pontchartrain. The goal is to reduce shoreline erosion and create marsh. The marsh protects Hwy 11, I-10, and Irish Bayou community. The cost is \$6M.

#8, Chandeleur Island Restoration Project, Mr. Robert Dubois, presented this project. The island is 16 miles long after Katrina. Islands are usually considered the first line of defense for hurricanes. Behind these islands there is a large and lush grass bed that is unique to anywhere in LA. We can lose the grass beds by flow through the island and turbidity. He would like to mine a shoal area about 15 miles off shore (St. Bernard Shoal), dredge with hopper dredge and pump onto the island, make an earthen dike 5' high and slope 1:45. He expected it to be a multiphase project, it will cost about \$30M to get dune established. Then another phase could address the marsh platform. Someone asked a question regarding any change in the law on what we can do in wilderness areas. Mr. Dubois replied that there are issues, and you have to use smallest machine you can. Dr. Mark Hester asked if activities were limited to the tidal zone. Mr. Dubois replied that you can put machines on the island, but have to use minimal amount of disturbance. Mr. Pat Williams asked if they were going to consider barging material from the Mobile District. Mr. Dubois stated that he has looked at it. He can do the proposed project for \$10/cubic yard. He don't think he can do that with Mobile District sand with the price of fuel, but it could be looked at. Dr. John Lopez, LPBF, considers Chandeleur a major line of defense. Mr. Randy Moertle, representing the Biloxi Marsh Corporation, supports any work on Chandeleur. St. Bernard Parish supports the project (Chris Andry).

#9, Lake Athanasio Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation Project. Mr. Randy Moertle, presented this project. The first line of defense is barrier islands. The second line of defense is the Biloxi Marshes. We are concentrating CWPPRA monies in the upper part of basin, and are totally ignoring protection on southern side. We are losing peninsulas of land due to erosion. He is proposing to provide shoreline protection to create 200 acres of marsh and nourish 200 acres of existing marsh. Marsh was “washboarded” after Katrina. Marsh will knock the surge down, but you have to do it on the edge of the basin, not in the upper part. He proposed to put in 23,000 LF of rock dike along east shoreline of Point Eloi and create marsh behind it. The area lost 400’ of shoreline after Katrina. If we lose these 2 points of land, the gulf is closer to inhabited areas. The next shoreline inland wasn’t affected as much. We have a perfect opportunity to renourish and reestablish what we are about to lose. Junior Rodriguez told him that he supports the project. He thanked Pat Williams for putting the project fact sheet together. The project is supported by Biloxi Marsh and Lake Eugenie Land Development. Chris Andry stated that St. Bernard supports it.

c. Demonstration Project Nominees.

Three demos were nominated in Region 4 on January 10th, 2006 and 1 for Region 3. Three additional demos were nominated in Region 2. Two additional demos were nominated at the Region 1 meeting, bringing the total number of demos nominated to 9.

#8, Pipeline Transport of Mulched Woody Debris. Project was presented by Mr. Robert Dubois. It consists of using woody debris from Katrina, making it organic mulch, and using a pipeline to eject it into ponds. Mr. Jurgensen asked if we would use debris from Katrina or another storm in the future. It could be any storm event in the future.

#9, Barrier Island Sand Blowing Demo Project. Mr. Monnerjahn presented this project. It was a demo under PPL15. It consists of the use of linear accelerators to move sand at high velocities to place it on barrier islands.

5. Agenda Item #6, Announcements of Upcoming PPL16, Task Force, Technical Committee and Other Meetings. Mr. Llewellyn 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 reiterated that no new projects will be nominated, and no significant changes for projects or morphing them into another project will be allowed. No additional public comment will be accepted at the voting meeting. Send comments to Julie for dissemination to P&E Subcommittee, coordinate with projects. He asked for each parish to state who is going to vote for them at the coast-wide voting meeting:

Jefferson – Marnie Winter
Orleans Parish – Wynecta Fisher
St. Bernard Parish – Chris Andry or Junior Rodriguez
St. Tammany Parish – Brian Fortson

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

Dan Llewellyn made an announcement about the 2005 Energy Bill (similar to CEAP from a few years ago). Mr. Will Norman addressed the group: \$540M will be provided over the next 4 years. Thirty-five percent of the \$540M will go directly to parishes, with 65% going to the State (to construct projects in all parishes). He indicated that they have a series of public meetings (to give out more information about the energy bill) scheduled in February 2006. 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

It will be an opportunity for input for draft plan and proposals for projects. Being administered by MMS. The state will entertain leveraging money between parishes and with state money. Mr. Greg Miller asked if there has there been a determination made regarding if the state can use this money to match Federal money. Mr. Llewellyn did not know.

6. Agenda Item #7, Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.



ATTENDANCE RECORD



DATE(S) January 12, 2006 1:00 p.m.	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT	LOCATION Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District New Orleans, LA
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PURPOSE

MEETING OF THE
PPL 16 REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM - REGION 1

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PARTICIPANT REGISTER*

NAME	JOB TITLE AND ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
BRIAN FORTSON	Env. Spst. St. Tammany Parish	(915) 896-2552
Vickie Duthure	SCI - Jeff Paul	504-347-3600
JOHN F. BOWIE	DUKE ENERGY CWRP	713-989-8345
Dev Ethridge	EPA	214 665 2151
AET BURGOWNE	BEAN STUYVESANT	504-587-8652
MAREN FWINN	NRC	318-473-7690
Randy Moertle	Biloxi Marsh Lands Corp. / Lake Eugene Land Development	985-532-6398
Wyneda Fisher	City of New Orleans	
Breana Tate	LDNR / CED	225-342-6736
ACAROL PARRIS RICHARDS	LDNR / CRP	225-342-9430
Kath McCasland	USACE	504-862-2021
Honora Bueras	DNR / CRD	225-342-4103
Russell Young	Burk Kleinpeter Inc	486-5901
JOHN PETITBON	COE	504-862-2732
Allen Adolott	NRC	985-758-2162
TEARA BIRCH	FEMA ESE 14	832-891-3584
Ben Case	NOAA / NMFS	225-389-0508

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

