RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	Amendment #2
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	04/10/2015
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	06/02/2017

Eligible Applicant Name:	Plaquemines Parish Government
Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:	
POC Name:	Amos Cormier
POC Title:	Parish President
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POC Phone:	(504) 274-2462

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.

As an update to Plaquemines Parish's First Amended MIP, which was accepted on June 2, 2017, two projects and one program have been removed from funding and are being funded by other sources: Spanish Pass Ridge Restoration, Bayou Long Ridge Restoration, and the Louisiana Coastal Area Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Program. The following projects are proposed for Direct Component Funding in this Second Amended multiyear plan:

1. Bayou Eau Noire Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Phase 2 - Overall, the narrative description for this project remains the same as described in amendment #1. However, the third party funds ($2,054,150.00 for final engineering & design) budgeted in amendment #1 will now be funded by Direct Component because those third party funds did not materialized. In addition, $400,000.00 of Direct Component funds will be used for final geotechnical and survey to get the project to construction.

2. Bay Adams Headland Restoration and Marsh Creation Phases 1, 2 & 3

• Need: The project is contained in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan as 002.RC.101 and is needed to re-establish the historic headland ridges in an area that is experiencing rapidly degrading and loss of coastal marsh. Historically part of the landscape in coastal Louisiana, headland ridges help shape the estuary, providing critical habitat, protecting marshes from tidal exchange and saltwater intrusion, and providing an important line of defense for storm surges. Ridges provide important avian habitat to winterers, Neo-tropical migrants, and permanent residents such as the great horned owl. Restoring and maintaining ridges and marshes provides opportunity for development of ecotourism and helps protect the habitat, infrastructure and communities inland by reducing storm surge.

• Purpose: The purpose of this proposed project is to initiate the planning, engineering, design, and gathering of Best Available Science information that support the coastal restoration objectives of the State of Louisiana to re-establish vegetative headland ridges within the vicinity of the historic Bay Adams Headlands and to re-establish adjacent marshes in the project area using Mississippi River sediment. Native intertidal marsh and ridge vegetation would be planted after construction to help stabilize the rebuilt ridge and marsh habitat.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

•Objective: The Bay Adams Headland restoration project will create approximately 35,000 feet of elevated barrier headland ridges; nourish approximately 2,000 acres of wetlands to the headland north of Adams Bay; and it will create approximately 500 acres of new marsh. This project will provide surge protection, wave attenuation and a secondary line of defense to the areas to the north and northeast of the project. This project will complement and extend the proposed Barataria Bay Rim project by restoring vegetative headland ridges, forested ridge habitat and native marsh.

• Funds Requested: The funds that are being requested for this project from the Direct Component are $4,372,250.00, which is the estimated total planning, permitting, design and engineering cost to get the project to construction. The estimated construction costs are $57,859,000 - based on the 2017 Parish and CPRA Master Plan. This project will be done in phases as Plaquemines Parish Direct Component money becomes available. The first phase of the project will require funds of $1,222,250.00 ($1,157,250 E&D (25%); $15K BAS; $50K permit), the total estimated costs to initiate the necessary planning, environmental permitting activities, engineering, and design to support the environmental permitting activities, and best available science information to support the environmental permitting activities for this project. The next phases of this project will require funds of $3,150,000.00 (i.e. Survey, Geotechnical [$500,000.00] and completion of engineering and design [$2,650,000.00]) will be completed as the Parish's Direct Component allocation allows.

•High Level Milestones: Preliminary field investigation (spot geotechnical data and LIDAR survey), Engineering and Design, gathering of Best Available Science information, and completion of environmental permitting activities.

•Measures of Success: Phase 1 - Completion of engineering and design to support environmental permit(s) and gathering of Best Available Science information milestones; Phase 2 – completion of survey and geotechnical data; and Phase 3 – completion of engineering and design to ready project for construction.

3. East Bank Land Bridge Marsh Creation Project (CPRA MP ID: 001.MC.104) Phase 1

• Need: The project is contained in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan as 001.MC.104 and is needed to create approximately 2,300 acres of marsh in Plaquemines Parish between Grand Lake and Lake Leary. Historically part of the landscape in coastal Louisiana, headland ridges help shape the estuary, providing critical habitat, protecting marshes from tidal exchange and saltwater intrusion, and providing an important line of defense for storm surges. Ridges provide important avian habitat to winterers, Neo-tropical migrants, and permanent residents such as the great horned owl. Restoring and maintaining ridges and marshes provides opportunity for development of ecotourism and helps protect the habitat, infrastructure and communities inland by reducing storm surge.

• Purpose: The purpose of this proposed project is to initiate the planning, engineering, design, and gathering of Best Available Science information that support the coastal restoration objectives of the State of Louisiana to re-establish vegetative headland ridges within the vicinity Grand Lake and Lake Leary in the eastern marsh area of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parish's and to re-establish adjacent marshes in the project area using Mississippi River sediment. This project along with four other CWPRA projects which extend from the Phoenix area on the east bank of Plaquemines Parish (Phoenix Marsh and Ridge Restoration, Breton Land Bridge Marsh Creation (West) River aux Chenes to Grand Lake, Mid Breton Land Bridge Marsh Creation and Terracing, and Grand Lake West Marsh Creation and Terracing) to Lake Leary are needed to create a continuous land bridge from Phoenix in Plaquemines Parish to Delacroix in St. Bernard Parish. Native intertidal marsh and ridge vegetation would be planted after construction to help stabilize the rebuilt ridge and marsh habitat.

•Objective: The East Bank Land Bridge project will create approximately a combined 3,973 acres of marsh between Phoenix in Plaquemines Parish and Delacroix in St. Bernard Parish. This project will provide surge protection, wave attenuation and a secondary line of defense to the areas to the north and northeast of the project. This project will complement many of the other projects proposed in the area between the Mississippi River and the now closed Mississippi River Gulf Outlet north of Black Bay and Breton Sound by restoring vegetative headland ridges, forested ridge habitat and native marsh.

•Funds Requested: The funds that are being requested for this project from the Direct Component are $500,000.00 for the planning, permitting and land acquisition needed for the project.[EN1] The estimated construction costs are $154,200,000 - based on the 2017 Parish and CPRA Master Plan. This project will be done in phases as Plaquemines Parish Direct Component money becomes available and other funding sources are identified.

•High Level Milestones: Preliminary field investigation (spot geotechnical data and LIDAR survey), Planning, and land rights assessment, gathering of Best Available Science information, and completion of environmental permitting activities.

•Measures of Success: Phase 1 – Completion of all planning aspects needed for the project to be permitted and designed.

4. Grand Bayou Ridge Restoration (CPRA MP ID: 002.RC.103) Phases 1 & 2:

• Need: The project is contained in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan as 002.RC.103 and is needed to re-establish the historic ridge in an area that is experiencing rapidly degrading and loss of coastal marsh. Historically part of the landscape in coastal Louisiana, ridges help shape the estuary, providing critical habitat, protecting marshes from tidal exchange and saltwater intrusion, and providing an important line of defense for storm surges. Ridges provide important avian habitat to winterers, Neo-tropical migrants, and permanent residents such as the great horned owl. Restoring and maintaining ridges and marshes provides opportunity for development of ecotourism and helps protect the habitat, infrastructure and communities inland by reducing storm surge.

• Purpose: The purpose of this proposed project is for the planning, engineering, design, and gathering of Best Available Science information that support the coastal restoration objectives of the State of Louisiana to re-establish vegetative ridges within the vicinity of the historic Grand Bayou ridge and to re-establish adjacent marshes in the project area using Mississippi River sediment. Native intertidal marsh and ridge vegetation would be planted after construction to help stabilize the rebuilt ridge and marsh habitat.

• Objective: To develop a plan to create and nourish saline marsh and associated edge habitat for aquatic species and to establish Grand Bayou vegetative ridges to reduce surge effects and wave setup and restore forested ridge habitat. This includes restoring approximately 48,100 feet of historic ridge to an elevation of 5 feet NAVD88 to provide coastal upland habitat, restore natural hydrology, and provide wave and storm surge attenuation along Grand Bayou. The project will also create and nourish approximately 360 acres of wetlands to reduce surge effects and wave setup and restore forested ridge habitat.

• Funds Requested: The funds that are being requested for this project from the Direct Component are $750,000. The funds will be requested in two phases as the Plaquemines Parish Direct Component allocation allows. Phase 1 planning request will be $250,000.00 to initiate the planning phase of engineering and design - 25% ($185K), environmental permitting activities ($50K), and Best Available Science documentation ($15K). Phase 2 planning request will be $500,000.00 to finalize the engineering and design. The total estimated engineering and design, as well as construction costs are based on the 2017 CPRA Master Plan. It is estimated that engineering and design will cost $750,000 while construction costs are estimated to be $10,300,000.

• High Level Milestones: Phase 1 - Preliminary field investigation (geotechnical spot data and LIDAR survey), 25% Engineering and Design to support environmental permitting activities, gathering of Best Available Science information. Phase 2 – completion of engineering and design.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

Plaquemines Parish completed its Second Amendment to its Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) on March 14th of 2018 and posted it online March 19, 2018 for the mandatory 45-day public comment / review period. The following were the additional steps the Parish took to obtain broad based participation in reviewing and commenting on the Second Amendment to MYIP.

Several public engagement forums were utilized to engage public comment and review:

1. Initial Press Release Article.
2. Public Notice in the Plaquemines Gazette from March 23, 2018 to May 7, 2018. (See attached Public Notice from the Plaquemines Gazette).
3. Social Media campaign: the MYIP was posted on the Plaquemines Parish Website on March 19, 2018.
4. Second Amendment to MYIP was placed in hardcopy form in both in the Belle Chasse and Port Sulphur Libraries from March 19, 2018 through May 2, 2018.

Any and all public comments were to be directed to the parish Coastal Zone Director, Vincent Frelich. There were no public comments received from the posting in the libraries, Parish website and or the Plaquemines Gazette. It is also worth noting that the following Louisiana CPRA Master Plan Projects underwent separate public review and comment (in Plaquemines Parish and throughout the State) as part of the adoption of the State of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master plan: Bayou Eau Noire; Bay Adams Headland; Eastbank Landbridge; and Grand Bayou Ridge Restoration.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan narrative meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

The projects described herein and included in Plaquemines Parish's Multiyear Implementation Plan for the use of its RESTORE funds, are designed to generate benefits that will accrue to a Gulf of Mexico coastal parish impacted by the BP/Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. Not only is Plaquemines Parish located in the Louisiana Coastal Zone, but it is situated on the Gulf of Mexico as a coastal parish. This makes projects which are otherwise eligible for funding under the RESTORE Act, also eligible by virtue of its geographic location. Planning Assistance Activities (4) - Amendment 002 to the MYIP: All planning activities identified in this MYIP and proposed to be funded under the Direct Component can be reasonably identified with the following eligible activities under 31 CFR § 34.201: Planning assistance [31 CFR § 34.201(j)] for a restoration project [31 CFR § 34.201(a)].

1. Bayou Eau Noire Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation: the planning activities include preliminary field investigation (bathymetric and magnetometer surveys), Engineering and Design, permitting and gathering of Best Available Science information. The underlying restoration project includes the following activities: create 400 acres of marsh and nourish 100 acres of marsh to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion and restore 28,050 linear feet (136 acres) of historic maritime ridge, to restore natural hydrology, restore wetland and upland habitat, and provide wave and storm surge attenuation, in the project area.

2. Bay Adams Headland Restoration Project: the planning activities include preliminary field investigation (bathymetric and magnetometer surveys), Engineering and Design, and gathering of Best Available Science information. The underlying restoration project includes the following activities: create and nourish intermediate and saline marsh and associated edge habitat for aquatic species by restoring approximately 35,000 feet of elevated barrier headland ridges and nourish approximately 2,000 acres of wetlands to reduce surge effects and wave setup, create approximately 500 acres of marsh and restore headland forested ridge habitat in the project area.

3. East Bank Land Bridge Marsh Creation: the planning activities include preliminary field investigation (bathymetric and magnetometer surveys) and land rights identification and acquisition. The underlying restoration project includes the Creation of approximately 2,300 acres of marsh in Plaquemines Parish between Grand Lake and Lake Lery to create new wetland habitat and restore degraded marsh.

4. Grand Bayou Ridge Restoration: the planning activities include preliminary field investigation (bathymetric and magnetometer surveys), Engineering and Design, and gathering of Best Available Science information. The underlying restoration project includes the following activities: create and nourish intermediate and saline marsh and associated edge habitat for aquatic species by restoring approximately 48,100 feet of elevated barrier headland ridges and nourish approximately 360 acres of wetlands to reduce surge effects and wave setup and restore headland forested ridge habitat in the project area.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to evaluate the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The success of the planning assistance activities included in Amendment 002 to the MYIP will be evaluated by the completion of the planning, engineering, and design, permitting, and gathering of BAS information; leveraging available funding with cost share partners (i.e., Louisiana CPRA and the Corps of Engineers); and ultimately developing a plan for the implementation of each underlying restoration projects.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative were prioritized and list the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Plaquemines Parish Government has expended significant resources to identify the best projects to restore critical wetland habitat, while reducing storm related flood risk. Each of these projects included in Parish's Second Amendment MYIP are included in the 2017 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Master Plan and the Parish's own Coastal Master Plan.

The planning activities included Amendment 002 to the MYIP were prioritized based on the availability of funding through RESTORE Direct Component, the ability to leverage funding from other sources to enhance the magnitude of

coastal restoration in coastal Louisiana; and the consistency of these activities with the 2017 Louisiana CPRA Master Plan and the Parish's own Coastal Master Plan.

The Parish has (and will continue to) worked closely with the State of Louisiana to ensure that the goals of restoration are consistent with, or complementary to the most recent version of the State's Coastal Master Plan. The Parish has a longstanding history in understanding the intimate connection of a thriving Louisiana economy and sustainable environment. The Parish recognizes that there has to be a tangible connection between projects that sustain our coast, projects that protect our residents, and projects that enhance the economy of Plaquemines Parish and thus Louisiana. Though this initial allotment will not be enough to rebuild the wants and needs in our Parish, by partnering, shoulder with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and building projects that are in, or consistent with, the CPRA Master Plan, we hope to leverage state and federal dollars to stretch our conservation dollars for the betterment of the Parish and the State.

6. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.

Plaquemines Parish intends to use this Restore Act Direct Component funding as cost share match to available funding from Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for projects that are in or are consistent with the CPRA Master Plan, and the Louisiana Coastal Area Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Program (LCA BUDMAT), where Plaquemines parish would only be required to pay for 25% of the project costs. All planning projects identified are included in the 2017 CPRA Master Plan

The current status of funding from other sources for each project:
Bayou Eau Noire Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation: The Parish has decided to utilize its own Direct Component Funding to complete the engineering and design of this project ($2,054,150.13) and the remaining survey and geotechnical analyses ($400,000). The parish plans to apply for funding from the CPRA Cost Share Matching Program for future phases (i.e., construction), under the Spill Impact Component, GOMESA funds, Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA), CWPPA, other state funding that maybe available and LCA BUDMAT to help with the construction of the project.

Bay Adams Headland Restoration Project: The initial phase of this project (Permitting, BAS documentation and engineering and design to support permitting) will be funded by the Parish's own Direct Component Allocation ($1,222,250). The remaining planning assistance phases will be funded by the Parish's Direct Component Allocation as it becomes available ($3,150,000). The parish plans to apply for funding from the CPRA Cost Share Matching Program for future phases (i.e., construction), under the Spill Impact Component, GOMESA funds, Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) and LCA BUDMAT.

East Bank Land Bridge Marsh Creation Project: This initial funding request will be used to help begin the beginning phases of the East Bank Land Bridge Marsh Creation project. The entire $500,000 will be used to begin the Planning phases. The parish plans to apply for funding from the CPRA Cost Share Matching Program for future phases (i.e., construction), under the Spill Impact Component, GOMESA funds, Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) and LCA BUDMAT.

Grand Bayou Ridge Restoration: The Parish intends on funding planning, engineering and design of this project with its Direct Component Allocation in two phases. The first phase will commence in May 2019 to initiate the planning, engineering and design to support the environmental permitting activities in the amount of $250,000. The second phase of the project will commence in May 2020 in the amount of $500,000 to finalize the engineering and design and ready this project for construction. The parish plans to apply for funding from the CPRA Cost Share Matching Program for future phases (i.e., construction), under the Spill Impact Component, GOMESA funds, Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) and LCA BUDMAT.