COASTAL AMERICA 2012 AWARDS PROGRAM
PARTNERSHIP AWARD
NOMINATION FORM

1. Full Name of Nominated Team: Master Plan Delivery Team

2. Nominator Contact Information:
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3. What is the lead Federal Agency for this project? This is a State-led effort; Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

4. Brief Abstract Overview of the Project Team (1 page max)
Include a short abstract (200 words max) describing the project, including its objectives, scope and longevity. Also, please address how the project supports Coastal America's mission and goals. Questions to consider are: How does the project demonstrate the "value added" of a partnership effort? (i.e. how did the partners collaborate to accomplish what a single entity could not accomplish alone?) This section should also describe how (if at all) the partners have worked with the Coastal America Regional Implementation Team and/or Regional Learning Center in the development of the project.

The 2012 Coastal Master Plan aims to achieve five objectives that were developed to reflect the key issues affecting people along the Louisiana coast, which are: (1) reduce economic losses from flooding, (2) use natural processes, (3) provide coastal habitats, (4) sustain our cultural heritage, and (5) promote a working coast.

The master plan reflects an 24-month in depth technical analysis informed by an ongoing conversation with the citizens of Louisiana. CPRA assembled a highly skilled team to develop a rigorous and forward thinking plan. The process brought together nationally and internationally known experts, a wide array of stakeholders and governmental partners to serve on advisory boards, framework development team or focus groups. CPRA engaged the general public through ten community meetings, three public hearings attended by 1,350 people, and over a hundred presentations to community and civic groups.

The result of this unprecedented collaborative effort is an actionable 50 year, $50 billion plan that will substantially increase flood protection for communities and move Louisiana towards a sustainable coast. Unanimously approved by the Louisiana Legislature, the Master Plan is a resource-constrained plan that utilized a science-based decision making process and incorporation of public input to help galvanize Louisiana and national partners around a common vision.

5. Project Need and Resource Benefits/Outputs (2 pages max.)

Provide a summary of the project background and the expected resource benefits. For restoration projects, describe any long-term monitoring/management program. For education and outreach projects, describe how the project supports the conservation goals of the partnering organizations. If appropriate, include a description of how the project supports existing Federal, State, and local conservation plans, projects and programs.

In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the Louisiana legislature formed the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and directed it to develop, implement and enforce a comprehensive protection and restoration master plan for coastal Louisiana. The legislature further directed that the plan include large scale projects, take the needs of the entire coast into account and be updated every five years to ensure that the state is building on success and taking maximum advantage of new science and innovation. The 2007 Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast was the first plan that integrated coastal protection and restoration, and the 2012 Coastal Master Plan was the first 5-year update.

Since the master plan process began, the state has exponentially increased its financial commitment to the coast. In partnership with federal, state and local government, including levee districts, CPRA is working to establish a safe and sustainable coast to protect our communities, the nation's critical energy and shipping infrastructure and our bountiful natural resources for generations to come.

Since 2007, CPRA has:

- Built or improved 159 miles of levees
- Benefited 19,405 acres of coastal habitat
- Constructed 32 miles of barrier islands/berms
- Secured approximately $17 billion in state and federal funding for projects
- Identified and used dozens of different federal, state, local and private funding sources
- Moved over 150 projects into design and construction
- Constructed projects in 20 parishes

Making realistic, on the ground progress toward restoring coastal habitats and protecting communities – demonstrating our commitment to the coast – is at the heart of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan. Louisiana's 2012 Coastal Master Plan is an example of a large-scale planning effort that applied the methods of science-based decision making and extensive outreach and science communication to produce a compelling plan which made comprehensible the highly complex problem of coastal land loss and the strategies that can be used to restore our coast.

Development of 2012 Coastal Master Plan was guided by the articulation of a clear mission, refinement of the 2007 Master Plan objectives to reflect lessons learned, and development of principles agreed upon by a wide range of stakeholders on the Framework Development Team. The five master plan objectives are (1) to reduce economic losses from storm surge based flooding, (2) to promote a sustainable coastal ecosystem by using natural processes, (3) to provide habitats suitable to support an array of commercial and recreation activities coastwide, (4) to sustain the unique cultural heritage, and (5) to promote a viable working coast.

The Predictive Models and Planning Tool developed for the master plan are exciting new tools for coastal planning. A series of integrated, coast wide Predictive Models was developed to provide data for a new Planning Tool which was used to identify the suite of projects that would make the greatest progress toward meeting the master plan objectives. The level of modeling in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan is a significant technical achievement - in a systems approach, the linked nature of the models and in the breadth of subjects evaluated. The Predictive Models were organized into seven linked groups, involving the work of over 60 scientists and engineers, and included ecohydrology, wetland morphology, barrier island morphology, vegetation, storm surge and waves, risk assessment and 19 ecosystem services. The models provided terabytes of information on the next 50 years with or without action for nearly 400 individual projects under 2 different future condition scenarios.

The Planning Tool was designed to provide an analytical and objective basis for comparing different risk reduction and coastal restoration projects and for developing groups of projects for consideration for the master plan. CPRA used the Planning Tool to develop and analyze hundreds of different alternatives that together would best meet Louisiana's two key decision drivers: (1) reducing hurricane flood risk and (2) achieving a sustainable landscape. In order to ensure that all of the master plan objectives were being considered, a set of decision criteria were defined to reflect aspects of the Master Plan's five objectives. The Planning Tool then enabled CPRA to specify planning parameters such as total available funding, funding splits between risk reduction and restoration projects, and minimum levels of projected achievement of goals for ecosystem service and decision criteria. The Planning Tool's flexible capabilities allow it to analyze and display complex trade-offs among different alternatives. CPRA was able to use these capabilities of the Planning Tool to support its selection of a specific alternative that serves as the foundation of Louisiana's 50-year $50 billion 2012 Coastal Master Plan. The Planning Tool and supporting models will be used to guide implementation of the Master Plan in the years ahead.

Recognizing that the success of the plan hinges on stakeholder support as well as science, the State also implemented a comprehensive outreach plan to obtain input and feedback from the public, science and engineering community, Federal and state agencies, NGOs, and elected officials. In addition to over 120 public meetings and presentations, CPRA utilized structured and on-going advice from key stakeholder groups through the Framework Development Team, Focus Groups (oil and gas, fisheries and navigation), Science and Engineering Board and Technical Advisory Committees. The embedded partnership with stakeholders and extensive engagement of the public resulted in unanimous approval of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan by the Louisiana Legislature in May 2012.

CPRA's state-of-the-art, holistic and systems approach to coastal planning galvanized the State around a single plan that effectively invests limited financial resources to make the greatest progress toward achieving a sustainable coast.

6. Partnership functioning - Funding & Other Support (1 page max.) *Provide an overview description of each of the partners involved in the project. Include a breakout of the financial and in-kind support provided by each of the individual partners along with a one sentence summary of each element's contribution(s).*

Master Plan Delivery Team
This team, comprised of CPRA staff along with consulting engineers and other advisors, was responsible for developing the Master Plan. The financial support for development of the Master Plan was provided by CPRA.

Predictive Modeling Workgroups
A series of linked models provided terabytes of data to the decision-making process. Over 60 state and national scientists and engineers worked closely with the Planning Team to develop and implement the modeling framework.

Science and Engineering Board (SEB)
This group, made up of experts with national and international experience, provided independent review of plan elements and recommended ways that we can improve our work. The SEB participated in five multi-day meetings, as well as 13 webinars. Individual board members worked intensively with the Planning Team on focused elements of the plan, providing guidance at every juncture of the process.

Technical Advisory Committees (TAC)
The TACs were three to four member groups of nationally known experts who were responsible for advising the state on how to conduct the analysis in the most technically sound manner. We had three committees, one that assisted us with our modeling analysis, one that advised us on the best use of our Planning Tool, and one that gave us advice about incorporating cultural heritage appropriately in the plan. Each of these committees has met many times with the team to provide in depth guidance and feedback

Framework Development (FDT)
The FDT consisted of 33 representatives from business and industry, federal, state, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and coastal institutions. The group advised the state on the Master Plan process and offered specific guidance on all of the major elements of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan. The time and effort of these representatives was voluntary and considered in-kind.

Focus Groups
Large-scale coastal protection and restoration will affect businesses and industry in south Louisiana. In order to integrate the perspectives of those in key business sectors, we created three focus groups: ports and navigation, fisheries and oil and gas. Leaders in each sector met multiple times to discuss the issues facing their industries and to explore productive options for the coast. The time and effort of these group members was voluntary and considered in-kind.

Subsidence Advisory Panel
To identify plausible ranges of future subsidence rates and assess spatial variation across the coast, a panel of technical experts was convened in September 2010. The product of this panel was a spatially explicit map that represented future ranges of subsidence rates.

Marsh Collapse Advisory Panel
In order to predict future land loss or gain in coastal Louisiana, it is necessary to try and predict the ability of a given marsh type to persist in response to sea level rise, subsidence and changing storm patterns. An expert panel was convened to determine primary drivers and thresholds behind the collapse of coastal wetlands.

Please see Appendix 1 for a full listing of participants.

7. Team Partners: List all partners and identify project/team leads with an asterisk (*). Please provide all contact information using the format as shown in question 2 above.

IMPORTANT: If approved; only team members identified in this form will be eligible to receive the Coastal America Award. Please ensure that you correctly identify ALL TEAM MEMBERS.

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Appendix 1:

Master Plan Delivery Team

The 2012 Coastal Master Plan was developed by an interdisciplinary team from the CPRA, academia, and the private sector led by William "Kirk" Rhinehart.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the citizens, legislators, parish representatives, and stakeholder groups who met with us to share ideas about how to protect and restore coastal Louisiana. We would also like to offer our special thanks to the participants of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan Framework Development Team; the Fisheries, Oil and Gas, and Navigation Focus Groups; the Science and Engineering Board, the Technical Advisory Committees; the Predictive Modeling Workgroup Members; the Subsidence Advisory Panel; and the Marsh Collapse Advisory Panel who took time away from work and family to give us their perspective on coastal protection and restoration issues.

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