



**Lower Vermilion River Watershed
Project Plan-EA**

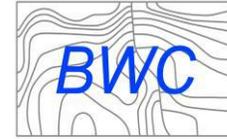


ALTERNATIVE 6 – INITIAL PREFERRED FROM THE RFP

Items or concerns	Site A: Hebert Canal	Site B: Meaux’s Ditch	School Board Levee	GIWW Levee
	Install water control structure Location: Approx. 1.7 miles South of existing Hebert Canal structure	Restore existing Meaux’s Ditch Structure Location: Meaux’s Ditch Existing structure	Reinforced levee between the 2 control structures near School Board Property Location: South of School Board Property Rd	Restore .5 miles of Levee along GIWW and LBL
Fisheries	The existing fisheries access (ingress and egress) points consist of Meaux’s Ditch (at the Vermilion River, north of Intracoastal City), Hebert Canal (at the GIWW just east of the Leland-Bowman Lock), the 7 th Ward Canal (located on the GIWW west of the Leland-Bowman Lock), and a Vermilion River tributary bayou north of Intracoastal City south of Palmetto Island.			
Wetlands	<p>Impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat from the construction and operation of the proposed action may be both short- and long-term (more than 5 years). The proposed construction of the Hebert Canal and Meaux’s Ditch structures should pose minimal long-term impacts to wetlands as much of the footprint will occur over non-wetland waters and not affect adjacent wetland areas. Impacts to wetlands through access and workspaces will likely be temporary in nature (short-term) and should not result in any permanent wetland loss or mitigation obligations. Short-term impacts include potential erosion from the construction sites, access, and temporary uses during construction. There is a potential for spills or leaks of industrial fluids during construction which could impact wetland and riparian vegetation and soils. BMP’s should be implemented to minimize impacts to wetland and riparian areas</p> <p>The reinforcement of the levee between the 2 water control structures (adjacent to School Board Property) may result in a long-term loss of wetlands if the footprint of the levees is expanded or if the material used to reinforce the levee are excavated from wetland areas. A significant portion of the southern side of the levee is classified as freshwater emergent wetland habitat (PEM1Fh). Construction and ground disturbance could result in the introduction or spread of invasive vegetation into adjacent wetland and riparian habitats. The extent of mitigation required is dependent on the amount of direct impacts to these wetland areas.</p>			



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	It is recommended that no permanent impacts to wetlands through construction occur in this area. Material used for levee reinforcement should be excavated from non-wetland areas on the north side of the project or from existing non-wetland canals. Levee reinforcement should not result in an indirect loss to wetland habitats or functions
Cultural Resources	SHPO determined <i>no effect</i> on cultural and historic sites