Gutierrez, Raul

From: Matthew Weigel <mweigel@wlf.la.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 11:58 AM
To: 'Bordelon, Seth'; Jacqueline Farabee
Cc: Gutierrez, Raul; Fontenot, Alison; Joe Maryman
Subject: RE: Information request to GDE MB Sponsor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Jacqueline,

The information requests made by the Corps, EPA and USFWS appear sufficient to LDWF. We have no additional requests of the sponsors at this time.

However, since Joe and I have not been involved with the GDE bank and lack history on the issues, it may be beneficial for us to review some of the more recent correspondence between the sponsor and the Corps.

Once the information/prospectus is provided, we too will provide additional comments.

Thanks for coordinating,
Matt Weigel
42371 Phyllis Ann Drive
Hammond, LA 70403
Phone (985) 543-4777

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Habitat Section

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From: Bordelon, Seth [mailto:seth_bordelon@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Jacqueline Farabee
Cc: Raul Gutierrez; Fontenot.Alison@epa.gov; Joe Maryman; Matthew Weigel
Subject: Re: Information request to GDE MB Sponsor

Jacqueline,

We definitely support having the sponsor submit a revised prospectus with the additional information described in your original email, as well as that provided by Raul in his response shown below. We believe that the sponsor should also include a detailed discussion of the potential effects of the existing high fence, whether/how it may be modified to reduce impacts to terrestrial wildlife, and the extent to which it would limit the potential to achieve the full suite of ecological benefits (and associated wetland mitigation credits) typically attainable at

such sites.

We will provide additional comments in response to the prospectus. Thanks.

Seth Bordelon
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
(337) 291-3138
seth_bordelon@fws.gov

On Thu, May 5, 2016 at 10:18 AM, Gutierrez, Raul <Gutierrez.Raul@epa.gov> wrote:
In addition to the information requested below, I would be interested in reviewing the following specific items:
- Map showing previous, current, and planned/future condition of the site's hydrology
- Map showing previous, current, and planned/future condition of the site's vegetation
- Map showing previous, current, and planned/future condition of other site features (ponds, food plots, shooting lanes, fence ROW, etc.)
- A site restoration plan or similar adaptive management plan that details the work to be undertaken to achieve the planned/future condition of the site. This, along with the maps, will determine the credit potential, if any, of the site.
- Plan for amending the Conservation Servitude.

We may provide additional comments or suggestions as we receive more information regarding this bank.

Raul Gutierrez, Ph.D.
Wetlands Section (6WQ-EM)
US EPA Region 6
(504) 862-2371

Office:
US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
CEMVN-OD-SC
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

-----Original Message-----
From: Farabee, Jacqueline R MVN [mailto:Jacqueline.R.Farabee@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 3:55 PM
To: Balkum, Kyle <kbalkum@wlf.la.gov>; Bordelon, Seth <seth_bordelon@fws.gov>; Cheatwood, Twyla <twyla.cheatwood@noaa.gov>; Davis, Dawn - NOAA Federal <dawn.davis@noaa.gov>; Gutierrez, Raul <Gutierrez.Raul@epa.gov>; Hartman, Richard <Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov>; Fontenot, Alison <Fontenot.Alison@epa.gov>; Mallarch, Troy <troy.mallach@la.usda.gov>; Marceaux, Josh <joshua_marceaux@fws.gov>; Maryman, Joe <jmaryman@wlf.la.gov>; Pecquet, Sharon <Sharon.pecquet@la.gov>; Pitre, John <john.pitre@la.usda.gov>; Templet, Kelley <Kelley.templet@la.gov>; Weigel, Matt <mweigel@wlf.la.gov>; Williams, Patrick <patrick.williams@noaa.gov>; Zumo, Stephanie <Stephanie.zumo@la.gov>
Subject: Information request to GDE MB Sponsor

IRT Members:

It was requested by the Corps (both MVD and MVN) that the Sponsor of the GDE Mitigation Bank provide a detailed prospectus to allow for agency review and reassessment of the GDE Mitigation Bank due to modifications proposed in conjunction with the bank (one of which is a high fence). The purpose of requesting a detailed prospectus for the mitigation bank modification is to ensure that the Interagency Review Team (IRT) has the information necessary to evaluate his request for credit re-assessment. According to 33 CFR 332.8 (d) (2) Prospectus. The prospectus must provide a summary of the information regarding the proposed mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program, at a sufficient level of detail to support informed public and IRT comment. The review process begins when the sponsor submits a complete prospectus to the district engineer. For modifications of approved instruments, submittal of a new prospectus is not required; instead, the sponsor must submit a written request for an instrument modification accompanied by appropriate documentation. The district engineer must notify the sponsor within 30 days whether or not a submitted prospectus is complete. A complete prospectus includes the following information:
-The objectives of the proposed mitigation bank or in-lie fee program.
-How the mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program will be established and operated.
-The proposed service area.
-The proposed ownership arrangements and long-term management strategy for the mitigation bank or in-lieu fee project sites.
-The qualifications of the sponsor to successfully complete the types(s) of mitigation project(s) proposed, including information describing any past such activities by the sponsor.
-The ecological suitability of the site to achieve the objectives of the proposed mitigation bank, including the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the bank site and how that site will support the planned types of aquatic resources and functions; and -Assurance of sufficient water rights to support the long-term sustainability of the mitigation bank.
The reason behind asking the Sponsor for this information is that CEMVN has not received information defining what the Sponsor proposes as the absolute bank acreage, the location of all ponds, travel lanes, food plots, any detailed information about the high fence located on the bank, including (structure, right-of-way in relation to, etc), information on animal breeding operation and how it would be integrated into the mitigation bank management plan, as well as a complete adaptive management plan that would detail intent to remediate all non-compliance issues on the site. The request for the information as provided in a prospectus would provide such basic information (including maps, plan view and cross sectional drawings, etc.) to enable us to gain a better understanding of what actually exists and what path forward is proposed.

Please let me know if you feel this information would be adequate for your re-evaluation of this mitigation bank or if you would like a request for additional information along with what we have requested be submitted. Also, if you would like copies of any other correspondence that we have had with the Sponsor please let me know.

Thanks for your coordination.

Jacqueline R. Farabee
Environmental Resources Specialist
Special Projects and Policy Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
(504) 862-2595
Have patience. Worthwhile work takes time.