



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



## Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

9:30 AM

Belle Chasse Auditorium

8398 LA-23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

The following constitute minutes of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. Audio and video recordings of the meetings are available for viewing and kept at the Office of the Governor-Coastal Activities Office in Baton Rouge, LA.

### I. Call to Order

### II. Roll Call

Chairman Haase, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities	Present
Keith Lovell, DNR	Present
Don Johnson, DOTD	Present
Mr. Matt Weigel, LDWF	Present
Jeffrey Leonick, DEQ	Present
Pat Witty, LED	Absent
Wendy Gibson, LDAF	Present
Dan Rees, DOA	Present
Billy Broussard, LDI	Absent
Casey Tingle, GOHSEP	Absent
Karen Gautreaux, Gov's Advisory Comm- Co-Chair	Present
Scott Burke, Barataria Basin	Present
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Bill Bubrig, Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone/ Mississippi Delta Basin	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Absent
Stephen Sagrera, Teche/Vermillion Parish	Absent
Lieutenant Governor's Office	Absent
Pres. McInnis, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Present
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Absent

Opening Remarks – (video:00:00:00)

### III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois  
Second by: Pres. McInnis  
Unanimously Approved

### IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Hidalgo  
Second by: Ms. Gautreaux  
Unanimously Approved

### V. Old Business/Announcements



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



VI. **CPRA Implementation Update— Greg Grandy, CPRA (video: 00:05:54)** Mr. Grandy presented to the board that there are 107 active projects, 45 of them are in construction, 59 are in E&D, with 3 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 31 are hurricane protection projects and 38 are creating marsh. Marsh creation leads the way in E&D with 38 projects moving toward the construction phase. A couple of the projects that have moved into construction include the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and the Labranche Shoreline Protection Projects. Mr. Grandy also updated the board on the following projects: **South Pass Bird Island Enhancement:** The South Pass Bird Island Enhancement project will create approximately 5 acres of nesting island with sediments dredged from South Pass. This is about a \$1.9 million project multiple funding sources (GOMESA/DNR/LOSCO/SWIG) on this project. This project is located in the heart of the Bird’s Foot in south Plaquemines Parish. This project’s main purpose was actually to clear out the two crevasses. The sediment from clearing the crevasses is actually what was used to create the 5 acres of land on South Pass Bird Island. **Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline:** A total of 58,571 linear feet of oyster barrier reef (in the form of artificial reef breakwater) was installed, approximately 11 miles, in southeast St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, along the shoreline of Bayou La Loutre. The project extends from Eloi bay to Morgan Harbor on the north side of the peninsula, and is open to the Chandeleur and Breton sound. The total estimated project cost was \$58.9M which includes just over \$10 million for operation and maintenance and \$2 million for monitoring and adaptive management. The project was funded by NRDA through LA TIG. The Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline Project was designed to create bioengineered, marsh-fringing oyster reefs to promote the formation of self-sustaining living shoreline protection structures. Bioengineered oyster reefs were created by placing a manufactured product or products (WADs and Shorejax) off the shoreline to establish a living breakwater structure. Approximately 11 miles were constructed. These shoreline protection features will serve as an important first line of defense for coastal marshes, functioning to help sustain the lower Biloxi Marsh (an important landbridge separating the Gulf of Mexico from Lake Borgne) by helping to prevent and/or reduce the rate of erosion of the marshes and shorelines along the shores of Eloi Bay. **Bucktown Living Shoreline:** Construction is underway on the \$15.5 million Bucktown Living Shoreline project to restore marshland along a roughly one-mile-long stretch of Lake Pontchartrain’s shoreline in Jefferson Parish. Jefferson Parish led the design, permitting and now the construction. Rocks are being brought in to form nine segmented breakwaters in the lake between the Bonnabel Boat Launch and Bucktown Harbor. Those rocks will act as a speedbump against storm surge and help to slow down erosion in that area and will also help to protect the Federal levee system. The project was made possible through a combination of grants and government funding. The latest came in April, when the NOAA awarded Jefferson Parish a \$4.5 million grant to construct the living shoreline. Other sources of funding include: \$2.5 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; \$1 million from Louisiana’s construction budget; \$4 million from proceeds the parish receives from oil and gas revenues in the Gulf of Mexico; and \$3.5 million from the CPRA. This project has multiple funding sources and is a great example of multiple project partners coming to together to support progress in Jefferson Parish. Construction is anticipated to be complete in late 2024. Specifically, this project would protect the levee that borders the Bucktown neighborhood in Metairie. The project will help to re-establish the marsh edge and intertidal shoreline by breaking up the waves and reducing the potential for erosion. **Lower Lafitte Tidal Surge:** We were proud to join officials from Jefferson Parishes and Lafitte last week to celebrate the start of the Lower Lafitte Basin Tidal Surge Project that will amplify the protection of the Lafitte area against storm surge. Built along Bayou Barataria parallel to Jean Lafitte Boulevard, the project will include more than 7,000 feet of a concrete-capped floodwall, 7,300 feet of a modified earthen levee and 2,800 feet of newly constructed earthen levee, totaling more than three miles, all 7.5 feet tall. Construction also includes three swing gates and one roller gate. The \$14 million comes from a combination of CRPA, Department of Transportation and Development, Gulf of Mexico Security Act and state Capital Outlay funds. The current levee project is the third in a slate of 10 planned projects in the Lafitte Tidal Program that includes 30 miles of levees, floodwalls and other protections. Mr. Grandy closed out his presentation with a few announcements (slides below).

**Tangipahoa Parish Feasibility Study**  
Public Meetings

<b>Wednesday, Sept. 13</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> <small>Amite Community Center 101 West Chestnut St. Amite City, LA 70422</small>		<b>Thursday, Sept. 14</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> <small>Tangipahoa Parish Government Building 15485 West Club Deluxe Rd. Hammond, LA 70403</small>
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Questions and comments also can be submitted by email to: [tangipahoa@usace.army.mil](mailto:tangipahoa@usace.army.mil)

**FY 24 CONSERVATION & RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP FUND**  
Now Accepting Proposals!

RFP <small>July 2023</small>	PROPOSALS DUE <small>Oct. 2023</small>	EVALUATION <small>Nov. 2023</small>	NOTIFICATIONS <small>Dec. 2023</small>	IMPLEMENTATION
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**PROPOSALS WILL BE EVALUATED WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Consistent with the goals and objectives of 2017 Federal Plan
- Average cost/benefit or restored
- Affected
- Benefit to other conservation and restoration
- Federal co-ordinating
- Matching funds

CONTACT [PARTNERSHIP@USACE.ARMY.MIL](mailto:PARTNERSHIP@USACE.ARMY.MIL) WITH QUESTIONS!



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



VII. **Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Mitigation Update- Brian Lezina and Brad Barth, CPRA (video: 00:22:50)** Mr. Lezina updated the members of the provided the board with updates of the Community Mitigation meetings that were held in Myrtle Grove, WoodPark, Lake Hermitage, Suzie Bayou, Grand Bayou, and Happy Jack that started in June thru Late 2023. He stated that it was important to note that nothing is required from residents at this time, but they can expect us to be in touch with them towards the end of the year regarding individual solutions. In the Fishery Mitigation update, \$10 million of the \$54 million. The remaining dollars will be dispersed over the next few years. \$6MM and \$1M for Oysters has been contracted through LDWF. \$2MM shrimp, CPRA is coordinating with Shrimp Task Force to contract \$1MM Subsistence, CPRA is coordinating with PPG to contract.

## Community Mitigation

MYRTLE GROVE, WOODPARK, LAKE HERMITAGE, SUZIE BAYOU, GRAND BAYOU, HAPPY JACK



## Fishery Mitigation

OYSTER, BROWN SHRIMP, BLUE CRAB, FINFISH



## Fishery Mitigation Update

NEAR-TERM IMPLEMENTATION - \$10 MILLION

- \$ 6 million - Enhance Public oyster grounds
- \$1 million - Funding for Alternative Oyster Culture Support
- \$2 million - Brown Shrimp Marketing
- \$1 million - Increased subsistence fishing access

## Construction Update

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION



VIII. **Federal Update on Water Sill, New Orleans to Venice, Neptune Pass, and Permanent Canal Closure & Pumps- Dana Ray, Carol Burdine, Matt Crawford, and MAJ Brooks, USACE (video: 00:40:15)** Ms. Ray provided a brief update on the Saltwater Water Barrier Sill: The underwater saltwater barrier sill is a mitigation feature of the deep draft navigation channel to stall progression of saltwater intrusion for the duration attributable to the deepening of the navigation channel. Construction of the saltwater barrier sill is required approximately every 10 years. Extreme low water in the Mississippi River in 2023 resulted in the unprecedented requirement to construct a saltwater barrier sill for a second time in less than 1 year. The Mississippi River Ship Channel mitigation requirement was fulfilled with construction of the saltwater barrier sill in July 2023.

### REVERSE OSMOSIS CONTRACT

- 13 July: Governor Edwards requested assistance for a reverse osmosis water purification unit (ROWPU)
- MVN coordinates specifications with Plaquemines Parish
- Chloride measurements remain low
- 14 August: MVN moves forward with contract
- Contract awarded 8 September 2023

### LOW WATER PATH FORWARD

- Continue monitoring falling river flow conditions and saltwater wedge toe location
- Predictions have the flows getting as low as 130,000 cfs by the end of September
- Water management predicts the saltwater overtopping the existing sill
- Additional action by MVN will require a request from the State for emergency assistance
- Low water season can last until late winter or spring flood season



Ms. Burdine provided an update on the New Orleans to Venice project:

**NOV – Project Background and Status**

- New Orleans to Venice (NOV) originally authorized by section 203 of Flood Control Act of 1962
- 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th Emergency Supplemental Bills provided \$767M allocated to NOV project (includes emergency repairs) into NOV project
- 4th and 6th Emergency Supplemental Bills provided \$671M to incorporate 34 miles of existing Non-Federal Levees (NFL) into NOV project
- Total Emergency Supplemental Appropriations: ~1.4B
- Project is authorized to 2% or 50-yr Level of Risk Reduction (LORR)
- Portions of NFL reaches are currently design/constructed to 20-25-yr LORR
- 23 of 29 contracts completed, 6 remaining contracts currently under construction with existing funding
- Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA), 2022 provided additional \$763M to construct 10 contracts to the 2% or 50-yr LORR
- 5 contract reaches remain unfunded

**NOV – Future Work**

DRSAA will fund the construction completion of:

- 10 contracts to authorized grade (50-yr LORR)
- at full Federal expense
- some levee reaches previously/currently being constructed to 25-yr LORR

Includes \$783 M for:

- Levee construction on 7 levee reaches:
  - NOV-NF-W-05a.1, Levee
  - NOV-NF-W-05a.2, Levee
  - NOV-NF-W-05a.1, Levee
  - NOV-NF-W-05a.2, Levee
  - NOV-NF-W-05a.3, Levee
  - NOV-02, Levee
  - NOV-11, Levee
- Flooding Protection (FP) at Pumping Stations (PS):
  - NOV-02, FP Floodwall @ PS
  - NOV-09b, FP Floodwall @ PS
- Replacement of seals with T-seals
- NOV-15, T-Wall

Regional Work performed by M/M:

- M/N maintains lead for sponsor coordination
- POT initiating surveys and borings on 5 contracts

**NOV – Wilkinson Canal Pump Station**

**Pump Station Design Capacity and Status**

- Design capacity: 1,000 cfs (4 pumps @ 250 cfs each)
- Operational capacity: 700 cfs (Pumps 1 & 2 @ 250 cfs each)
- Hurricane Season 2023: 2 pumps operational, PS @ 50% capacity
- Hurricane Season 2024: Pumps 1-4 operational, PS @ 100% capacity
- The 25-yr event is not expected to breach HWF 23

**Pump Operation and Repair Tracker**

Phase 1: 1 & 2 - Currently operational, to be removed for rehab/maintenance (25-yr Flood Report to Congress, April 2023)

Phase 2: 3 - Will not complete, currently operational (Final Report to Congress, May 2023)

Phase 3: 4 - Reaches ongoing (Final Report to Congress, May 2023)

**NOV – Point Celeste Pump Station**

**Pump Station Design Capacity and Status**

- Non-Federal pump station, Design capacity: 530 cfs
- Current capacity: 275 cfs (as reported by PPO)
- USACE completed 50-year LORR for fronting protection and turned over to NFS in 2022
- Currently temporary pumps in place for 2023 Hurricane season (deployed by others)
- NFS working with Congressional delegation to expedite rehabilitation of the PS
  - Sec. 1152 of WRCA 2022 authorized a rehabilitation program for pumps pending USACE Implementation Guidance
  - PI Candidate appears to be eligible for consideration, subject to request from the NFS
  - Funding will need to be appropriated for this rehab program

Mr. Crawford updated the board on Neptune Pass:

- 2019 – Initial Bank Failure: Like MG Pass, they conducted yearly monitoring. Steady growth through 2023.
- Spring 22 – Shoaling in MS River required dredging, reports of NAV Hazard by pilots. Q Measurements indicated 16% loss through Neptune Pass
- July 22 – Stone Revetment placed on remaining bankline to prevent scour of remaining sill.
- Nov 22 – USACE developed Control Structure Plan; published EA. Subsequent modeling showed structure would induce high velocity current going around structure in high water conditions; high probability that structure could be flanked after a few years.
- April 2023 – USACE discovered rapid scouring along east bank of Neptune Pass. Additional stone revetment was placed to prevent the opening from enlarging.

**PATH FORWARD**

- Ongoing - Project description Developed; Draft EA currently being written
- 1 April 24 - EA/Public Notice/Compliance Complete
- 1 May 24 - Contract solicitation
- 15 June 24 - Contract Award
- 15 July 24 - Construction start

MAJ Brooks gave an update on the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP0 – The current status of the PCCP is. BLUF: All 17 pumps remain “Fit to Fight” for Hurricane Season 2023. USACE, in cooperation and collaboration with CPRA, FPA-East, and construction contractors, remains steadfast on ensuring the PCCP project will deliver the designed level of risk reduction. Phase II has commenced with receipt of PCCP JV conceptual plan and collaborative joint roundtable reviews and ongoing. Concurrently, USACE is developing the path forward for delivering their commitment of sustainable and reliable pumps that meet design-life specifications.





**PHASE I: HURRICANE SEASON READINESS CONTINGENCY**

**TEMPORARY PUMP SUPPORT**

- Support from U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUSALV)
- Provided 1,000 cfs in additional pump capacity.
- Contingency operations standard operating procedures remains available.
- Site Demobilization completed.
- Initiating Site Recovery: Planting x2 Live Oaks, Seeding and Fertilizing, and tree treatment.

**TEMPORARY PUMP PLACEMENT**

**PHASE II: DELIVERING THE PROJECT AS DESIGNED**

**USACE COMMITMENT:**

Ensure all 17 pumps meet the 35-year design life specification

- ONGOING:** Identify Underlying Cause
- ONGOING:** Secure Necessary Funding
- ONGOING:** Develop scope and finalize design
- ONGOING:** Identify most beneficial acquisition strategy

**TARGETED MOBILIZATION DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2023**

Phase II will be a multi-year effort with work to occur outside of hurricane season (Dec 1 to May 31)

**PATH FORWARD**

**Inspection and assessment**

- Complete inspection assessments (being accomplished by the design-builder).
- Identify root cause for advanced corrosion.

**Long-term corrective actions**

- Develop scope and estimate for long term corrective action.
- Solidify funding for permanent fix.
- Complete design for permanent fix to ensure 35-year life.
- Execute contract (anticipate construction to potentially last >2 years due to likely limiting of work to outside hurricane season).

**Contingency operations**

- Monitor and remain engaged with NFS to execute contingency pumping standard operating procedures.

**OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication**

- Ensure open and transparent communication throughout the process.
- Provide regular and recurring updates to partners, stakeholders and the public directly as well as through traditional and social media channels.

**IX. Update on Chandeleur Island E&D – Todd Baker, CPRA, Matt Weigel, LDWF and Barret Fortier, USFWS (video:01:28:05)** Mr. Baker updated the board on the Chandeleur Island

**Habitat Goals for PO-199 Living Coastal Marine Resource Restoration:**

- Restore and Conserve Bird Nesting and Foraging Habitat
- Enhance Sea Turtle Hatchling Productivity and Restore and Conserve Nesting Beach Habitat
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

**Bird Survey Preliminary Findings:**

- Colonial Nesting Birds: 2022 = 27,534 Nests
- Waterfowl: January 2023 = 48,980 Birds (90% Redheads)
- Solitary Nesting Birds: Spring 2023 = 405 Nests (24 Chandeleur Gulls)

**Breton National Wildlife Refuge**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest National Refuge
- The only Refuge visited by Theodore Roosevelt
- Established to Protect and Preserve Birds
- Designated “Wilderness Area” by law

Breton National Wildlife Refuge Bird #s “Typical Year”				
Spring/Summer Nesting Species	Nests	Breeding Adults (Nests * 2)	Liberty Young (Nests * 1.5)	Total Birds
CI Chain Collard Data w/o Breton TWIG Avg				
Nest count: 10-13, 15, 21, 22	31,142	62,284	46,713	108,997
Breton Collard Data Avg Nest count: 10-13, 15, 18, 21	29,639	59,278	44,459	103,737
Solitary Nest Count SEG 2023	405	810	608	1,418
Totals	61,186	122,372	91,779	214,153

  

Breton National Wildlife Refuge Bird #s “2023 Probable”	
Bird Numbers for Calendar Year 2023	Birds
Colonial Water Birds (Collbr)	212,735
Solitary Nesting Birds North Chandeleur Island (SEG 2023) + 20%	1,700
Wintering Migratory Birds North Chandeleur Island (USFWS '23-BTNEP '22) + 20%	74,595
Totals	289,030

  

Breton National Wildlife Refuge Bird #s “2023 Probable”	
Bird Numbers in August 2023	Birds
Colonial Water Birds	212,735
Solitary Nesting Birds North Chandeleur Island + 20%	1,700
Wintering Migratory Birds North Chandeleur Island *10%	7,460
Totals	221,895

\* Totals do not include secretive marsh birds, passerines, or pelagic birds such as Frigate Birds.

Mr. Baker also provided an update on the Sea Turtle Nesting: 54 Crawls; 5 confirmed nests with eggs (2 loggerhead, and 3 Kemps ridley).

Sea Turtle Survey 2023	Sea Turtle Crawl Locations 2022 & 2023	Next Steps for Chandeleur Island E&D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 54 Crawls</li> <li>• 12 Confirmed Nests with Eggs</li> <li>• 1 Nest Site to be Evaluated</li> <li>• Only 2 Successful Nests as of Today</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Hydrographic and Topographic Surveys - September 2023</li> <li>• Complete Geotechnical Sampling in the Hewes Point Borrow Area - Fall 2023</li> <li>• Habitat Team Meetings and Establishment of Habitat Goals - Winter 2023</li> <li>• Develop Design Alternatives - Fall/Winter 2023</li> <li>• Select Preferred Alternative and Submit Construction Permit Applications - Fall/Winter 2024</li> <li>• Seek Construction Funding - NOW!</li> </ul>



X. 2029 Coastal Master Plan Update – Stuart Brown, CPRA (video:01:53:22) Mr. Brown provided an overview of the 2029 Coastal Master Plan with slides overviewing what the Master Plan is, how feedback is incorporated into the plan as well the Framework for Analysis and Decision Making.

XI. Parish Partnership Program Rollout – Kent Bolfrass, CPRA (video: 02:19:43) Mr. Bolfrass brought the members up to date with a brief overhaul of FY24 Parish Matching Program (Introduction, Eligibility, Timeline and Considerations, Proposal sections, Where to find RFP and Program POC Info).

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Ms. Gautreaux  
Second by: Rep. Zeringue