



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

9:30 AM

LaSalle Building

(LaBelle Room)

617 N 3rd St. -Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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 Gordon Dove	Present
Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Edward Knight for Sec. Donahue, DOTD	Present
Tyler Bosworth for Sec. Shehan, LDWF	Absent
Brian Tusa for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Pat Witty for Sec. Bourgeois, LED	Present
Joey Breaux for Comm. Strain, LDAF	Present
Gina Campo for Comm. Barras, DOA	Present
David Caldwell for Comm. Temple, LDI	Present
Dir. Jacques Thibodaux, GOHSEP	Absent
Samantha Carroll for Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Present
Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	Present
John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Absent
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Absent

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Hidalgo
Second by: Mr. Bourgeois
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
Second by: Ms. Cormier
Unanimously Approved

v. Old Business/Announcements



vi. **CPRA Implementation Update — Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video: 00:11:21)**

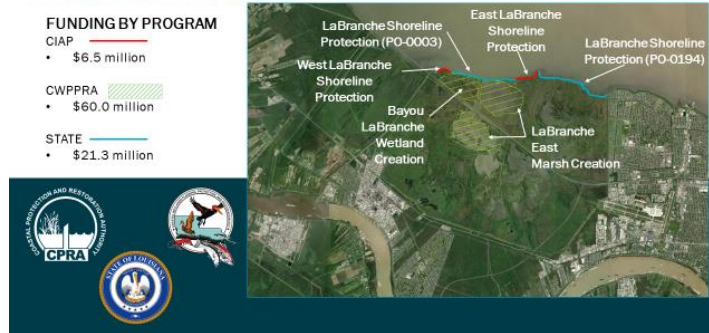
Mr. Ledet provided an Implementation update to the board indicating that there are currently 110 active projects: 43 of them are in construction, 62 are in E&D, with 5 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 34 are hurricane protection projects and 38 are creating marsh. Marsh creation leads the way in E&D with 28 projects moving toward the construction phase.

110 ACTIVE PROJECTS	43	62	5
PROJECT TYPE	CONSTRUCTION	E & D	PLANNING
HURRICANE PROTECTION (34)	18	12	4
MARSH CREATION (38)	10	28	
BANK STABILIZATION (1)		1	
RIDGE RESTORATION (4)		4	
SHORELINE PROTECTION (8)	6	2	
BARRIER ISLANDS/HEADLANDS (4)		4	
DIVERSIONS (4)	2	2	
HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION (6)	2	4	
OYSTER BARRIER REEF (0)			
RECREATIONAL USE (4)	3	1	
OTHER (7)	2	4	1

Mr. Ledet also provided a restoration update and Shoreline Protection & Restoration Update: **Grand Cheniere Marsh Creation (Plaquemines Parish)**- The Grand Cheniere Marsh Creation project is a \$65 million NRDA project located near West Point A La Hache, with the goal of creating about 340 acres of new marsh in some open water areas on the west bank of Plaquemines Parish. Crews laid about 8 miles of pipe to get from the Point Celeste Borrow Area of the Mississippi River. This project is also about 12,000 feet from the Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh, which will build up to 331 acres of marsh and restore up to 10,800 linear feet of earthen ridge along Grand Bayou. These projects will jointly aid in reducing wave energies and storm surge from reaching the nearby non-federal NOV levees in Plaquemine Parish. The Grand Bayou project is currently being advertised for construction and the bids will be opened on April 25th, 2024. Shoreline Protection & Restoration: LaBranche Shoreline Protection (St. Charles Parish)- The PO-0003 Shoreline Protection Project was done in two phases in 1987 and 1994. It's about 2 miles and cost about \$3 million. CIAP Program allowed St. Charles Parish to Create West/East Labranche Shoreline Projects. **East LaBranche Marsh Creation**- East LaBranche 1.5 miles shoreline, and two historic pipeline canals have been breached, now allowing lake wave into the interior marsh. Beneficial use placed behind the shoreline protection feature is anticipated to create 8-9 acres of marsh.



Regional Projects



In his Recreational Use/Park Improvements Update, Mr. Ledet was joined by Mr. Bren Haase and he presented on the **Cypremort Point State Park Improvements**- The project is located at Cypremort Point State Park. This state park lies on the border between St. Mary and Iberia parishes on Vermilion Bay. It’s an important collaboration with State Parks who contributed a little over \$1million for this project. The remaining \$4.5 million was funded by NRDA. This project involves the construction of multiple features at Cypremort Point State Park to enhance recreational and educational opportunities: **Beach Renourishment**: 18,100 cubic yards of sand was trucked in from a borrow site near the Atchafalaya River in Berwick to nourish the public beach. **Rock Revetment**: Over 2,000 Tons of rock rip-rap was placed along the bank of Quintana Canal to reinforce 2,322 linear feet of the canal bank adjacent to Beach Lane, which is the only road leading into the park. **Road/Parking Lot improvements**: The roads and parking lots had been damaged by repeated flooding, so those have been improved/repaved. State Parks has completed other park improvements separately, including rebuilding fishing piers and park beautification.



In closing, Mr. Ledet provided additional CPRA Updates with the board: The success of his and Mr. McMillin’s participation at the ASBPA Coastal Summit in Washington, DC and the Coastal Day 2024 events with the Governor and other coastal stakeholders. He thanked everyone for



their participation and stated that over 375 people attended various Coastal Industry Week Webinars...including the project forecasts...many of those webinars have received over 400 + views since they've been online (they are available on the CPRA's YouTube Channel). Mr. Ledet also provided dates for CPRA's Upcoming Community Conversations (see slide below). CPRA is partnering with Restore the Mississippi River Delta to bring you a series of "Community Conversations" as we begin to develop the 2029 Coastal Master Plan. We are coming to you early in the process to ask questions, share concerns, and hear what is most important to your communities. By better understanding local priorities and having these conversations now, CPRA will be able to incorporate them into the planning and analyses from the beginning to create a more impactful and representative 2029 Coastal Master Plan. The final plan illustrates how coastal communities may experience a changing coastal landscape and how we plan to address those challenges. Community engagement is integral to this process, with collaboration and communication between residents, key stakeholders, and CPRA being of the utmost importance. We encourage you to attend, participate, and spread the word! A complimentary meal will be served at each event.

Community Conversations
For the 2029 Coastal Master Plan

Tuesday, April 16th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8381 LA-79, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Wednesday, April 17th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Edward Dufrane Community Center
274 Judge Edward Dufrane Parkway, Luling, LA 70070

Tuesday, April 23rd from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Grand Lake Elementary School
1038 LA-984, Grand Lake, LA 70607

Thursday, April 25th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Vermilion Parish Library
405 E St Victor St, Abbeville, LA 70610

Tuesday, April 30th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Warren J. Harang, Jr. Municipal Auditorium
310 N Canal Blvd, Thibodaux, LA 70081

Tuesday, May 7th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Dacville Farm
5124 E Street, E St Bernard Hwy, Violet, LA 70082

CWPPRA'S COASTAL CELEBRATION
LaBranche East Marsh Creation

Date: May 1st, 2024
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Bonnet Carré Spillway Pavilion
16302 River Road, Norco, LA 70079

One last announcement is that CWPPRA invites the public to attend a free celebration recognizing the construction of the LaBranche East Marsh Creation Project. Following the ceremony, the U.S.D.A Natural Resources Conservation Service and Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) will lead an approximately one-hour field trip to the LaBranche East Marsh Creation (PO-75) project site. Field tour space is limited.

VII. Construction Industry Update – Scott Kirkpatrick, Coast Builders Coalition (video: 0:43:03)

Mr. Kirkpatrick provided an industry update to the board, starting with an introduction of the Coast Builders Coalition which is a Non-profit organization with the mission to support efforts to design, build and preserve the gulf coast. The coalition is made up of the engineers, contractors, consultants, mitigation banks and others involved in coastal restoration and hurricane protection work. In his update, Mr. Kirkpatrick provided information on Industry Growth, stating that **Post-Katrina the Louisiana industry grew from \$100 million a year to over \$1 billion annually:** Initial growth in funding from HSDRRS; Second phase from Deepwater Horizon; Many companies also involved in energy work and transportation work. **GNO estimates the Water**



Management sector employs nearly 30,000 people in Louisiana inclusive of: \$1.7 billion State of Louisiana Annual Plan; City and parish water management efforts; Federal agency efforts including Corps of Engineers. In closing, Mr. Kirkpatrick provided information on Industry Achievements and Industry Challenges (see slides below).

INDUSTRY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Timely providing necessary equipment, including dredges
- Growing the workforce, with the help of Louisiana education institutions and state coordination efforts
- Coordination with CPRA to efficiently procure consulting and contracting services
- THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN AND ANNUAL PLAN AS BEEN CRITICAL TO SUCCESS IN THESE AREAS
- Louisiana is now exporting its coastal restoration and protection expertise around the nation and world

INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

- The 80/20 rule applied to coastal funding
 - 20% recurring v. 80% temporary
 - State transportation funding has the opposite ratio
- Inflation
- Workforce impacted by other industries
- Opportunities to innovate

viii. **CPRA Dredging Update – Rudy Simoneaux, CPRA (video: 01:02:21)** Mr. Simoneaux provided a dredging update to the board stating CPRA since 2007, CPRA has hydraulic projects (slide below). The Miss. River Long Distance Sediment Pipeline in Plaquemines Parish and the Bayou DeCade Ridge and Marsh Creation in Terrebonne Parish were done with a Hydraulic Dredging-Cutter Suction. The Cameron Parish Shoreline Restoration project was done with a Trailing Suction Hopper.

CPRA SINCE 2007

Constructed Hydraulic Dredging Projects:

- 18 Barrier Island/Headland Projects
- 38 Marsh Creation Projects
- Nearly 30,000 acres marsh/beach/dune/ridge habitat created
- Total Investment = \$2.6 Billion

Hydraulic Dredging - Cutter Suction



Hydraulic Dredging - Cutter Suction



Hydraulic Dredging – Trailing Suction Hopper

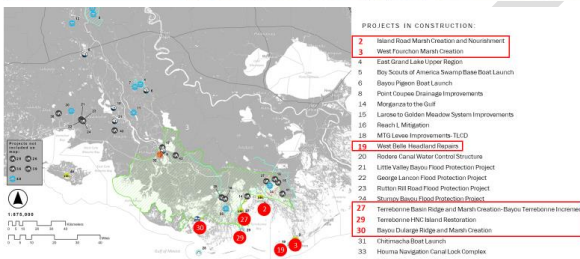
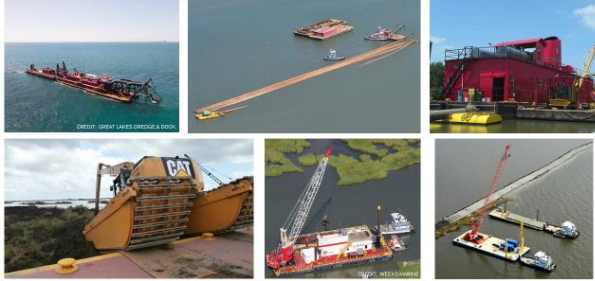


Mr. Simoneaux also presented on Barrier Island Restoration and Marsh Creation using the examples of The West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment in Jefferson Parish, Bartaria Basin Ridge



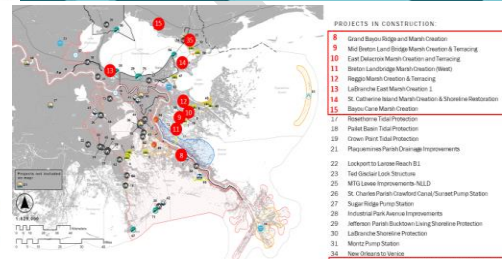
& Marsh Creation at Spanish Pass in Plaquemines Parish, and Lake Borgne Marsh Creation in St. Bernard Parish. In the FY 2025 Annual Plan, in the Southwest Region, there are 2 Hydraulic Dredging projects in construction, 6 Hydraulic dredging projects in construction in the South Central Region, 9 Hydraulic dredging projects in construction in the Southeast Region.

Required Equipment and Materials



South Central Region

6 HYDRAULIC DREDGING PROJECTS IN CONSTRUCTION IN FY 2025



Southeast Region

9 HYDRAULIC DREDGING PROJECTS IN CONSTRUCTION IN FY 2025

ix. 2024 Legislative Session and DRIVE Update – Clay Parker, GOCA (video: 01:35:53)

Mr. Parker provided the board with an overview of the Departmental Review For Innovation & Visionary Enhancement (DRIVE). He stated that the purpose of DRIVE is to provide transparency, efficiency and coordination, clean and Intuitive Governance, and Sustainability. Mr. Parker also stated the background and project history: On February 2, 2024, Governor Landry issued Executive Order JML 24-13, directing DENR to investigate consolidation and reorganization of the State's natural resources management regime. DENR consulted with multiple stakeholders, both internal to government and non-governmental, and considered public comments. On February 23, 2024, DENR issued a request for executive action to Governor Landry, requesting Governor Landry to identify needed legislative changes. On March 11, 2023, Governor Landry addressed a letter to DENR creating the Natural Resources Steering Commission and directing several legislative changes to be made.



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PURPOSE

TRANSPARENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Outcome-Based Programs:** Develop outcome-based programs to foster a results-oriented approach to management.
- Future Reports and Continuous Improvement:** Commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement.
- Sustainability:** Fiscal cliff for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and funding for coastal in 2031 improvement by preparing the agency for the future considerations.

PURPOSE

EFFICIENCY AND COORDINATION



Efficiency and Coordination

Improve efficiency and coordination through streamlining functions, optimizing staff, and establishing coordination across agencies.

- Collaboration and Data Sharing:** Foster collaboration and information sharing across agencies to improve agency decision-making.
- Emergency Response & Risk Management:** Establish a dedicated emergency response function of DENR to bring a focus on preparedness, risk management, and financial security related to natural resources.
- Infrastructure Consideration:** Manage natural resources and associated infrastructure in a way that complements the state's overall infrastructure needs.

Legislative Changes: March 11, 2024 Letter to DENR from Gov. Landry:

Create	Create Offices of Enforcement, Energy, and Land & Water within DENR.	Move	Move LOSCO from Dept. Of Public Safety to the new Office of Enforcement.
Re-create	Re-create the Office of Conservation and Energy Office.	Grant	Grant authority over water resources management as to quantify to the Office of Land & Water.
Establish	Establish a Natural Resources Trust Authority.	Grant	Grant authority over rights of way, surface leases, and water bottom permits and leases to the Office of Land and Water.
Align	Align the sunsets of all natural resources-related boards and commissions to coincide with the sunset of DENR.	Remove	Remove certain CPRA board members to reduce overlap.
Transfer	Transfer the Fisherman's Gear Fund, Oilfield Site Restoration, and Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation to the new Office of Enforcement.		

Futher legislative changes during the 2024 Regular Session include, HB 806 authored by Rep. Brett Geymann will target membership of the CPRA Board: removing DOTD Secretary, LED Secretary, Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, & GOHSEP from CPRA Board. The bill was presented before the House Natural Resources Committee and passed favorably with a vote 10-1. In HB 810, also authored by Rep. Geymann will provide for the organization, duties and responsibilities of the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources. It creates the Office of Energy, Enforcement, and Land & Water; creates Natural Resources Trust Authority, Transfers LOSCO to DENR; Removes "firewall" between Commissioner of Conservation and DENR Secretary, and also grants authority over certain functions involving state lands and waterbottoms to DENR (New Effective Date July 1, 2024).

PROPOSED HB 810 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



PROPOSED HB 810 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Office of Secretary - Support function for DENR, focused on fire and environmental affairs, including state legislative and legal.

Management and Budget - the backbone of DENR, Human Resources, Risk, Natural Resources Trust Authority and other operational services.

Energy - Direct relationship with the federal Department of Energy focused on research, policy, power, strategy, solar, engagement, innovative partnerships, and other forward looking activities.

Conservation - office focused on permitting, regulation, and compliance of operators.

Enforcement - focused on enforcement of law of compliance operators.

Lands & Waters - Programs and management function land, water, minerals, storage, power.

In the March 11, 2024 letter for Governor Landry to DENR, the Natural Resources Steering Commission was created. The members include Gordy Dove (Chair), Tyler Gray and Ben Bienvenu. The purpose of the Commission is to comprehensively review and coordinate all



aspects of natural resources management throughout the State in accordance with the goal of organizational alignment, efficiency and coordination, emergency response, scope, standardization of policies and guidelines, clarifying relationships, collaboration and data sharing, strategic planning, outcome-based programs, future planning, continuous improvement, infrastructure consideration, and demand-oriented energy planning. The first meeting of this commission is scheduled for June 18, 2024.

TIMELINE

Timeline events:

- 4/16/24: Monitor HB 806, 810 through legislative process.
- 4/16-6/3: HB 806, 810 heard in NRSC.
- 6/3: Legislative session adjourns.
- 6/3-17: Review final versions of bills, prepare for NRSC.
- 6/18: First NRSC meeting, new round of public comments.
- July 2024: Tentative second meeting of NRSC.
- 8/1/24: Review final report, public engagement, prepare budget submissions.
- 8/1/24: Deadline for final DRIVE report to Governor.
- August-October 2024: Legislative change and any further necessary changes.
- 10/31/24: Deadline for executive budget submissions for next fiscal year.

REPORTING

- All reports, letters, and public comments posted on Governor's website.
 - <https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/form/home/52>
 - "Interact" Action on Executive Order JML 24-13.
- Upcoming reports:
 - June 2024 – all materials presented to NRSC.
 - July 2024 – public comments and any materials from second NRSC meeting.
 - August 2024 – final report from NRSC to Governor containing recommendations for DRIVE.
 - October 31, 2024 – DENR executive budget submissions.

- x. **Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DENR (video: 02:08:41)** Mr. McMillin provided the board with an update on matters at the Federal level. He informed the members that the Department of Interior Announced FY23 GOMESA Revenues. On March 29th, Interior disbursed a total of \$353.625 million. Louisiana received \$156.3 million (44%) of that. For the second year in a row, the revenue sharing cap has been hit for GOMESA. Federal offshore revenue for FY23 was \$7.626 billion. Shared GOMESA revenue was only 4.6% of all FY23 activity in federal waters.

Interior Announces FY23 GOMESA Revenues

- Interior disbursed a total of \$353.625 million on March 29.
- Louisiana received \$156.3 million (44%), Texas \$95.6 million (27%), Mississippi \$1.9 million (14%), and Alabama \$49.8 million (14%).
- For the second year in a row, the revenue sharing cap has been hit for GOMESA.**
- The cap is reducing the percentage state would receive from otherwise GOMESA-eligible activity (revenues generated from activity occurring from 2007 onward).
- Budget sequestration takes away \$21.375 million, or about 5.7% of the revenue that would otherwise be shared within the 37.5% state share of the first \$1 billion in generated revenues from GOMESA-eligible offshore activities during a fiscal year. The state share is really around 35.3%.
- Federal offshore revenue for FY23 was \$7.626 billion. Shared GOMESA revenue was only 4.6% of all FY23 activity in federal waters.**
- If GOMESA states had the same revenue sharing as Interior States do (50% of all revenue), then they would receive approximately \$3.813 billion in FY23.

State of Louisiana & CPS	\$156,329,442.65
State of Louisiana	\$125,063,554.13
Assumption Parish	\$1,025,575.78
Calcasieu Parish	\$1,691,776.20
Cameron Parish	\$2,095,495.70
Iberia Parish	\$1,617,190.25
Jefferson Parish	\$2,538,333.90
Lafourche Parish	\$1,612,387.64
Livingston Parish	\$1,325,121.51
Orleans Parish	\$2,223,457.33
Plaquemines Parish	\$2,055,059.45
St. Bernard Parish	\$1,493,149.15
St. Charles Parish	\$1,099,142.70
St. James Parish	\$957,874.55
St. John the Baptist Parish	\$1,025,906.65
St. Martin Parish	\$1,153,309.09
St. Mary Parish	\$1,341,025.75
St. Tammany Parish	\$1,770,846.79
Tangipahoa Parish	\$1,270,079.32
Terrebonne Parish	\$2,358,501.78
Vermilion Parish	\$1,611,654.98

Mr. McMillin also provided an updated on BOEM stating that on March 20, the Department of Interior announced the second offshore wind energy auction in the Gulf of Mexico as part of the Biden Administration's goal to permit 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. In his update on the SHORES Coalition Activities – Friend of ASBPA: The SHORES Coalition was a Friend of the 2024 American Shore and Beach Preservation Association spring conference in Washington, D.C. from March 26-28. SHORES participated in a panel discussion on the RISEE Act title "Is your state leaving money on the table?" with Kara Allen, lead RISEE Act staffer for Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Pierson Stoecklein, consultant for Pew Charitable Trusts. Panel discussion focused on legislative challenges, level of funding directed towards states, the state of the offshore wind industry, and



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types of projects funded through GOMESA revenue sharing. CPRA Executive Director Glenn Ledet presented on a panel on partnerships, as well. As part of the ASBPA conference, 12 members of the SHORES Coalition conducted 6 in person meetings with staff of Rep. Fry, Rep. Malliotakis, Rep. Garbarino, Rep. Rouzer, Rep. Moore, and Rep. Weber as well as a virtual meeting with staff of Rep. Carl. Mr. McMillin went on to explain the types of projects that are eligible through the RISEE Act from Offshore Wind and the dates for the next SHORE Coalition D.C. Fly In (slides below):

In closing, Mr. McMillin provided the board with information regarding the FY 2025 Appropriations Cycle: Appropriations Committees are still developing guidance and considering deadline for FY25 appropriations requests. Congressional offices have already set initial deadlines and released request forms, though there is still (limited) time to submit request. Congressionally Directed Spending (Senate) and Community Project Funding (House) will be allowed. Senators have no limits on number of requests. House members can submit up to 15 requests. Letters of support from Stakeholders is a key metric evaluated. In regards to Coastal Funding Opportunities: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Support for itmes included in President’s Budget. Request additional funding for FY25 capability not expressed in President’s Budget.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
 Second by: Mr. Alford