



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

9:30 AM

State Capitol-900 N. Third Street- House Committee Room 5
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
Mr. Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Mr. Tyler Bosworth for Sec. Sheahan, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser	Absent
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Cong. 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
Seconded by: Mr. Bourgeois
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Courville
Seconded by: Mr. Hidalgo
Unanimously Approved

v. Old Business/Announcements

vi. Implementation Update– Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video:0:01)

Mr. Ledet updated the Board on the latest progress of various projects around the coast. CPRA has 106 active projects with 38 of them are in construction, 64 in engineering and design, with 4 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed 34 are hurricane protection projects and 33 are creating marsh. Mr. Ledet also provided updates on E&D, Construction, Restoration, and Hurricane Protection & Flood Risk Reduction (specific projects outlined below).



- Engineering & Design Updates: St. Mary Back Lakeside Flood Protection** – Mr. Ledet stated that CPRA is coordinating with St. Mary Parish on the IGA and facilitating discussions amongst the parish, levee district, drainage district, and flood plain manager. **Bayou Cane** - Multi-faceted project including a State component and a recently approved CWPPRA component. The State component will be used as mitigation for River Reintroduction. The Bayou Cane team is planning a pre-solicitation meeting in January 2025 and bid advertisement in May 2025.
- Construction Update -- Sugar Ridge Pump Station** - Construction began 08/15/2024 and is anticipated for completion by 12/26/2025. **Manchac Landbridge Shoreline Protection** - This project will preserve shoreline integrity and reduce wetland degradation from wave erosion along the shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain, benefitting surrounding shoreline habitat. Construction completed. Final inspection held on 11/25/2024. **Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch** - This project will provide improvements in the project area including improving the existing boat launch which includes expanding and lengthening the existing boat launch and providing enhanced parking and trailering areas and ADA compliant parking. Construction began on the project on Monday, January 13, 2025. Estimated completion Spring 2026. **Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation** - The proposed project will create approximately 5.46 miles of ridge along the bank of Bayou La Loutre and create or nourish approximately 421 acres of marsh south of Lena Lagoon using sediment dredged from Lake Borgne. The ridge feature will provide 24.4 acres of Live Oak/Hackberry Maritime forest habitat and will include herbaceous and woody plantings with smooth cord plantings along the toe. The ridge component has been completed. Containment dike construction has begun in the marsh creation area. Anticipated project completion 09/15/2025.
- Restoration Update – Mid Breton Land Bridge Marsh Creation and Terracing** – This project involves the creation and nourishment of approximately 451 acres of intertidal marsh on the Mid-Breton Land Bridge in Plaquemines Parish with material dredged from Lake Lery, and approximately 22,960 ft of terraces in strategic areas to restore marsh habitat between the Bayou Terre aux Boeufs and River aux Chenes ridges.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH FLOOD RISK REDUCTION
St. Tammany Parish

\$5.9 BILLION
Authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2024

ST. TAMMANY PARISH FLOOD RISK REDUCTION
St. Tammany Parish

STRUCTURAL FEATURES:

- 15-mile earthen levee
- 3.5-mile floodwall system
- 8 pump stations
- 13 sluice gates/lift gates
- 18 vehicular gates
- 1 pedestrian floodgate
- 1 railroad gate
- 6 road ramps
- Raising of the I-10 road surface

NONSTRUCTURAL FEATURES:

- Elevation of 5,583 preliminarily eligible residential structure
- Dry floodproofing of 827 non-residential structures

Once completed, the project will provide flood risk reduction to more than 26 thousand structures.

“By authorizing the St. Tammany project for construction, Congress recognizes again the national importance of Louisiana and that CPRA can work with the Federal Government to execute a multi-billion coastal protection project successfully. As we deliver these game-changing projects in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CPRA continues to prove that federal investments in coastal Louisiana pays off.”

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Chairman Gordon “Garry” Basse



January & February Event Upcoming Events Calendars



vii. **CPRA’s FY 2026 Draft Annual Plan and Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan– Glenn Ledet, Jr., Joe Wyble, and Brian Lezina CPRA (video: 0:28:50)** Mr. Ledet, Lezina & Wyble presented to the board the DRAFT FY26 Annual Plan. Mr. Ledet announced that the public comment period is now open and can be sent via email or the comment portal as well as by mail and in person at the public meetings. The total projected expenditures FY 2026 by project phase approximately \$1.80 Billion. Of those funds, \$1.44 Billion are allocated for construction, the projects will support 12,249 direct jobs with \$723 Million in labor income. Mr. Ledet also updated on the Southwest Region: 19 active projects: 11 in Construction, and 8 in E&D. In the South Central Region there are 37 active projects: 18 in construction, 16 in E&D, and 3 in planning. The South East Region has 77 active projects: 44 are in construction, 29 in E&D, and 4 are in planning. A copy of the draft Annual Plan & Interactive map can be viewed at AP26.Coastal.la.gov.

PROGRAM	REVENUE/EXPENDITURES PROJECTIONS
GOMESA	\$221 Million
NRDA	\$373 Million
NFWF	\$462 Million
RESTORE	\$179 Million
CWPPRA (Federal)	\$142 Million
Surplus/Cap outlay	\$288 Million
State (Non-Surplus)	\$82 Million
Other	\$52 Million

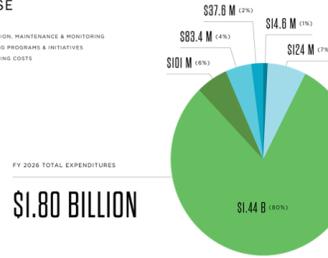
Total Projected Revenues and Expenditures FY 2026

BY FUNDING PROGRAM

Total Projected Expenditures FY 2026

BY PROJECT PHASE

- PLANNING
- ENGINEERING & DESIGN
- CONSTRUCTION
- OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & MONITORING
- ONGOING PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES
- OPERATING COSTS



\$1.80 BILLION
INVESTMENT IN OUR COAST

\$1.44 BILLION ALLOCATED FOR CONSTRUCTION

20 DREDGING PROJECTS
SELECTED FOR CONSTRUCTION
77.8 MILLION CUBIC YARDS
TOTALING OF SEDIMENT TO CREATE OR NOURISH MORE THAN

14,983 ACRES

133 ACTIVE PROJECTS

PROJECTS WILL SUPPORT **12,249 DIRECT JOBS**
\$723 MILLION IN LABOR INCOME

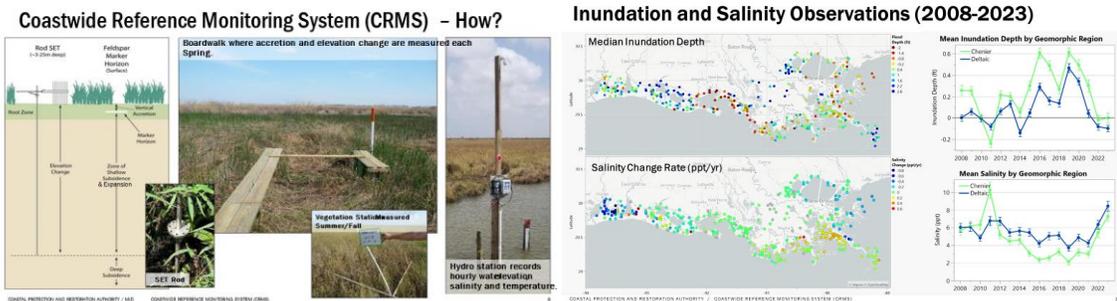
View the Draft FY 2026 Annual Plan & Interactive Map

AP26.COASTAL.LA.GOV

COMMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL MARCH 22, 2025



viii. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) – Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA (video: 01:33:36)
 Ms. Sharp provided updated information to the board on the CRMS including facts and figures. Ms. Sharp presented that there is a network of 390 monitoring sites continuously measuring coastal change across Coastal Louisiana since 2006. This project was initially funded by CWPBRA to support project assessment and implementation coastwide. It also receives NRDA/RESTORE Act funds. The monitoring program implemented by CPRA & USGS scientists utilizing data collection contractors. The data is publicly available and are widely used to inform coastal restoration at all phases including project design, implementation, assessment, and adaptive management. In CRMS, the land change and processes associated with land change to understand and prevent future land loss.



Ongoing Monitoring Will Capture Drought Response, Hurricane Recovery, and Ecosystem Adaptations to Changing Conditions

- **Elevation and Accretion** monitoring happening now through April 30th – will capture Francine erosion/deposition
- **Vegetation** (Summer/Fall) will capture community shifts post drought
- **Land Change** – last flight was October 2024 (post Francine). Will capture Francine and drought impacts
- **Hydrology** (Continuous) will help us interpret changes in elevation, vegetation and land



ix. Federal and Congressional Update– Neal McMillin, DENR (video:01:59:07) Mr. McMillin updated the board on WRDA 2024, 2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund Awards (In 2024, NFWF gave 8 awards to Louisiana for a total of \$12.1 million with \$1M matched, resulting in at \$13 million impact to our coast), the Offshore Parity Act of 2024 (On November 22, 2024, Congressman Graves and Congressman Carter introduced a bill to extend the state waters of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama from one marine league (3 nautical miles) to three marine leagues (9 nautical miles) for energy and fisheries), New LA Delegation Roles (Cong. Fields joins the Financial Services Committee with Cong. Carter joining the Energy & Commerce Committee, House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, selected as a House Dem Deputy Whip, and elected to Congressional Black Caucus First Vice-Chair), Revenue Sharing (Could revenue sharing be included? Yes and No; Will Revenue sharing be included? TBD!). Mr. McMillin also called to attention the passage of WRDA 2024 (see slide below to reference WRDA Wins for LA: WRDA doesn't provide dollars for these things, it only provides permissions. NOTE: The state was granted within WRDA an extension of 3017 authority to 2033 to raise HSDRRS levees after settlement, subsidence, etc.).



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



In closing, Mr. McMillin announced the dates for the next SHORES trip to Washington, D.C. (see slide below).

WRDA 2024 Wins for Louisiana Coastal Program

Request	Section(s)
Authorization of \$5.9 billion St. Tammany Flood Risk Management project	1401
Authorize studies for Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge Reduction project and New Orleans Metro Area for ecosystem restoration and water supply, including mitigation of saltwater wedges	1201
Expansion of Alexandria to the Gulf study area to align with LA Watershed Initiative Region V	1202
Clarification of HSDRRS Payback provision to protect compliance with payback terms	1358
Extension of 3017 authority to 2033 to raise HSDRRS levees after settlement, subsidence, etc.	1303
Authorize Pointe Celeste Pumping station as a \$50M environmental infrastructure project	1304
Extension of Section 1020 cross crediting authority to 2030, allowing CPRA to better use credit	1303
Morganza to the Gulf eligible for credit prior work before signed PPA back to 1989	1318
Authorize Morganza to the Gulf tie in to Upper Barataria Basin to protect in protection	1215
Larose to Golden Meadows pathway reentry into federal rehab and inspection Program	1317
Affirm that Algiers Canal OWRBRB will be conducted by USACE at 100% federal expense	1214
Provisions related to minimum real estate and easements required by USACE	1104, 1145
Address project partnership agreements related to indemnification and indefinite operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRRB) through GAO study	1244
Help activate Sec. 1043 authority for greater non-federal sponsor leadership	1303, 1150

Congress Passes Disaster Supplemental

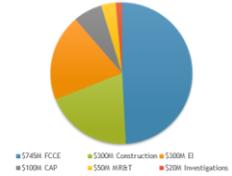
American Relief Act

Federal government funded through March 14, 2025 at FY24 funding levels.

Included \$110 billion Disaster Supplemental comprised of:

- \$39.5 billion for agriculture losses and repairing damages in national forests
- \$29 billion for FEMA disaster relief
- \$12 billion to HUD for Community Development Block Grants
- \$8.1 billion to Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief
- \$1.4 billion for Department of Defense
- \$1.7 billion to EPA for water infrastructure
- \$2.3 billion for National Park Service repairs
- \$2.2 billion to Small Business Administration
- \$1.8 billion for military construction and veterans infrastructure
- \$1.5 billion for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- \$1.5 billion for Economic Development Administration assistance
- \$1.43 billion for NOAA repairs and fisheries disasters
- \$740 million to NASA for repairs
- \$500 million for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service repairs
- \$312 million for Coast Guard

\$1.5B USACE Disaster Funding



CONGRESSIONAL FLY-IN

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 25-26, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Join us in March to advocate in our nation's capital as part of Sharing Offshore Revenues from Energy Resources (SHORES). The SHORES coalition is building momentum and support for the revenue sharing legislation which is essential for the future of our coastal states, communities, and ecosystems.

RSVP TO NEAL.MCMILLIN@LA.GOV

x. **Public Comment**

xi. **Adjourn**

Motion by: Mr. Courville
Seconded by: unanimous.