



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 9:30 AM CST

State Capitol Building

House Committee Room 6

900 North Third Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 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.

https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Video/VideoArchivePlayer?v=house/2026/Jan/0121_26_CPRA

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Sec. Dustin Davidson, DENR	Absent
Sec. Bosworth, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Mr. Brandon Burris for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Present
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Mr. Clay Ledet for Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Mr. Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	Present
Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Present
Mr. Stephen Sagrera, At Large	Absent
Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large	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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Alford
Seconded by: Mr. Bourgeois
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Pres. Hinkley
Second by: Mr. Jordan
Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business / Announcements

VI. CPRA Implementation Update – Michael Hare, CPRA (video 00:3:09)

Mr. Hare updated the board with the active projects' scoreboard. He stated that there are 103 active projects (33 Projects in Construction, 67 Projects in Engineering and Design; and 3 projects are in the planning phase. He also highlighted a few updates from last month's projects overview

- Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation Increment 2: This project is in Lafourche Parish. CPRA estimates advertising for construction in early 2026.



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- Port Fourchon Shoreline Protection (Lafourche) - The project is currently under construction. CPRA received and paid an invoice for \$2,000,000 to fulfill their commitment to the project. GOMESA Funding.
- Bayou Cane Marsh Creation (St. Tammany) - A bid opening was held on 08/12/25. CPRA has rejected all bids and will re-evaluate the project design
- Morganza to the Gulf (Terrebonne) - Reach K Middle reached substantial completion on 12/08/25.
- NRDA Raccoon Island Barrier Island Restoration Project (Terrebonne) - A 30% design review was held on 12/17/25.
- MTG Upper Reach I (Terrebonne) - Bid opening date for segment 2 was held on 12/02/25 and the project was awarded to Rigid on 12/17 (Vermilion) - Sealed bids were opened 12/03/25. Construction contract was awarded 12/17/25 to lowest bidder, Patriot Construction and Industrial, LLC.

Project Updates: Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvement Project- \$2 million CPRA-funded project completed November 2025. Expanded launch from 2 lanes to 7. Enhances public access to the Atchafalaya Basin and supports local businesses and recreation.

- Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Creation – Recently completed (November 2025). \$58.7 million CWPPRA-funded project which created 332 acres of new marsh. Partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Hare also provided an update on Hwy 1 Terracing Extension Project Parish Matching Project. This project is an extension of the larger Ducks Unlimited-led and funded Hwy 1 Terracing and Living Shoreline project. CPRA is supporting the project in Lafourche with \$1.1 million in funding through the 2025 Parish Matching Program.

Annual Plan Update:

TIMELINE

Draft Annual Plan Presented to CPRA Board – December 10, 2025

Public Comment Period Ends: February 17, 2026

Final Annual Plan Presented to CPRA Board – March 18, 2026

Final Annual Plan Submitted to Legislature – March 19, 2026



PUBLIC COMMENTS

EMAIL
Public comments will be accepted via email to: coastal@lta.gov

ONLINE
Comment portal available online at AP27.COASTAL.LA.GOV

MAIL
Written comments will be accepted via mail to:
Annual Plan Comment
150 Terrace Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CPRA must receive all comments by February 17, 2026

131 ATTENDEES ACROSS 4 MEETINGS



Thibodaux



Jefferson



Abbeville

In closing, Mr. Hare provided a few additional updates on Des Allemands Boat Launch Groundbreaking. CPRA is contributing \$1.84 million from *Deepwater Horizon* settlement funds toward construction towards this project. There was a Groundbreaking ceremony held on 1/6 to kick off phase one construction of boat launch sites and pier facility. The site on land donated by Chevron (2021). This estimated to be a one-year construction timeline totaling approximately \$4,989,859. He also updated on the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund Grant Awards in which this year, four Louisiana projects were selected and awarded a total of \$5.4+ million.

VII. White Lake Conservation Plan -- Brian Lezina and Tommy Tuma, CPRA (video 00:22:02)

Mr. Lezina and Mr. Tuma provided the board with an update on the White Lake Conservation Plan. The project is located approximately 7 miles south of Gueydan in Vermillion Parish (72,000 acres of land). The presenters stated that WLWCA is facing several challenges: Erosion on impoundment levees; more than 20mi of GIWW shoreline unprotected; levee breaches along Unit 2, GIWW and Florence Canal. The WLWCA Master Plan's purpose is to protect and sustain critical freshwater marsh habitat that supports a wide array of native wildlife and provides a variety of public recreational opportunities. In an effort for continued outreach and engagement, they've been holding ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process, coordination and alignment with state and local leadership.

VIII. Overview of CPRA's Marsh Creation Design Guidelines-- Rudy Simoneaux and Adam Linson, CPRA (video: 01:01:54)

Mr. Simoneaux indicated that marsh creation projects make up about 65% of the total restoration budget (~\$16B) and represent a majority of the design projects at CPRA. In 20217 marsh creation was closer to \$18M of the total restoration budget, so the total continues to remain high. In fact, a majority of the 32 projects currently under design or in construction are in-house efforts. They stated that the proposed 2027 annual plan estimates 19 total dredging projects, dredging over 50 MCY to create or nourish almost 13,000 acres of marsh.



Mr. Simoneaux stated that the goal is to create wetland habitat in typically degraded coastal marsh regions to maximize ecological benefits for the life of the project (typically 20 years). Mr. Linson highlighted that most marsh creation sites are fully contained by constructing earthen containment by utilizing materials on site. The design guidelines were created to serve as minimum design standards for the design and construction of marsh creation projects with the Louisiana Coastal Zone. They are to provide consistent design protocol and increase efficiency pertaining to marsh creation project implementation.

IX. Safety, Access and Logistics for Marine Construction– Rudy Simoneaux and Joanne Tribou, CPRA (video:01:26:24)

Mr. Simoneaux and Ms. Tribou stated this presentation focuses on some of the logistical or non-engineering type of considerations for CPRA projects. It included equipment access, oil and gas infrastructure, cultural resources, private landowners, oyster resources and permitting. Mr. Simoneaux pointed out that they have hydraulic dredges, mechanical dredges, dredge pipe and booster pumps, barges, etc. However, Marine construction equipment can vary greatly in size and draft, CPRA wants to present contractors with a constructible project that includes feasible access routes. In regard to safety with oil & gas infrastructure, proper identification and coordination with pipeline operators for infrastructure within our project sites is extremely important in order to ensure safety during construction. To determine what is actually in the field, CPRA conducts a magnetometer survey throughout ALL project features. Mr. Simoneaux stated that they must acquire both a state and federal permit for CPRA projects. All project features must be included in the permit. This includes any equipment access dredging.

X. Northwest Little Lake Restoration Overview – Rudy Simoneaux and Olivia Creel, CPRA (video:01:44:35)

In their overview to the board on the Northwest Little, Ms. Creel & Mr. Simoneaux identified that the project is in Lafourche Parish, approximately 30 miles south of New Orleans and the land is majority owned by Delta Farms and Clovelly Farms. After Hurricane Ida made landfall in 2021, there were several large breaches in the little lake shoreline. There was substantial loss of marsh opening Delta farms to Little Lake. The goal is to reestablish the boundary between Delta Farms marsh and Little Lake. Remaining components of Master Plan project design efforts are continuing through an IGA between CPRA and South Lafourche Levee District.

XI. Overview of the Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) – Paige Gisclair, CTAC (video:02:03:55)

Ms. Gisclair stated that the CTAC is a program that is supported by Louisiana Economic Development as well as CPRA. The program is a FREE service provided by the state to assist LA based businesses with opportunities related to coastal restoration and protection projects happening along Louisiana’s coast. The purpose of the program is to provide Louisiana businesses with resources related to federal, state, and local contracting opportunities supporting coastal restoration and recovery efforts. As well as facilitate networking and matchmaking opportunities between businesses, partners, and contractors. The CTAC Resource Center is located in Thibodaux, Louisiana, on the Nicholls State University Campus. CTAC serves as a statewide program, thus all services are offered *ONLINE*. A few new & improved services that they provide are Business Counseling Services (Check ins, guidance on resources and receiving support); Client Spotlights (social media and newsletter). Coastal Connect Events (Business Matchmaking & Networking Expo).

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Hidalgo
Seconded by: Unanimous 2nd