



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 9:30 AM CST

The Coastal Center at Nicholls State University

426 Ardoyne Drive- Thibodaux, Louisiana 70310

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.

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Na9mrLP9nEw>

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Sec. Dustin Davidson, DENR	Present
Sec. Bosworth, LDWF	Present
Mr. Brian Tusa for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Mr. Brandon Burris for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Absent
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
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	Absent
Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Absent
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. Hidalgo
Seconded by: Mr. Tony Alford
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business / Announcements

VI. Welcome to The Coastal Center at Nicholls State University – *President Jay Clune, Ph.D., Nicholls State University (video:0:5:28)*

VII. CPRA Implementation Update – *Michael Hare, CPRA (video 0:10:11)*

Mr. Hare informed the board that CPRA has 104 active projects with 32 in construction, 69 in engineering and design, with 3 more in the planning stage. He also provided updates on projects from the previous month; project updates; parish matching project update; and additional CPRA updates.

Updates on project changes from last month:

- Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation Increment 2 (Lafourche) - Oyster assessment was provided to LDWF for their review and comment on the construction permit. To be bid in the next 6 months. Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation (Lafourche) - CPRA/NRCS will be submitting this project in December 2025 for Phase II CWPPRA construction funding.



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- Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West), River Aux Chenes to Grand Lake (Plaquemines) - Construction contractor mobilized for ECD construction on 09/22/25.
- Grand Chenier Marsh Creation and Restoration (Cameron) - NRCS/USACE will be finalizing the Project Work Plan (assigning responsibilities and budgets to task) by the end of September.
- 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
- Chandeleur Island Restoration Project (St. Bernard) - 30% Design has been completed by the Design Team and has been provided to the CMAR contractor Weeks Marine for review and submission of their 30% Deliverables.
- NRDA Raccoon Island Barrier Island Restoration Project (Terrebonne) - 30% design report is expected late 2025. 95% design will occur before 06/01/2026.
- Terrebonne HNC Island Restoration NRDA Construction (Terrebonne) - Weeks will be remobilizing to the site in October (following completion of reviews of surveys collected in August). Fill placement is expected to begin in November. As-builts are expected mid-December.

Construction updates:

- Grand Isle Shoreline Project: The Corps recently approved the PIR.
- Morganza to the Gulf – Reach 3B Lockport to Larose: Notice to proceed was issued to Onshore Materials for construction of approx. 2.2mi of levee to elevation of 7.5ft. Reach H2: This segment was part of the original H3/H2 additive alternates but was not selected due to insufficient funding. Project will raise the levee section to elevation 15 feet across 3.3 miles of levee.
- Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch – CPRA is expanding the boat launch from two lanes to seven as well as adding floating piers and gangways.

Project Updates:

- Ludevine Pump Station -- The project, which constructed two 48" pumps with 300 CFS capacity, was completed last month. This project was developed out of the poor condition of the existing station and a conflict with the Reach 2 levee alignment. The upgraded pump station is now capable of 450 CFS Capacity (3-48" Pumps).
- Terrebonne Island Restoration -- Bird nesting season ended in September and work has begun again. Weeks Marine is placing rock around the island now. Dredging/placement of fill on the island will begin after rock placement is complete. The project will be completed by the end of the year.
- Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex --The HNC Lock Complex will be a key component of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. The primary goal of this project is to reduce saltwater intrusion and distribute freshwater within the Terrebonne Basin. The project will also provide storm surge protection as a part of the Morganza to the Gulf system while allowing navigation to continue in the HNC for commercial and recreational uses. Project is scheduled for a Spring 2028 completion.

Parish Matching Project Update:

- Mandeville Lakefront Wetlands Project Parish Matching Project -- CPRA recently joined St. Tammany Parish officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Mandeville Lakefront Wetlands Project, launching construction of a multi-faceted restoration project that includes marsh creation, a rock berm, and a weir along the Pontchartrain lakefront. The project will protect a cypress swamp, redirect urban runoff, and enhance the resiliency of the surrounding community. The project is expected to be completed in January 2026.

In closing, Mr. Hare provided the board with additional updates in the coastal realm. He joined Rep. Orgeron and Kim Reyer for a public Affairs Research Council webinar on the Coastal Next Steps. He stated that it was a great discussion covering many important topics. CPRA will also be participating at the Rougarou Fest this upcoming weekend. CPRA will also be participating in Ocean Commotion at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on October 28. Finally, CPRA will join the Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) and APEX Accelerators for the first annual Coastal Connect: Business Matchmaking & Networking Expo right here at the Nicholls Coastal Center on November 12.

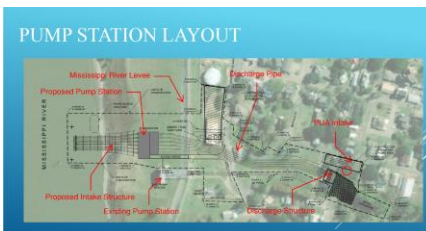
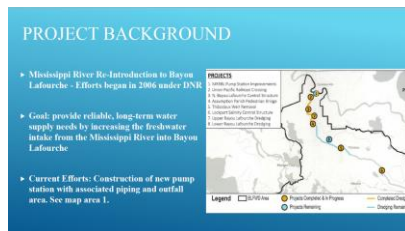


VIII. Update on Landbridge Restoration Projects – Michael Hare and Rudy Simoneaux, CPRA (video:00:48:07)

Mr. Simoneaux stated that land bridges are not a new idea but perhaps what CPRA is presenting is a new approach and that's how they would like to communicate it. He provided the definition of a land bridge directly from the master plan (large-scale linear tracks of constructed marshes oriented across coastal basins which provide important habitat, restore hydrology, and attenuates waves). He pointed out that land bridges aren't just marsh, but that marsh is a key component, but they incorporate bridges BMS other higher points of elevation and in some cases they can be armored.

IX. Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Delivery Project Update – Dustin Rabalais, Exec. Dir of the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (video: 01:17:45)

Mr. Rabalais provided a bit of background information on Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Delivery project. He stated that the goal is to provide reliable, long-term water supply needs by increasing the freshwater intake from the MS River into Bayou Lafourche. The efforts for this project began in 2006 under DNR. The current efforts are construction of new pump station with associated piping and outfall area. The funding partners for this project are DEQ, CPRA, State of Legislature, and BLFWD.



X. Morganza to the Gulf Update – Angela Hidalgo, TLCD (video:1:30:58)

Ms. Hidalgo update the board on the great work that TLCD has been able to accomplish with the Morganza to the Gulf project.

Structure Overview:

- 98- miles of levee; 80-miles in Terrebonne Parish
- 14 Navigable Floodgates
- 2 Navigable Lock Structures
- HNC Lock Complex (In Construction)
- 22 Environmental Structures with Nearly 100 Sluice Gates



System Closure Overview:

- All Environmental Structures (Sluice Gates) Closed 48-72 Hours before landfall
- 14 Navigable Floodgates (Closed within 24hr Period; Reopened within a 24-hr period (26 employees who implement the operation of these structures in the event of a hurricane).

Project Benefits:

- Provide protection against tidal and hurricane surge up to Cat 3 storm
- Eliminate over \$200,000 in annual water treatment costs
- Fisherman will no longer have to leave the area in a storm event

Investments to Date and Summary of Storm Surge Impacts:



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Ms. Hidalgo also highlighted completed and/or construction along the 98-mile MTG Alignment (2024 Hurricane Francine, NO homes flooded in Terrebonne Parish; 11.5ft of Storm Surge; Highest Ever Recorded. State findings show existing infrastructure save \$1.77B in unfilled FEMA claims, which is more than the current state and local investment in the system):

- 80 miles of levees
- 14 Navigable Floodgates
- 2 Navigable Non-Federal Lock Complexes
- 1 HNC Lock Complex
- 11 Environmental Structures

Achieving Interim Level of Protection

- Reach A Levee Segment – In Construction
- Nearly 2M CY dredged to created over 200 acres of marsh creation (HNC Complex Phase2-In Construction)
- Reach H-2 / H-3 Levee Improvement (+15) – In Construction (\$13 Million)

XI. NLLD Updates – Dwayne Bourgeois, NLLD (video:1:51:12)

Mr. Bourgeois provided the board with an update on NLLD and the levee projects. He stated that they have close to 200 miles of drainage and levee district drainage channels that are in the system that they are dealing with. To break that levee system and things into something manageable, Mr. Bourgeois stated that they've divided their levee district territories/project areas which is strictly along hydrologic barriers. Mr. Bourgeois also highlighted a few completed projects from 2016-2023: Ludevine Pump Station Replacement- The upgraded pump station is now capable of 450 CFS Capacity (3-48" Pumps), completed. T-Bois Levee Ludevine Levee Tie-In Phase 1- Completed 5/31/22 (projected cost: \$324,396.00); Morganza to the Gulf Easter Tie-In Reach 3 B area; Valentine East and other projects.

XII. SLLD Updates – Nick Matherne, SLLD (video: 02:06:15)

Mr. Matherne provided updated information on the South Lafourche Levee District projects.

- Section F Berm Improvements: Elevation of protected side levee berm from 5' below sea level. (\$1.7M-GOMESA, \$100k-Surplus and \$2M-SLLD), this project was completed in October 2024.
- D-North Ramp: Elevation of levee to +16' near Leonard J. Miller, Jr. Airport. Slightly overtopped during Hurricane Ida.
- Section E-North Levee Improvements: Elevation of levee to +16' behind E. 44th St. (\$2.3M-GOMESA, \$1.5M-Surplus, \$500k-SLLD).
- Larose "Ted Gisclair" Lock: Estimated cost=\$40M, Committed: \$5M-SLLD, \$5M-2021 Surplus; \$15M-Lafourche Parish HMGP; and \$5M GOMESA. Remaining: \$10m GOMESA FY27 Annual Plan.
- Section A-East & West Levee Improvements: A-East has an average elevation of +16' with a target of +19'. The funding is \$3.4-GOMESA; \$3.6- Surplus; and \$1M-SLLD. The A-West has an average elevation of +16.5' with a target of +19'. The funding is \$4.4M-GOMESA; and \$600k-SLLD.

In closing, he highlighted a few future priorities, B-North & B-South Levee Improvements; D-North Levee Improvements; E-North NW Corner to NE Corner; a-West-Callais PS to Apache Dock; E-South Levee Improvements; Section F Levee Improvements.

XIII. Update on Terracing Projects – Cassidy Lejeune, Ducks Unlimited (video:0:00:00)

Mr. Lejeune provided the board with a brief update on Port Fourchon Terracing and Living Shoreline Project. The project will increase protection to existing marsh by reducing waver energy and erosion. It will also create emergent marsh and edge habitat for fish/wildlife species and marine organisms. The project started as a \$2.5M project and grew to a \$4.7M from additional support from various agencies,



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partner and funding sources. He also updated on Port Fourchon Terracing Phase II. \$6.8M has been secured for this project. The project will feature 124,500 linear feet of earthen terraces permitted, improve conditions for submerged aquatic vegetation productivity.

XIV. Update on Projects – Gordon Dove, CPRA Board-Chairman (video:2:46:13)

Chairman Dove provided the board with an overview of CPRA Projects in Engineering (Permits). He highlighted the Barataria Landbridge- 23 ½ miles, 6,800 acres (Plaquemines Parish); Barataria Long Distance Pipeline Sediment. Other projects that were highlighted: Marsh Island Restoration; Grand Isle Segmented Breakwater Rocks (Jefferson Parish); Spanish Pass Phase 2 and other projects.

XV. Public Comment

XVI. Executive Session – To discuss and advise concerning settlement and approval of authority to settle this lawsuit- pursuant to La RS 42:16, 17A (2)(11), and 19. “In the matter of State of Louisiana, Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority v. Midway Cattle Ranch, LLC 25th Judicial District Court for Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana Docket No. 67726, Division “B”; and related thereto, Midway Cattle Ranch, LLC v. Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources (Case No. 66971-A, 25th JDC); and Midway Cattle Ranch, LLC v. State, Dept. of Natural Resources (Case No. 67142-B, 25th JDC).

1. Motion to enter Executive Session by: Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois (roll call 2nd- roll available upon request)
 - Public Comment
2. Motion to exit Executive Session by: Mr. Tony Alford (roll call 2nd- roll available upon request)
 - Public comment

XVII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr.

Seconded by: Unanimous 2nd