

Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:30 AM LSU AgCenter-1105 West Port Street Abbeville, LA 70510

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	Absent					
Mr. Matt Weigel, LDWF	Absent					
Celena Cage, DEQ	Present					
Pat Witty, LED	Present					
Joey Breaux, LDAF	Present					
Dan Rees, DOA	Present					
Billy Broussard, LDI	Absent					
Sean Wyatt, GOHSEP	Present					
Karen Gautreaux, Gov's Advisory Comm- Co-Chair	Present					
Scott Burke, Barataria Basin	Present					
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin	Absent					
Bill Bubrig, Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone/ Mississippi Delta Basin						
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present					
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Absent					
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Present					
Stephen Sagrera, Teche/Vermillion Parish	Absent					
Lieutenant Governor's Office	Absent					
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					

Opening Remarks - Mayor Roslyn White

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business/Announcements



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VI. CPRA Implementation Update - Greg Grandy, CPRA (video: 00:10:00) Mr. Grandy presented to the board that there are 107 active projects, 44 of them are in construction, 60 are in E&D, with 3 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 32 are hurricane protection projects and 36 are creating marsh. Marsh creation leads the way in E&D with 26 projects moving toward the construction phase. Mr. Grandy updated the board on the following projects: Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation: The Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation Project is situated to the west of the Calcasieu Ship Channel (CSC), between the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Charles. The project is adjacent to the area where more than 155 miles of shoreline were damaged by a 2006 oil spill from the CITGO Lake Charles Manufacturing Complex, located north of the site. The spill released an estimated 2.7 million gallons of oil and oily wastewater into the Indian Marais waterway, which then flowed into the Calcasieu River and nearby wetlands, making it one of the largest and most toxic oil spills in the United States. The project is being constructed by the USACE as part of their maintenance dredging event for the lower CSC. This project is a great example of how dredged material can be used beneficially for marsh creation. If not used for marsh creation, the dredged material would have to be disposed of in upland disposal areas. Construction started in December 2022 and is expected to be completed by late 2023. Henderson Lake Water Management Spoil Bank Gapping: This project is located in St. Martin and St. Landry parishes in the Atchafalaya Basin...it's the first hydrologic restoration project to be completed by the Atchafalaya Basin Program since the Program was transferred from DNR to CPRA in 2018. The project was 100% funded by Capital Outlay. The project will improve the restricted water flows north of Henderson Lake that contributes to poor water quality in the swamps and lake. The contractor just finished constructing twenty-five alternating (North and South) gaps in elevated spoil bank along the Dixie Pipeline Canal to restore natural north to south sheet flow through Henderson Lake. The gaps were strategically positioned to reconnect historic bayous.

Mr. Grandy concluded his presentation with a few announcements (slides below). The next few months are going to be extremely busy for CPRA and all of our coastal partners. Looking at October you can see we're having two public meetings for the Atchafalaya Basin program (one coming up tomorrow), some volunteer opportunities with CRCL, a community conversation CWPPRA's regional stakeholder meeting, the Governor's Advisory Commission meeting.

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Meet the CPRA team, and participate in an						15	16	PUBLIC MEETIN		18 PUBLICA		20 LUNTEER V ORTUNITY OP	DLUNTEER PORTUNITY
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5	6	7	8	9 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION	BTNEP Q4 10 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE	11	3	4	5	6	CAERNARVON & 7 DAVIS POND MEETINGS	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY	9
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY	13	14	15	16	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY	18	10	11	12	FY 2025 ANNUAL PLAN	CWPPRA 14 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING	15	16
19	20	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY	22	23	24	25		18	19	20	21		23
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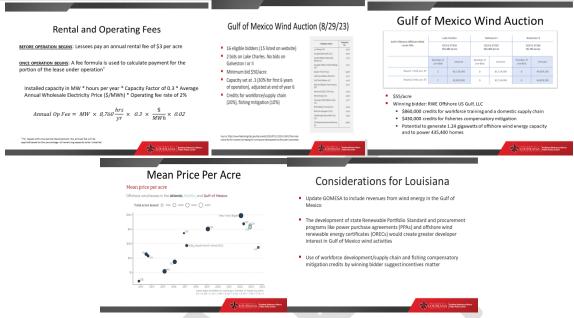
VII. Southwest Coastal Program Update- Brian Lezina, CPRA (video: 00:27:35) Mr. Lezina provided an updated overview to the board on the Southwest Coastal program. The project consist of two major authorities: Coastal Storm Risk Management and the Environmental restoration. The project area includes three Parishes: Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermillion. The project was approved by Congress in 2016. Fully funded project cost in current dollars estimated to be \$6.2B (\$1.3 for Coastal storm risk management and \$5.5B for environmental restoration. Nonstructural, 100% voluntary! (Elevation of residential structures to 2075 100-year BFE); Dry flood-proofing of non-residential structures; Risk reduction features (berms) for warehouse. It includes 3,961 total structures (3,462 residential, 342 non-residential, and 157 warehouses). The total cost of \$1.6 Billion (FY22 price levels).



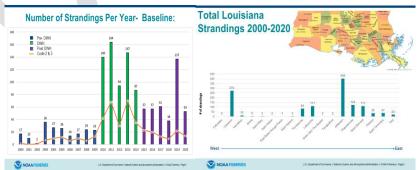


VIII. Offshore Wind Revenue Projections- Dr. Stephen Barnes, and Dr. Anna Osland- Kathleen Blanco Policy Center (video: 00:54:10) Mr. Barnes provided an in-depth dive into the leasing structure in an effort to really help everyone understand the revenue structure and potential future revenues for offshore leasing and federal waters for wind development given the more recent lease sale in August. He and his team have an abbreviated policy brief that was just updated which includes a little more specifics about that particular lease sale. Mr. Barnes stated that with the support of Mississippi River Delta (MRD) and the Greater LaFourche Port Commission, they've looked ahead to the first auction in the Gulf of Mexico for offshore wind development. There's been momentum to really accelerate the development of offshore wind with the Biden Administration and the federal environment is very supportive of that and conducive of that. He stated that the first ever lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico announced including one off the coast of Louisiana right near Lake Charles and two leasing areas near Galveston off the coast of Texas. So, with that kind of opportunity on the horizon he and his team have started some work at the Blanco Center to really try to make some clear picture for the public to have a good sense of what this new and emerging framework. The three major sources of money are rent, royalties and bonus bids that are paid upfront when companies secure a lease in order to develop for offshore wind while they are building out and developing those sites, they will pay rent on those leased areas and finally, as those sites go into operation and begin to actually producing electricity they'll pay operating fees which is sort of equivalent of the royalty paid on oil or natural gas brought out of a traditional lease area.





IX. Marine Mammal Stranding Network – Lauren Noble, Marine Mammal Stranding Network (video:01:33:59) Ms. Noble provided a brief summary of the LA TIG enhanced Marine Mammal Standing Network program. The program came about because of early restoration funds \$3.1M, ~5 years (started in 2021). Increasing Capacity & Expanding Partnerships along the Louisiana Coastline for Marine Mammal Stranding Response: Increase the ability to diagnose causes of illness and death in stranded marine mammals and to use that information to better understand the population health – Fill gaps in capabilities and spatial coverage of personnel and material resources along the Louisiana coastline – Improve timeliness of response, enhance survival, and improve diagnosis of illness and cause of death in cetaceans to better understand natural and anthropogenic threats – Inform future restoration efforts, monitoring, and adaptive management. Ms. Noble stated that historically, there has been limited capacity to respond to strandings across Louisiana's large, complex coastline. On average, approximately 81 cetaceans strand along the coast of Louisiana each year. Of these, 5 percent are found alive and 95 percent are found dead. Louisiana gets a high number of out-of-habitat dolphins (e.g., from hurricanes, flooding, etc.) requiring monitoring and relocation, relative to other States in the Gulf. In closing, Ms. Noble shared with the board the current/future outreach materials and hotline information.







X. Federal Update - Neal McMillin, Governor's Office (video:01:57:42) Mr. McMillin provided an overview of the Shutdown Avoided, Speaker Ousted plus an update on USACE crediting, Interior's 5 year plan, and FEMA Funding. Surprise - Credit Needed to Comply with HSDRRS Payback: The Army Corps directly shared with CPRA in August its official interpretation of WRDA 2022, which surprisingly meant that the state owed \$83 million by Sept. 30, or risk triggering the return of hundreds of millions of construction interest from HSDRRS. WRDA 2020 required the state pay back its cost share of approximately \$1.124 billion by September 30, 2023, in order to waive the construction interest. Louisiana intended to receive some credit for other state-constructed coastal master plan projects to count towards the owed balance. Mr. McMillin stated given the delays in the Army Corps approval of Louisiana's crediting application, Congress provided a time extension to 2032 and greater clarification for the eligibility of crediting in WRDA 2022 Section 8386. Louisiana's two payments of \$400 million were seen as good faith measures to address the owed cost share. In fact, Congressional language in Section 8386 reflected the state's payment plan, allowing it to be in compliance as long as it covered 2/3rds of the remaining balance by September 30, 2023. \$800 million would more than cover the 2/3rd requirement. However, USACE Headquarters legal team interpreted WRDA 2022 differently. USACE contended that the "remaining balance" upon which the 2/3 calculation would respond to was the amount after the first \$400 million payment required by statute. So 2/3rds of \$724 million would be approximately \$483 million. So the state's second payment of \$400 million was not enough. Mr. McMillin also pointed out how Governor Edwards and Congressman Graves relationships with OMB Director Shalanda Young and ASACW Michael Connor paid off: Governor Edwards requested a remedy for the time-sensitive situation from both ASACW Michael Connor and White House OMB Director Shalanda Young. Young's influence was very helpful to providing the top-cover for Connor to fast-track consideration of Louisiana's crediting packages. Connor believed it would be bad policy to charge the state interest if credit would be eventually accepted at a later date. Congressman Graves implored the Army Corps to realize they had two available solutions: Re-interpret the language to fit Congressional intent; or accept sufficient credit from the outstanding state request, via WRDA provisions he authored. In response, ASACW Connor delegated authority to Col. Jones to realize the outstanding credit request. Col. Jones signed off on CPRA's \$110 million in credit, covering the USACE-identified deficit that rose to \$100 million just days before the Sept. 30. The state will need to fully secure land rights on one credited project by June 2031, per USACE. USACE indicated that over \$90 million in additional credit could be received upon the acquisition of that property. In regards to the shutdown being avoided, Mr. McMillin briefed that As the end of Fiscal Year 2023 approached, a federal governmental shutdown seemed inevitable. Speaker Kevin McCarthy struggled to advance individual appropriations bills, and his party failed to unify around a Republican-only bill to keep the government open. In a surprising turn of events on the last day of funding, Speaker McCarthy announced that he would support a short-term continuing resolution (known as a CR) that keeps funding steady. The bill also continued programs like NFIP and provided \$16 billion in disaster aid to FEMA. The House of Representatives passed the stop-gap 48-day CR on a bipartisan vote of 335 – 91. While only one Democrat opposed the vote, a sizeable faction of Republicans, 90 members, opposed it. Later that day, the Senate passed the bill on a 88-9 vote. Three hours before shutdown, President Biden signed it.



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Eight Republicans and every House Democrats supported Rep. Matt Gaetz' motion to vacate the Speaker, putting the House of Representatives in an unprecedented situation with no true leader.



Louisiana Impact from Speaker Situation

ader Scalise was very close to becoming the first Speaker of the House from Louisiana. Hiship position and continues to have some support for that role from close allies. If he were would have been in an even better position to advocate for Louisiana polices that benef speaker, he would have been in an even better position to advocate for Louisiana poli coast, such as his BREEZE Act on increased revenue sharing and NFIP reform efforts.



FEMA Announces \$1.8 Billion for FY23

\$800M to Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA): Projects that mitigate flood risks

- For BRIC, states will receive \$112 million, tribes \$50 million, and \$701 million for national hazard mi competition. FEMA is setting aside an additional \$137 million plus up for building code efforts.
- For FMA, \$60 million will go to capacity building, \$520 million for localized flood risk reduction projects, and \$220 million for individual flood mitigation projects.
- Over \$1 billion of this funding is from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which provided \$1 billion to BRIC and \$3.5 billion to FMA.
- Application period is from October 16, 2023 February 29, 2023. States may implement an earlier deadline
- This is a Justice 40 covered program.
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 FEMA will add at least 80 communities for BRIC <u>Direct Technical Assistance</u>. Ironton, LA and St. Joh Parish are among the <u>current 74 jurisdictions</u> selected to be eligible for the 3 years of non-financial in the program of the current 74 jurisdictions selected to be eligible for the 3 years of non-financial in the program of the program of

XI. Marsh Maneuvers - Branson Melancon, Louisiana 4-H Youth Wetlands Program (Former Ambassador)

(video: 02:27:56) Ms. Adrian, V., Director of the Youth Wetlands Program provided a quick foundation and background on a couple of new projects that are in the works for the youth wetlands program. She shared that they are starting a junior WHEP contest, which will target middle schoolers. They are looking at partnerships with both the Alexander and East Baton Rouge zoos, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Joined by Mr. Melancon was Danny Tito, a senior at Hathway High School in Jefferson parish. Ms. Tito stated that this year, she holds a position as a wetland Ambassador through 4H and that she has previously attended Marsh Maneuver's. Mr. Melancon introduced himself as a freshman at LSU in the school of renewable natural resources, and a 2 year Wetland Ambassador alumni. Both shared their personal testimonies with the board regarding being members of the Marsh Maneuvers program and how being a part of impacted each of their lives and has influenced them and others to seek coastal/wetlands degrees.



- XII. **Public Comment**
- XIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Ms. Gautreaux Second by: Mr. Lovell