



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

9:30 AM

St. Peter Street Branch Library- 1111 W Saint Peter Street

New Iberia, LA 70560

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 (Failure to achieve a Quorum)

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	Absent
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Cong. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Absent
Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Absent
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. Welcoming – M. Larry Richard, Parish President, Iberia Parish, LA

IV. Approval of Agenda

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

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Courville
Seconded by: Ms. Cormier
Unanimously Approved

VI. Old Business/Announcements

VII. Implementation Update & 2024 Year End Review – Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video:0:10:39)

Mr. Ledet updated Chairman Dove and the Board on the latest progress of various projects around the coast. CPRA has 109 Active Projects with 43 of them are in construction, 62 in engineering and design, with 4 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed 35 are creating marsh. This update also included a 2024 Year in Review, highlighting CPRA's accomplishments over the past year. A few project



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updates: Little Valley Bayou Water Control Structure (estimated cost: \$6.3M); Rutton Rill Road Flood Protection (estimated cost: \$3.9M); Stumpy Bayou Flood Protection (estimated cost: \$8.4M), all anticipated to complete design and initiate construction Early Spring 2025. Total CPRA Funding: \$24.5M (Includes Round 3 IGA – \$6M). These three water control structures have all been engineered and designed to reduce flood damages in Iberia Parish. All three projects are in final design with anticipated E&D completion on December 31, 2024, pending permit approval.



CPRA Construction Updates

Project Name	Project Type	Parish	Status
St. Charles Parish Crawford Canal / Sunset Pump Station	Hurricane Protection	St. Charles	In Construction (Equipment Mobilized) Parish Began Widening Canal Est. Cost: \$6 Million
Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation	Marsh Creation	Cameron	Construction completed 10/17/2024 Est. Cost: \$10.9 Million
Larose to Golden Meadow System	Hurricane Protection	Lafourche	Construction Started on 11/19/24 Est. Cost: \$5.3 Million
Calcasieu-Sabine Large Scale Marsh And Hydrologic Restoration	Marsh Creation	Cameron	To Be Bid in the Next 6 Months Est. Cost: \$264 Million

CPRA Engineering & Design Updates

Project Name	Project Type	Parish	Status
Little Valley Bayou Water Control Structure	Hurricane Protection	Iberia	Engineering and Design Completed Anticipated Dec. 2024 Est. Cost: \$6.3 Million
Rutton Rill Road Flood Protection	Hurricane Protection	Iberia	Engineering and Design Completed Anticipated Dec. 2024 Est. Cost: \$3.9 Million
Stumpy Bayou Flood Protection	Hurricane Protection	Iberia	Engineering and Design Completed Anticipated Dec. 2024 Est. Cost: \$8.4 Million
Port Fourchon Marsh Creation	Marsh Creation	Lafourche	95% Design was held on 10/07/24



Work is underway to update CPRA's two guiding documents – the Annual Plan and the Master Plan

Annual Plan: CPRA staff is working on the FY26 Annual Plan to provide an update on the state's efforts to protect and restore its coast. The Annual Plan inventories projects, presents implementation schedules for these projects, and identifies funding schedules and budgets. The Board will be presented with a draft of the FY26 Annual Plan at its January meeting. Three public meetings will be held across the coast to receive public comments and input on the plan. These meeting dates are TBD. **2029 Master Plan:** CPRA staff is making good progress on model updates to improve efficiencies and expand public data access. Staff is kicking off advisory groups this month and will begin in-person meetings with advisory groups in 2025. First public solicitation for new project submissions will begin in the summer of 2025; staff will hold community meetings across the coast with information on and discussion of risk projections, project development, and how to submit project ideas at the beginning of the public solicitation period.

VIII. **South Central Louisiana Restoration Efforts– Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video: 0:49:54)**

- **White Lake Restoration Master Plan – Brian Lezina, CPRA & Tommy Tuma, LDWF**

Mr. Lezina and Mr. Tuma updated on the WLWCA. This project is owned and managed by LDWF and is about 72, 000 acres. Mr. Tuma also highlighted a few of the challenges that the project faces such as, Erosion of Impoundment Levees; Unit 2 "Cadeau" Marsh Collapse; 22miles of GIWW Shoreline Unprotected; Levee breaches along Unit 2, GIWW, Florence Canal; Intensive Management of Unit 4 needed for cranes; Oil & Gas Infrastructure creates obstacles to management; Lodge in need of update/repairs. Mr. Lezina indicated that a few goals for revision are: Sustain Wetland Habitat; Manage Wetlands Flora and Fauna and to maintain the leased property when feasible and compatible with water flow management.

- **Marsh Island Restoration – Rudy Simoneaux, CPRA & Tommy Tuma, LDWF (video:1:14:48)**

Mr. Simoneaux and Mr. Tuma updated on the Marsh Island Restoration. This project was originally deeded to the State of Louisiana in 1920; managed by LDWF. This refuge is essential habitat for many species, alligators, and furbearers. Past Restoration Efforts include: Marsh Island Hydrologic Restoration Project (funded, designed, and constructed by CWPPRA (USACE and CPRA); seven canal closures and shoreline protection on NE portion of Marsh Island, Completed in Dec 2001, totaling~\$5M. East Marsh Island Marsh Creation Project (funded , designed and constructed by CWPPRA (EPA, CPRA, NRCS), 362 acres of marsh creation on NE portion of Marsh Island. Mr. Simoneaux also stated that the Current Restoration Plan (see slides). Mr. Tuma stated that the current task include: Review of Existing Data; Reconnaissance Date Collection; Project Plan Development; and the Next Steps are to identify project(s) to advance to full design and pursue construction funding.

Marsh Island Restoration Conceptual Design

Current Tasks Include:

- Review of Existing Data
- Reconnaissance Data Collection:
 - Topographic/Bathymetric Surveys
 - Geotechnical Investigation/Analysis
- Project Plan Development:
 - Coordination with LDWF
 - Conceptual Level Designs
 - Estimated Quantities
 - Probable Construction Costs
- Next Steps:
 - Identify Project(s) to advance to Full Design
 - Pursue construction funding

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Marsh Island Restoration Conceptual Design

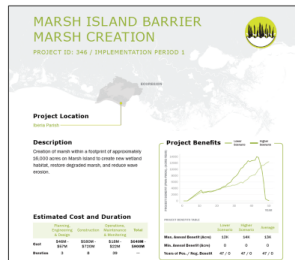


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2023 Coastal Master Plan

- Implementation Period 1
- Create new wetlands on Marsh Island
- Restore degraded marsh
- Reduce shoreline erosion



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Marsh Island Restoration Conceptual Design

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- ix. **South Central Louisiana Structural Flood Protection and Resilience Efforts – Glenn Ledet, Jr., and Brian Lezina, CPRA (video: 01:33:36)** Mr. Ledet and Mr. Lezina provided updated information to the board regarding the South Central Louisiana Flood and Resilience efforts. The primary goal is to develop a comprehensive plan to provide hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and to provide coastal restoration measures to achieve ecosystem sustainability. The 2023 CMP Integrated Approach Live Saving Coastal Program covers over 2 million people live within 50 miles of the Louisiana coast. Mr. Lezina stated that nonstructural, 100% Voluntary (elevation of residential structures to 2075 100-year BFE). This project totals \$1.6B (FY22 price levels). It includes 3,961 total structures (3,462 residential; 342 non-residential and 157 warehouses). Mr. Lezina also provided an update on Shoreline Protection and Resilience highlighting the Vermilion Parish-Construction project.



- x. **State Atchafalaya Master Plan– Brian Lezina, and Paige Green, CPRA (video:01:59:07)** Mr. Lezina and Ms. Green updated the board on the Atchafalaya Master Plan starting with a quick background of the plan.



The Atchafalaya River System (home of the nation's largest river swamp) is managed by USACE to support flood risk management. In recent decades, state and federal interest has expanded to include restoration and navigation. In 2018, the Louisiana Legislature (Act 570) transferred the responsibilities of the Atchafalaya Basin Program from LDNR to CPRA. Ms. Green stated that the goal (aligned with the Coastal Master Plan) is to manage the use of Atchafalaya River system sediment and water to maximize ecosystem functions and support continued human uses. The Atchafalaya Master plan is a multi-year process driven by cutting-edge coastal science and extensive engagement from local interest. Mr. Lezina indicated that Project Solicitation is open online until February 28, 2025 and all project ideas submitted through the project solicitation process will be considered by the plan development team. The individuals who submit a project will receive feedback on how their submitted project is being considered in the planning process.

Atchafalaya MASTER PLAN PROJECT SOLICITATION

The Atchafalaya Master Plan is a multi-year process driven by cutting-edge coastal science and extensive engagement from local interests. The Plan will be the cornerstone to guide future investments for decades to come. The Atchafalaya Master Plan will solicit project ideas and concepts directly from the people of the Atchafalaya Region to include as part of the Atchafalaya Master Plan - community members, landowners, business owners, subject matter experts, academic leaders, and more - throughout the plan development process. Your input will help us gain a clearer understanding of the specific needs and challenges associated with each project, enabling us to make more informed decisions.

PROJECT SOLICITATION:

- Scan the QR code to submit your project ideas.
- Projects must align with one or more of the Atchafalaya Master Plan objectives and fit into one of seven project types.
- Each individual who submits a project will receive feedback on how their submitted project is being considered in the planning process.
- Projects will be accepted until **February 28, 2025**.

PROJECT TYPES

- HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION**
Channel Plug, Channel Plug Removal, Channel Floodplain Exchange, Channel Filling
- FRESHWATER DIVERSION**
- SEDIMENT DIVERSION**
- DREDGING & PLACEMENT OF MATERIAL**
- SEDIMENT TRAPPING**
- SHORELINE PROTECTION**
- RECREATIONAL USE/ACCESS**
Boat Launch, Fishing Pier, Campsite, Trail, Park, Information or Education Center

All submitted projects must align with one or more Atchafalaya Master Plan objectives: Natural Processes, Habitats, Cultural Heritage, and/or Working River System.

- xii. **Federal Update and 2024 Year End Review – Neal McMillin, DENR (video:02:24:33)** Mr. McMillin updated the board on the RISEE Act and other Federal Updates. He stated that on Nov. 9, The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed Senate Bill 373, known as the Reinvesting In Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act of 2023 (RISEE Act), unanimously by voice vote. The bipartisan bill was authored by Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and cosponsored by Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), among others. Mr. McMillin also indicated that estimating the value of RISEE Act to Louisiana the following would occur: LSU Center for Energy Studies- Per forecasts conducting in September 2024, Louisiana would receive an additional \$2.18 billion over ten years from the enactment of the RISEE Act from increased GOMESA revenues. And in regards to Offshore Wind Revenue Estimate- \$16M by formula to Louisiana from Wind; ~\$800K from Gulf of Mexico 1 Lease Sale (split evenly between LA & TX). In his update on the Outcome of Gulf of Maine Lease Sale (Biden-Harris Administration Holds First Offshore Wind Lease Sale in the Gulf of Maine. The leased areas have the potential to power more than 2.3 million homes with clean energy, continuing Administration historic actions to grow the American offshore wind industry. In closing, In closing, Mr. McMillin provided the board with a chart of Relevant Legislation Left for 2024 (see chart below).

Estimating the Value of RISEE Act to Louisiana

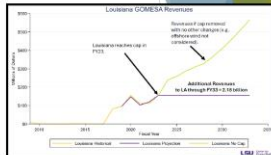
LSU Center for Energy Studies Estimate

- Per forecasts conducting in September 2024, Louisiana would receive an additional \$2.18 billion over two years from the enactment of the RISEE Act from increased GOMESA revenues.

Offshore Wind Generated Revenue Estimate

- \$16M by formula to Louisiana from wind
- \$800K from Gulf of Mexico 1 Lease Sale (split evenly between LA & TX)

Yearly Breakdown of Additional LA GOMESA Funds			
FY24	+ \$81 M	FY29	+ \$211 M
FY25	+ \$101 M	FY30	+ \$253 M
FY26	+ \$131 M	FY31	+ \$301 M
FY27	+ \$153 M	FY32	+ \$354 M
FY28	+ \$172 M	FY33	+ \$407 M



Credit to LSU's Dr. Greg Upton, Hilarious Houscar, and Serag Tappin for their GOMESA analysis.

Relevant Legislation Left for 2024

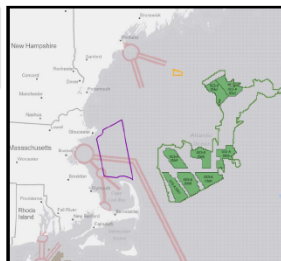
Legislation	Chance of Passing	Commentary	Coastal Connection
National Defense Authorization Act	Very High	Passed yearly for 80+ years	NDAA was vehicle for WRDA 2022, so perhaps WRDA 2024 rides on this.
Continuing Resolution into next Congress	Medium	Preference of House Republicans and likely the President-elect	No earmarks would be included. Extra items could be attached, but difficult to do so.
FY 2025 Appropriations Omnibus	Medium	Preference of Senate Democrats and White House	Includes earmarks. Historically, this large omnibus can carry other bills (RISEE).
2024 Disaster Supplemental	Medium High	Hurricanes Milton and Helene and Key Bridge are drivers	Opportunity for Louisiana coastal funding after Hurricane Francine, though Biden's request did not mention Hurricane Francine.
Manchin-Barraso Permitting Reform	Low	Republicans eyeing broader reform post election	Typical connection to revenue sharing. RISEE could be an added incentive.

Outcome of Gulf of Maine Lease Sale

Biden-Harris Administration Holds First Offshore Wind Lease Sale in the Gulf of Maine

Leased areas have the potential to power more than 2.3 million homes with clean energy, continuing Administration's historic actions to grow the American offshore wind industry

Company	Lease	Acreage	Bid
Avangrid	OCS-564	97,854	\$4,928,250
Avangrid	OCS-568	124,897	\$6,244,850
Invenery	OCS-562	97,854	\$4,892,700
Invenery	OCS-567	117,780	\$5,889,000
Total		438,385	\$21,954,800 (\$16.2M cash)



Developments on Wind Leasing in Gulf of Mexico, Oregon

Gulf of Mexico Offshore Wind Lease Sale 2 back on?

- In July, BOEM canceled this lease sale given the lack of interest.
- One company, **Hecate Energy** put in an **unsolicited proposal** in July for a different area than those BOEM had proposed for sale 2.
- Invenery** sent an **indication of interest** for a similar area in September.
- Given the multiple companies expressing interest, BOEM will likely initiate a competitive lease sale. No timeline is set.

BOEM Postpones Oregon Offshore Wind Auction

- In September, BOEM delayed the first Oregon-area lease sale due to a lack of interest.
- The state is working on an offshore wind roadmap.
- With the floating wind technology required, many fisheries and tribal groups have raised concerns.

Surprise bids revive hope for offshore wind in Gulf of Mexico after feds cancel lease sale

After little interest in a wind lease auction earlier this year, two companies have submitted plans to develop large wind farms in the Gulf.

BY THE WASHINGTON POST
November 12, 2024

BOEM Postpones Planned Offshore Oregon Wind Auction as Opposition Grew



xii. Public Comment

xiii. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois

Seconded by: unanimous.