



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 9:30 AM CST

State Capitol Building

House Committee Room 5

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/2025/Dec/1210_25_CPRA

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	Present
Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Present
Mr. Stephen Segrera, At Large	Absent
Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Absent
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Present

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Pres. Jewell
Second by: Mr. Bourgeois
Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business / Announcements

VI. St. Amant High School Award Winning Future Farmers of America Program (video:00:5:52)– Layla Porter, Sophia Patout, and Mandy Delaune, St. Amant High School and Polly Glover, Restore or Retreat

The St. Amant FFA members presented their National Championship winning presentation. St. Amant FFA Chapter of Louisiana started a “Coastal Restoration Heroes” activity (West Grand Terre Island), which combats Louisiana land loss (10 square miles a year), which threatens Ascension Parish’s economy. Partnering with Restore or Retreat, members engage in conservation efforts by:

- Planting native Spartina grasses



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- Reducing watershed erosion and protecting fisheries and creating hurricane buffers.
- They exceeded many of their goals such as creating partnerships with three restoration groups (exceeded by 2); mobilized at least 10 student champions for field restoration events (exceeded by 4); planted 6,000 native species by March 2025 (exceeded by 2000).

VII. CPRA 2025 Year End Review – Michael Hare, CPRA (video 00:16:39)

Mr. Hare highlighted that CPRA delivered some of the most impactful work in its history, advancing major coastal restoration and protection efforts across Louisiana's coast in 2025. The year included 12 new construction starts totaling \$429 million and the completion of 12 projects valued at \$363 million. He stated that working alongside state, federal, and local partners, CPRA was able to advance projects spanning from marsh creation and environment restoration to parish recreation and storm damage risk reduction. A few of the major milestones:

- The Louisiana Legislature unanimously approved the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's (CPRA) Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Plan, advancing a record \$1.98 billion investment in coastal restoration and protection—the largest single-year investment in the program's history. The plan received unanimous support in both the House and Senate, reflecting strong bipartisan commitment to protecting and restoring Louisiana's coast.
- On July 11, Governor Landry announced Michael Hare as the new Executive Director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). Hare brings more than 20 years of experience in public policy and environmental advocacy.
- CPRA staff attended over 100 outreach events, including public meetings, volunteer planting events, community conversations, presentations, and much more across the coast to interact with stakeholders and community members.
- In September, CPRA received two grants from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council): \$60 million to support construction of the River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp Project and \$122 million to begin construction of the Calcasieu-Sabine Large-Scale Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration Project.
- At the March board meeting, CPRA announced six recipients of a combined \$6 million in 2025 Parish Matching Program awards. The Program is a funding opportunity that partners directly with Parish governments to support critical restoration efforts.

Completed Projects:

- Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project
- Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvement Project
- LaBranche Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation
- Gand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Protection
- 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.

VIII. CPRA FY 2027 Draft Annual Plan and Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan – Michael Hare, Brian Lezina and Joe Wyble, CPRA (video 01:22:31)

- CPRA's Annual Plan presents projected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming three fiscal years through anticipated project activity and implementation schedules and highlights progress on protection and restoration efforts to date.
- The Draft plan is outlining a \$1.27 billion investment in the future of Louisiana's coast, with 130 active projects working to protect and restore our communities and ecosystems.
- The public comment period is now open through February 17, 2026 and 4 public meetings coming up.
- The Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan resides within the overall annual planning process of CPRA. This process allows for extensive public review and input as well as oversight from the CPRA Board and the State Legislature.



IX. Federal Update and 2025 Year End Review – Neal McMillin, DOTD (video: 01:46:57)

Mr. McMillin recapped Federal Milestones, Challenges and Opportunities Ahead. A few milestones for the 2025 year were that Pres. Trump signed the One Big Beautiful bill on July 4th; Reconciliation bill included an increased GOMESA cap of 30% for FY25-FY34 (Louisiana’s yearly GOMESA share could increase by ~\$45 million to ~\$200 million. Mr. McMillin stated that increased funds should be received starting in the spring of 2026.

X. Presentation of the 2025 R. King Milling Distinguished Coastal Service Award – Michael Hare, CPRA (video:2:08:38)

The Board presented the R. King Milling Distinguished Coastal Service Award to Mrs. Janice Lansing. Mrs. Lansing has served as the agency’s Chief Financial Officer from 2010 through 2025. She received the award in recognition of her sustained contributions to Louisiana’s coastal program, her leadership in elevating statewide understanding of the coastal crisis, and her commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds.



XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

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