



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



**Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2023**  
**State Capitol Building HCR 1**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**  
**9:30AM**

*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 Kline, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities	Present
Keith Lovell, DNR	Present
Billy Williamson, DOTD	Present
Patrick Banks, LDWF	Present
Sec. Brown, DEQ	Present
Pat Witty, LED	Present
Caitlin Joubert, LDAF	Present
Barbara Goodson, DOA	Present
Billy Broussard, LDI	Present
Christina Dayries, GOHSEP	Present
Karen Gautreaux, Gov’s Advisory Comm-Chair	Present
Scott Burke, Barataria Basin	Present
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Bill Bubriq, Plaq Parish Coastal Zone/ Mississippi Delta Basin	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Absent
Stephen Sagrera, Teche/Vermillion Parish	Present
Michael Ince, Designee for the Lieutenant Governor	Present
John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Present
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Present

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Mr. Bourgeois  
Second by Ms. Gautreaux  
Unanimously Approved

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Hidalgo  
Second by Mr. Lovell  
Unanimously Approved

**V. Old Business/Announcements**



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- VI. CPRA Implementation Update— Bren Haase, CPRA (video: 0:06:00)** Mr. Haase presented to the board that there are 100 active projects. 39 of them are in construction, 58 are in E&D, with 3 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 26 are hurricane protection projects and 41 are creating marsh. Mr. Haase updated the board on the following projects: Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline (St. Bernard Parish): 11 miles of artificial reef, \$66.6M for construction, O&M, Monitoring, funded by NRDA with an estimated completion early 2023; River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp (Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes); and the New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation (Orleans Parish) 284 acres brackish marsh creation and nourishment, \$24.5m total project cost, funded by CWPPRA with an estimated completion Spring 2023. In closing, Mr. Haase made a couple of announcements stating that in a recent Safety Audit, CPRA received a 100% safety rating, Coastal Day is scheduled for April 24th, and the Draft 2023 Coastal Master Plan is available and public comments are being accepted until March 25, 2023.
- VII. Federal and Congressional Update— Neal McMillin, Governor’s Office (video:0:37:33)** Mr. McMillin presented to the board on the Louisiana Senate & House Delegations key committees and subcommittees (for coastal issues), noting that both Sen. Cassidy and Sen. Kennedy are both ranking members of key committees that could potentially help the state. Mr. McMillin also updated the members on the rebranding of the GOMESA Revenue Sharing Coalition to better represent the wide range of stakeholders and constituents interested in revenue sharing. Hence the SHORES Coalition! SHORES stands for Sharing Offshore Revenues from Energy Sources. The goal of the coalition is to build upon the former GRSC to strengthen, expand, and diversify the voices pushing for greater revenue sharing from offshore energy production with coastal states. The upcoming SHORES Coalition DC Fly-In is from March 21-22 for those interested. Mr. McMillin also updated on the Timing of IJA & IRA Opportunities for 2023, and WRDA 2022 Public Comment Period (closes on March 21<sup>st</sup>). In closing, Mr. McMillin provided information on the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program’s CCMP- New Deadline, which has been extended to March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- VIII. Calcasieu-Sabine Large Scale Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration Project Update – Katie Freer, CPRA (video: 0:54:25)** Ms. Freer’s update to the members covered the Cameron Creole Land Loss Challenge (Project Goal: Reduce land loss in the Calcasieu Sabine Basin). Katie stated that Cameron Creole Watershed Management Plan Operate 5 gates to: Maintain salinity below targets at isohalines Maintain water levels between 2” above and 6” below marsh elevation. The project goal is to reduce land loss in the Calcasieu Sabine Basin. The funding source is from RESTORE Act Direct Component (Bucket 1), Full \$260.97M Bucket 1 allocation for Louisiana dedicated to this project. Noting this project replaces the discontinued Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures Project. Ms. Freer stated the project features are the Lake Rim Drainage; Conveyance, and Marsh Creation and the project benefits are Water Level reductions in the marsh (Average 1.9 inches and Peak reduction of 17in after a high-water event) and Increased total marsh area not under flood stress 6,300 (2020)-9,100 (2018) acres 50% of the time.
- IX. Updates on Southwest Coastal and Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration— Brian Lezina, CPRA and Darrell Broussard, USACE (video: 01:17:01)** Mr. Broussard presented to the the board updates on MRGO and SW Coastal.



Water Resources Development Act of 2022

SEC. 8341. MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET, LOUISIANA. The Federal share of the cost of the project for ecosystem restoration, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, Louisiana, authorized by section 7013(a)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1281), shall be **100 percent.**

*10 Years*

Chief's Report signed September 28, 2012 Recommended

**Tier 1 features at a cost of \$1.3Billion (no further analysis under sec 7013(a)(4))**

Tier 2 features at a cost of \$325Million (further analysis necessary)

Tier 3 features at a cost of \$275Million (further analysis of violet diversion under sec 3083 authority)

Also Recommended no further action w/o a cost share partner!

**Awaiting formal Implementation Guidance to WRDA 2022.**

1<sup>st</sup> task – Request a formal Letter of Intent

2<sup>nd</sup> task - Identify constructed tier 1 features and prioritize implementation of remaining features w/CPRAB

In his overview of SW Coastal, Mr. Broussard stated that the project consists of two major authorities which are the Coastal Storm Risk Management (NED) and the Environmental restoration (NER). It includes three parishes (Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermillion) and it was approved by Congress in 2016. Fully funded project cost in current dollars estimated to be \$6.8B (\$1.3B for Coastal Storm Risk Management & \$5.5B for Environmental restoration).

- **Total Federal Funds Allocated \$306 Million**
  - *We are estimating raising 800 – 1,000 structures*
  - *Design and Construct 6 miles of shoreline protection @ Rockefeller Refuge, and/or*
  - *Next increment of restoration Plan*
  - **State of Louisiana will need to match 35% funding estimated at \$164 Million**
  - Implementation Guidance
    - Execution is 3-5 years IJA funds
    - Execution is 1 year for Community Projects
  - **Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) Execution**
  - Mississippi Valley Division has been delegated Authority to approve the PPA
  - Corps and CPRAB are converging on an acceptable draft of the PPA
  - **Anticipate signing May 2023**

- X. **Climate Initiatives Task Force Annual Report – Olivia Ledet, Governor's Office (video: 0:1:56:42)** Ms. Ledet briefed the board members on the Louisiana Climate Action Plan Annual Report, the report consist of 8 portfolio sections, 84 specific actions and, 28 Carbon Reduction Strategies. Ms. Ledet stated that the CTF voted to send the final report to the Governor on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The report covers:
- Climate Related Infrastructure Investments (Upcoming Fed Funding available through IJA & IRA)
  - Clean Energy Transition (Louisiana is laying the foundation for a clean, renewable, and resilient power grid).



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- Industrial Decarbonization (Louisiana’s industries are investing over \$21B in decarbonization)
- Actively Managed Methane Emissions (Louisiana is leveraging significant federal investment to remediate orphaned wells).
- Trans, Development, and the Built Environment (Buildout the state’s EV charging network is underway and Louisiana is establishing a framework for statewide planning).
- Natural Working Lands and Wetlands (Louisiana is investing in the conservation of its natural lands).
- An Inclusive Low Carbon Economy (Clean Energy buildout and industrial decarbonization projects are major sources of new jobs in Louisiana).
- Collaboration & Partnership to Ensure Successful Implementation (Louisiana is active partner of the Biden administration in jump-starting the nationwide energy transition.
- Accountability & Adaptability to Ensure Lasting Success (Louisiana is committed to climate action; metrics will lead in tracking and accountability of climate action)

## **XI. Public Comment**

## **XII. Adjourn**

Motion by Mr. Lane  
Second by Board  
Unanimously Approved