



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 9:30 AM CST

St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers

21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA 70741

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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV1cxVqhbjk>

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Sec. Dustin Davidson, DENR	Present
Sec. Bosworth, LDWF	Absent
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Mr. Brandon Burris for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Present
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Mr. Clay Ledet for 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
Mr. Stephen Sagrera, At Large	Present
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	Absent

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business / Announcements

VI. CPRA Implementation Update – Michael Hare, CPRA (video 00:07:46)

Mr. Hare updated the board on the active projects' scoreboard. He stated that there are 106 active projects (32 Projects in Construction, 71 Projects in Engineering and Design; and 3 projects are in the planning phase. He also highlighted a few updates from last month's projects overview

- Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation Increment 2: CPRA estimates advertising for construction bids in early 2026.
 - 01/22/2026, the CWPPRA Task Force approved Phased II funding.
- Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West), River Aux Chenes to Grand Isle (BS-0038) (Lafourche)– Dredging began on 12/29/25



- NRDA Raccoon Island Barrier Island Restoration Project (TE-0163) (Terrebonne) - A preferred alternative was selected in December 2025. Royal Engineering was tasked with writing the BE form and drafting RP8.1.
- West Belle Repair (TE-0176) (Lafourche) - FEMA funding for E&D phase activities expired on 12/27/2025, and all work has paused until we have approval from FEMA.

Project Updates:

Tchefuncte River Ridge Restoration- Lower Tchefuncte Breakwater Component

- As part of a larger effort along the Tchefuncte River, CPRA will contribute up to \$4 M of GOMESA funds towards construction of 2,315 LF of breakwater under the Tchefuncte River Ridge Restoration - Lower Tchefuncte Breakwater Component.
- This will be Phase II of an effort that St. Tammany Parish has already started. Phase I of the breakwater, which will construct approximately 1,347 LF, is being led by the Parish and is already under contract, awaiting the start of construction.
- CPRA will provide funds for Phase II through an IGA once St. Tammany provides a final construction cost estimate and scope of work.

Louisiana and Open Ocean Trustees Approve Final Restoration Plan for Chandeleur Islands

- The Louisiana and Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Groups have approved the final restoration plan (Alternative 5) for the Chandeleur Islands
- The plan rebuilds dunes, beaches, marshes using dredged sediment. Restores 2,400+ acres for birds, sea turtles, fisheries; strengthens storm protection
- Funding: ~\$362M total; \$237M from Deepwater Horizon settlement

Terrebonne HNC Island Restoration Project Completed (Terrebonne Parish)

- HNC Bird Island Restoration- Completed January 2026
- Major nesting area for Brown Pelicans & other colonial waterbirds
- Funding \$31.7M from Deepwater Horizon & Citgo NRDA Settlements
- Expands critical nesting grounds, strengthens coastal defenses, and provides long-term habitat and ecosystem benefits.

West Belle Headland Repair Project Received \$75.7 million FEMA Grant

- Project aims to Restore West Belle Headland through beach, dune and intertidal marsh creation.
- Repair damage from Hurricane Zeta (Oct 2020).
- Funded through FEMA Public Assistance Program.
- Prevent breaching, protect wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species.
- Total Project Cost: \$91M

St. Tammany Area Matching Projects Update

• Mandeville Lakefront Wetlands Project

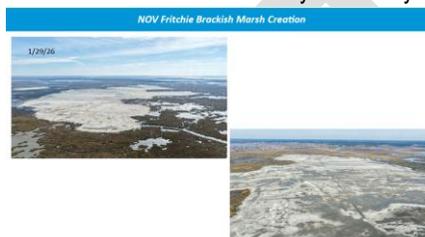
- Build a shoreline rock berm, marsh platform, diversion channel, and water control structure to protect the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and manage urban stormwater. Between Sunset Point Park and Lakeshore Drive, St. Tammany Parish.
- Total estimated cost \$3.38M; CPRA contribution \$1M from GOMESA funds, remainder covered by Parish.

Mr. Hare highlighted a few of CPRA's achievements in the News: CPRA's Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) was featured on the front page of the New Orleans Times-Picayune this past Sunday. Mr. Hare stated, "This coverage highlights CRMS as a world-unique research network of 390 monitoring sites that track marsh health, elevation, water levels, salinity, and vegetation across coastal Louisiana." He also updated things on the federal funding side, USACE Earmarks requested by CPRA (St. Tammany area): \$3.25M investigation funds that were secured for St. Tammany Parish Flood Risk Management, thanks to Cong. Scalise, Senators Kennedy and Cassidy. Another \$7M investigation on the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration (Cassidy/Kennedy). \$500K Investigation: Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge Reduction - initial study. (Scalise/Cassidy/Kennedy). Earmarks for CPRA via NOAA: \$1.9125M NOAA-funded earmark for a suite of projects in SWLA (Higgins). In closing, Mr. Hare gave a shout out to the Outreach & Engineering Teams at CPRA for hosting a Engineers Day at the Center for River Studies and gave a few quick updates: Cookoff for the Coast (2/28), Women in Stem (3/7), Coastal Day at the Capitol and Coastal Connect Matchmaking & Networking Expo (3/30).



VII. Status of HSDRRS and NOV Mitigation Projects in St. Tammany Parish – John Troutman and Melissa Hymel, CPRA (video 00:36:12)

- Ms. Hymel provided the board with a brief overview of the LPV/WBV/NOV Mitigation. She stated that there has been a number of mitigation projects that have been constructed by the Corps to mitigate for wetland damages incurred during construction of the HSDRRS and NOV levee systems. So, per WRDA 2007 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, compensatory ‘in kind’ mitigation is required. Which means they had to replace the lost habitat functions that were impacted with the same habitat type (marsh, bottomland hardwood forest (BLH), swamp). Ms. Hymel emphasized that mitigation acres do not equal mitigation acres that were constructed/impacted acres and that they took a tiered approach for selection projects, mitigation bank purchase was limited by availability in required watershed, required habitat, and cost. She also stated that CPRA’s role as non-federal sponsors are required to ensure that all the success criteria for these projects are achieved following turnover. In regard to topography (topography success criterion), the Corps did an elevation survey in 2020 and it did show that there was significant elevation variations across the site. 2021 elevation survey showed higher elevations than anticipated by the settlement curve. Ms. Hymel closed her presentation showing photos that were taken at the end of construction, stating that they worked hard to get the elevation down to meet the tolerance and they eventually did accomplish that.



VIII. Post-construction Monitoring of Marsh Creation Projects in St. Tammany Parish– Bryan Gossman, CPRA (video: 01:05:55)

Mr. Gossman shared results of ongoing monitoring of marsh creation projects focusing on two projects in particular (Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33) and Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation (PO-104)). The projects are located on the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain, largely within the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. He stated that both projects are CWPPRA projects and are monitored for 20 years post construction and have a state/federal cost share (each project has a federal sponsor). Mr. Gossman indicated that CPRA develops a monitoring plan for each project that’s going to answer specific questions about it and then evaluate its performance. He stated, with typical marsh creation projects, they’re built by creating marsh using dredge material that’s pumped into containment up to a specific elevation. On Goose Point, it’s on the big branch wildlife refuge, there’s 417 acres of marsh creation areas spread across five areas with 195 acres of marsh nourishment. This project was created with 3.1M cubic yards of dredge material from Lake Pontchartrain and built to target elevation of +2.5ft with the expectation that it would settle around 1ft at year three. Construction was complete in 2009 and monitor through 2029. A few of the monitoring elements used to evaluate the project were land water analysis, surveys, and as built surveys. Moving on to the next project (Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation), this project was affected heavily by Hurricane Katrina and a massive amount of marsh was lost. PO-104, is 620 acres of marsh creation spread across four marsh creation areas (a good bit more marsh than PO-33). Mr. Gossman stated that his project incorporates four pond features (4 acres each) in project design, with 3.5M dredged from Lake Pontchartrain with a targeted elevation of +2.7 ft NAVD88. The construction was complete in Dec 2017 and monitor through 2037. Closing out the presentation, Mr. Gossman indicated that a combined impact of the two projects is about 887 acres of marsh creation within the marsh creation areas with a total acreage nourished at 1722 acres resulting in 251+ of new land. It’s mostly about sustaining the marsh that was already there by adding layers of sediment to the top and increasing the elevation there. As a result, Mr. Gossman stated they expect these projects to outlast their 20-year design, and that CPRA’s monitoring efforts will continue for PO33 through 2029 and for PO104 through 2037.

IX. Update on Coastal Restoration Projects in St. Tammany Parish– Randy Pausina, St. Tammany Parish Government (video:01:33:22)

Mr. Pausina addressed the board and updated on Coastal Restoration projects in the St. Tammany Parish area. He noted that when Pres. Cooper took office in 2020, they took their parish GOMESA monies and bonded it to the order of \$22M and put forth a list of projects coastwide (but mostly staying in the coastal area). He highlighted a few of the projects: Tchefuncte Habitat Restoration (Cost \$3.6M; Parish/GOMESA: \$2.6M and CPRA: \$1M, with Phase 1 complete and Phase 2 in final design); Lower Tchefuncte Breakwater



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Restoration: (Cost \$6.2M; Parish/GOMESA: \$3.24M and CPRA \$3M (FY27), with Phase 1 by Summer 2026 and Phase 2: 2,000ft in FY 27); Tchefuncte West Bank Marsh Restoration: (Cost \$240k (Parish/GOMESA), design only 95%; proposal to rebuild land to the east & west sides of the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse). He also stated that the parish had a little money left over at the end of the FY and were able to dredge the mouth of the Tchefuncte River and use that material towards some of their other projects. Mr. Pausina also informed the board that the parish has Materials of Opportunity, in which they will launch as soon as the Restore Act money (\$7M) becomes available.

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
Seconded by: Unanimous

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