



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 9:30 AM CST

Lasalle Building (1st Floor, Labelle Room)

Baton Rouge, LA 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vPoON6QM4>

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Sec. Dustin Davidson, DENR	Present
Sec. Bosworth, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Mr. Vickii Melius for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Present
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	Absent
Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Absent
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 Sagrera, At Large	Absent
Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Present
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Absent

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Pres. Jewell
Second by: Pres. Hinkley
Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business / Announcements (Mr. Hidalgo reminded the board/CPRA about the 70/30 split)

Commendation presented to Major General Peeples on behalf of the Governor and the CPRA Board (video: 0:3:42)

VI. Review of USACE Work in the Mississippi Valley Division – Major General Kimberly Peeples, USACE (video 00:09:09)

MG Peeples thanked the board and the Governor for the recognition and expressed what a surprise it was. In her review, she stated that we've (USACE/State) been through a lot together in the three years (storms, flood fights, low water, hard decisions and moments where the stakes were real and the consequences even more so). The MG emphasized that this isn't just a federal mission, this is shared between federal, state, local and industry. She referenced what sticks with her the most was looking into the eyes and hearing the coastal communities' voices after a hurricane or during a flood fight and how resilient the people are. She expressed that she fully understands why this work matters and why water and land management and stewardship matters. Closing, the MG noted that the USACE is changing the way they do discipline. They are building faster, cutting unnecessary friction, and prioritizing what matters most.



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VII. CPRA FY 2027 Final Annual Plan and Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan – Michael Hare and Brian Lezina, CPRA (video 0:21:45)

Mr. Hare presented the board with the Final Annual Plan for FY 2027. 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 plan is outlining a \$1.54 billion investment in the future of Louisiana's coast, with 143 active projects working to protect and restore our communities and ecosystems. Mr. Hare pinpointed that \$1.21 billion is allocated for construction; 18 dredging projects slated for construction totaling 52.6 million cubic yards of sediment to create or nourish more than 11,733 acres. 93% of the expenditures support project implementation supporting 10,806 direct jobs with \$636 million in labor income. The **Southwest Region** will have 22 active projects: 13 in construction, 9 in Engineering and Design; **South Central Region**: 45 active projects, 21 in construction, 22 in E&D, 2 in planning; **Southeast Region**: 76 active projects, 36 in construction, 34 in E&D, 6 in planning. Mr. Lezina provided a brief update on the Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan. He highlighted The FY27 projects: **Water Quality/Water Management**- Grimmer Canal Improvements; Dredging in Big Bayou Pigeon; Point Coupee Water Flow Improvements; Murphy Lake Depth Restoration; East Grand Lake Upper Region. Recreation/Access, Other- Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvements; Sandy Cover Boat Launch; Cajun Coast Welcome Center Trail; and the Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan.

1. Board Discussion (0:35:34)

2. Public Comment (no public comments submitted) (0:38:17- 0:38:21)

3. Board Action to Approve Annual Plan Resolution (0:38:28)

(Motion to adopt the AP Resolution made by Pres. Matthew Jewell, and 2nd by Mr. Tony Alford... Unanimous Approval by board)

Chairman Dove-Present	Sec. Davidson-Present	Sec. Bosworth-Present
Mr. Jerry Lang-Present	Ms. Vicki Melius-Present	Mr. Alford-Present
Pres. Jewell-Present	Mr. Cao-Present	Mr. Jordan-Present
Mr. Bourgeois-Absent	Mr. Hidalgo-Present	Mr. Courville-Absent
Mr. Lane-Present	Mr. Richard-Present	Mr. Sagrera-Absent
Mr. Romero-Present	Pres. Hinkley-Present	Rep. Zeringue-Present
Sen. Hensgens-Absent		

VIII. FY 2026 Parish Matching Awards – Joseph Johnston, CPRA (video: 44:09)

Mr. Johnston provided a brief overview the board on the FY26 Parish Matching awards, noting this program is distinct from the restore matching program that CPRA had in years past. He referenced the purpose of this program is to support projects that are in alignment with the goals of CPRA's Coastal Master Plan and to facilitate collaboration with the coastal parishes. This is done by directly supporting parish-led projects and leveraging funding sources such as federal, local and private funds. For FY26, the amount that will be reimbursed through GOMESA is \$6 million. Mr. Johnston stated that CPRA has contributed \$13 million toward parish matching projects and the partnering parishes collectively contributed about \$35.6 million. In the past 2 years, CPRA has supported a total of 13 projects across several project types (shoreline protection and terracing have been the most common, followed by hydrologic restoration projects and integrated projects). Two examples of recent successes from FY25 would be Highway 1 Terracing project in Lafourche Parish where approximately 19,600 linear feet of terraces are currently being constructed. The second example is the Mandeville Lakefront Project in St. Tammany Parish. This is an integrated project that includes several features. The project includes shoreline protection, a water control structure to improve stormwater drainage, canal deepening, and the beneficial use of that dredged material to create a marsh platform in front of cypress swamp. Closing, Mr. Johnston expound on FY26 Funding Decisions, CPRA received proposals from 9 parishes for a total of 11 projects, with total funding request exceeding \$19M. With \$6 million available this year, CPRA selected projects from six parishes to partner with through the Parish Matching Program. The following are the project selections that have been awarded Parish Matching funds in 2026:

- Ascension: Bayou Terrace Hydrologic Connectivity Project – replacement of culverts improving hydrologic flow across ~ 4,000 acres of forested wetlands.
- Jefferson: Upper Barataria Terracing Project – planting of ~ 45,000 linear feet of terraces to improve stability of BA-207 terraces.



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- Lafourche: Golden Meadow Marsh Creation Phase II – construction of ~65 acres of marsh adjacent to the Hurricane Protection System.
- St. Bernard: Lake Lery Phase II – construction of ~40 acres of marsh creation for the completion of BS-0034.
- St. Charles: Des Allemands Bulkhead Phase II – construction of ~ 710 linear feet of flood protection for the community within the Sunset watershed area on the west bank of St. Charles Parish.
- Terrebonne: Native Plantings to Increase Terrace Field Stability – planting of ~ 24,000 linear feet of terraces to improve stability.

IX. Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DOTD (video: 49:13)

Mr. McMillin provided the board with an impactful update regarding federal issues, starting with updates from BOEM and the Dept. of Homeland Security. He stated that on Feb 23rd, ASA Adam Telle announced the Building Infrastructure Note Paperwork (BINP) plan. This plan will consist of 27 initiatives grouped into five categories (**maximizing the ability to deliver national infrastructure**: maximizing project labor agreements; **cutting red tape**: leveraging technology in permitting; **focusing on efficiency**: consistency in communication of President's budget; **transparency & accountability**: District Salary transparency-consequences for project cost overruns; and **prioritization**: Early Federal Interest Determination). There have been 12 BINP implementation memos released thus far. Mr. McMillin discussed how this could benefit coastal or create some challenges. He indicated that there is a focus on project labor agreements that's supported by the administration but beneficially, it has created more exceptions and could be adaptable for Louisiana. Mr. McMillin referenced that USACE pauses nonstructural feasibility studies to incorporate lessons learned from pilot programs. However, he stated that Sec. Telle testified that generally, nonstructural is not "in keeping with the Corps" long tradition to building infrastructure that protects entire communities and suggested that USACE may not be the proper entity for these initiatives at scale. Telle also testified that SW Coastal LA has not been slowed down as it is one of the four USACE nonstructural pilot projects. Mr. McMillin highlighted that Sen. White (Ranking Member of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee), is prioritizing nonstructural flood risk management policy reform in this year's WRDA and has his staff circulating the ELEVATE Act to respond to Sec. Telle's pause on finalizing feasibility studies for large-scale nonstructural projects. These changes would apply to previously authorized projects without needing a general re-evaluation report. Regarding the Coastal Trust Fund Act, which would dedicate \$1 billion a year from federal offshore energy receipts to the "Coastal Storm Risk Management Trust Fund". These funds would be available for federal share of USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects with a few eligible CPRA projects being (Grand Isle, Lafitte, LPV, SELA, SW Coastal, WBV...). In closing out his presentation, Mr. McMillin referenced BOEM's Recent Gulf of America Lease Sales, stating that on Dec 10, 2025, BOEM held the first lease sale in the Gulf of America since 2023. The sale generated \$300, 425, 222 in high bids with 30 companies submitting 219 bids across the 181 blocks. This was the 1st lease sale required in the Gulf of America by the One Big Beautiful bill. The 2nd of 30 Gulf lease sales required by the Big Beautiful Bill was on March 11th generating \$46,976,423.

- X. **Coastal Day – Greg Grandy, CPRA (video:01:07:23)** Mr. Grandy updated the board on what he considers to be the most wonderful day of the year, Coastal Day. He announced that March 30th is Coastal Day at the Capitol and provided the day briefly with the complete schedule of events. From 8am-11am, Coastal Connects, which is a matchmaking and business networking event at the LSU CRS. From 1pm-2pm, there's a briefing in the Governor's Press Room at the Capitol. Following the press room briefing, he stated there will be an outreach to legislators in Memorial Hall and from 2:30pm-4:00pm at the Galvez building (Oliver Pollock Room) there's an open house on the DWH oil spill and 3:00pm-5:00pm (Lasalle Bldg-Labelle Rm), CPRA will provide an update on their coastal construction project forecast. Following those events of the day, everything will move over to the Pentagon Barracks with the crawfish boil/reception, sponsored by Coast Builders Coalition and the Coalition to Restore. He closed with a notice that on March 31st, at 2:00pm there's a virtual opportunity for businesses to get an idea of what levee district, parishes, NGO's and others are working on in the coastal world.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Tony Alford
Seconded by: Unanimous 2nd