



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

9:30 AM

State Capitol-900 N. Third Street- House Committee Room 1

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.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Mr. Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Mr. Cole Garrett for Acting Sec. Tyler Bosworth LDWF	Present
Mr. Kevin Borne for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Cong. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	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	Absent

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business/Announcements

VI. Implementation Update – Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video:0:02:42)

Mr. Ledet updated the Board on the latest progress of various projects around the coast. CPRA has 108 active projects with 39 are in construction, 65 in engineering and design, with 4 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed 16 are hurricane protection projects and 8 are creating marsh. Mr. Ledet updated on changes from last month:

- New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation – Completed
- Port Fourchon Shoreline Protection – Headed to Construction (Bid)
- Montz Pump Station – Headed to Construction (Bid)
- Morganza To The Gulf Reach H3/H2 – Headed to Construction (Bid)
- West Belle Repair – On Hold

Mr. Ledet also provided updates on a few Restoration projects: **Restoration Update – Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration:** Mr. Ledet stated that this is a Earthen containment dike, and construction is ongoing and they expect to start hydraulic dredging in June later this year. The estimated Construction cost \$56 million (CWPRRA, Surplus & Mitigation dollars). This project involves the creation or nourishment of approximately 332 acres of marsh along Grand Bayou in Plaquemines Parish using sediment from the Mississippi River. The anticipated closeout date for the current phase- December 2025. **Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex:** As of 2-15-23, Phase 1 of the project was declared substantially complete. All major items of work are complete with approximately 143 acres of brackish marsh habitat created within four marsh creation areas utilizing the hydraulically dredged material from the project. All proposed utilities have been installed and the future operations area which was pre-loaded as a part of this project is complete. Phase 2 of the project broke ground on August 7, 2024. Mr. Ledet stated that once completed, the HNC Lock Complex will span 110 feet across and 800 feet in length with sector gates on either side, directly adjacent to the existing 250-foot-wide Bubba Dove barge floodgate. The HNC Lock Complex will also close one of the few remaining gaps of the Morganza to the Gulf hurricane protection system, which uses a variety of features such as levees, floodgates, and locks to protect approximately 200,000 residents and nearly 2,000 square miles of land in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish from potentially deadly storm surge. **Morganza to the Gulf:** Mr. Ledet announced that earlier this month, CPRA and TLCD toured construction progress on Reach A of the Morganza to the Gulf system with USACE's Col. Jones. The Morganza to the Gulf project is a hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project that will create a 98- mile system consisting of earthen levees, floodgates, environmental water control structures, road/railroad gates and fronting protection for existing pump stations. Mr. Ledet said, to date, over 80 miles of levees have been constructed as part of the MTTG system. He also pointed out that no levee segments have been constructed in the area of Reach A, leaving the city of Houma and surrounding communities vulnerable to flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise. USACE has now constructed to a +4 foot elevation to station 3571+50 and TLCD has constructed lower Reach I to elevation 14 feet. (Target is 15 feet), Bids were opened this week on the Reach L floodwall. Once this contract is completed, we will have a continuous system of levees from Reach A and tying into the Larose to Golden Meadow System. CPRA and TLCD are continuing to raise levees to 15 feet in Terrebonne, with bids opening on Reach H3/H2 on March 25th. In closing, Mr. Ledet announced additional CPRA/Coastal Updates (see slides).

FY 2026 DRAFT
ANNUAL PLAN
PUBLIC
COMMENTS




EMAIL
Public comments will be accepted via email to:
coastal@la.gov

ONLINE
Comment portal available online at aP26.COASTAL.LA.GOV


MAIL
Written comments will be accepted via mail to:
Annual Plan Comment
150 Terrace Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CPRA must receive all comments by March 22, 2025



Governor's Advisory Commission
on Coastal Protection, Restoration & Conservation

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
The Water Institute
1110 River Road S. Baton Rouge, LA 70802





VII. Update on Restoration of Raccoon Island – Patrick Williams, NOAA (video:0:37:00)

Mr. Williams provided a status update on Raccoon Island Engineering Design Project. He stated that NOAA has been instrumental in managing restoration projects across Louisiana due to its coastal areas extensive impacts by environmental challenges. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group, finalized the restoration plan environmental assessment. Raccoon Island was funded in 2022 which allowed NOAA to initiate the E&D phase for the project. The Island project represents a significant step towards healing the environmental wounds inflicted by past disasters, with ongoing monitoring and community engagement expected as the project progresses. Mr. Williams presented a brief status update and indicated that the Raccoon Island, engineering design restoration project, came about as a direct result of injuries caused to natural resources from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group, finalized the restoration plan environmental assessment. Raccoon Island was funded in 2022 which allowed NOAA to initiate the E&D phase for the project. The Island project represents a significant step towards healing the environmental wounds inflicted by past disasters, with ongoing monitoring and community engagement expected as the project progresses. The project team includes various federal and state agencies, with a focus on ecological restoration and habitat conservation for wildlife. Mr. Williams highlighted that Raccoon Island is experiencing significant ecological challenges, including erosion and sediment transport issues, necessitating restoration efforts. Two primary sand borrow locations have been identified for restoration efforts, with considerations for environmental impact and sediment management. The project is evaluating multiple restoration alternatives, each incorporating sand fill and maintenance of existing structures to address erosion and habitat loss. The restoration strategies aim to maintain and enhance the ecological functions of Raccoon Island, with a focus on long-term sustainability and habitat protection. The restoration plan includes various alternatives with cost implications, particularly involving ship shoals and Bayside Living Shoreline. He also stated costs for restoration alternatives vary, with significant increases noted when including specific features like ship shoals and Bayside Living Shoreline. All restoration alternatives ensure the island remains intact and show an increase in acreage by year 20 compared to the current baseline. In closing, Mr. Williams indicated that The project is currently in the 30% design phase, with evaluations of various alternatives for restoration. The design includes adaptations to tidal creeks to improve hydrology and habitat creation. The team is finalizing data acquisition for the 30% design and expects to complete the design report soon, despite weather delays. The timeline for the project includes a projected completion of 60%

design in 2025 and a construction funding request in early 2026. In closing, Mr. Williams said discussions are ongoing regarding sediment migration and the effectiveness of breakwaters in retaining sand and stabilizing the island.

VIII. 2025 Parish Matching Awards– Brandon Champagne, CPRA and Joe Johnston, CPRA (video:1:13:19)

Mr. Champagne & Mr. Johnston announced five 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.

The following are the project selections that have been awarded Parish Matching grants in 2025:

- **Terrebonne:** Racourci Bay Terraces Phase II – construction of ~18,000 linear feet of earthen terraces to reduce wave energy and increase area of emergent habitat
- **Lafourche:** Hwy 1 Terracing Extension – construction of ~20,000 linear feet of earthen terraces to reduce wave energy and add protection to LA1 and nearby levees
- **St. Tammany:** Tchefuncte Habitat Restoration – construction of a breakwater to protect the historic Tchefuncte River Lighthouse
- **St. Tammany:** Mandeville Lakefront Wetlands Project – construction of a multi-faceted restoration project including marsh creation, a rock berm, and weir along the Pontchartrain lakefront to protect a cypress swamp, redirect urban runoff, and increase resiliency of the surrounding community
- **Tangipahoa:** Lee's Landing Hydrologic Restoration – creation of spoil bank cuts along the Powerline Canal to improve drainage south of Ponchatoula and improve hydrologic connectivity within the wetlands of the Manchac Landbridge
- **Vermilion:** North Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection Phase II – extending construction of a rock breakwater east of the mouth of Boston Canal

IX. Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DENR (video:1:21:25)

Mr. McMillin provided a federal update regarding new administration changes and their implications for coastal programs. He provided a few updates on Key Trump Administration members with Lee Zeldin as the new EPA administrator leading a deregulation charge and working on a new definition of waters of the US based on a Supreme Court decision. Russ Vogt has been confirmed as the OMB director, which plays a significant role in deregulation and funding decisions and NOAA has nominated Dr. Neil Jacobs as their acting director, and Brian Nesbick for Fish and Wildlife, with pending confirmations for other key positions. Mr. McMillin also referenced several Executive Orders that have been issued to rescind several of Pres. Biden's orders, particularly those related to climate and environmental justice.

EO 14148: Removes Government-wide approach to climate, environmental justice focus, and pro-union infrastructure policies.

EO 14154: Prioritizes energy exploration and production, expedites energy permitting, and terminates 'Green New Deal' policies.

EO 14156: Aims to give legal justification for expediting permitting for energy projects.

EO 14172: Renames the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America.

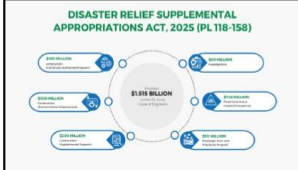
EO 14213: Elevates energy issues to the White House via Dept. of Interior Leadership.

EO 14192: Establishes goal of ten regulations removed for each additional regulation issued.

Memo: Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects. Pause on most federal actions related to wind.

Following the executive order update, Mr. McMillin provided information on the new Louisiana delegation roles & absences: Sen. Kennedy is the Chairman of Energy & Water Subcommittee; Congresswoman Julia Letlow has joined Nation Security, Dept of State Appropriations Subcommittee and departed the Energy & Water Apps Subcommittee. The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee no longer has Louisiana representation nor does the House Natural Resources Committee. Mr. McMillin also referenced that the H.R. 1968 the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations & Extensions Act of 2025 was signed into law on March 15. The law funds the federal Government through September 30, 2025. In conclusion, Mr. McMillin outlined that there's definitely a renewed focus on offshore oil and gas traditional fuels, and permitting. Also, noting another announcement from the new administration that was a win for the coastal program in particular was the Department of Defense revoked its project labor agreement mandate that it had put on construction projects, including those for the Army Corps, over 35,000,000. West Shore Lake Ponchartrain had 1 project to have to come to agreements with the PLA last year, but it seems like that's the only 1 that was caught up in that during this implementation last year. The Army Corps also released Friday its work plan for the recent disaster supplemental that passed in December. They were trying to see if Hurricane Francine affected projects could get, some funding but basically, the answer is no.

USACE Releases American Relief Act Work Plan



Louisiana Funding – \$21.4M

- \$4.3M - Livingston Parish Environmental Infrastructure
- \$5.7M - Atchafalaya Basin
- \$1M - MS Delta Region- Davis Pond levee
- \$4.6M - Old River
- \$5.7M - Tensas Basin, Red River Backwater
- \$24.7M - Mississippi River Levee repairs in various states, including Louisiana

FY25 Budget Reconciliation Update

Senate Action
The Senate passed its Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal year 2025 52-48 on February 25.


The resolution instructs committees to adjust spending by \$340 billion for FY25-FY34 related to the border, defense, and energy, with offsets.

House Action
In a major win for Speaker Johnson, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 passed the House 217 - 215 on February 25. The

The resolution provides instructions for \$4.6T in tax provisions, offset by \$2T in spending cuts.

Next Step
The committees named in the budget resolution will report legislation in line with the directives from the budget resolution.

The Budget Committee in each chamber will package these responses together into a single bill.



X. Executive Session – Status of two pending lawsuits relating to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion – Gordon E. Dove, CPRA Board Chairman

- **“Jurisich Oysters, LLC; Ameripure Processing, Inc.; Matthew Tesvich; International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute; Alert Project of Earth Island Institute; and Earth Island Institute v. United States Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. National Marine Fisheries Services; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Docket No. 2:24-cv-00106, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana”**
 - Intervenor Defendants: Environmental Defense Fund, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Orleans Audubon Society, and Cajun Fishing Adventures, Inc.
 - Subject Matter of the Federal Litigation: Plaintiffs allege claims against the United States Army Corps of Engineers for violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedures Act, and against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for violations of the Endangered Species Act.
- **“Plaquemines Parish Government v. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Case No. 68-526, Div. B, 25th Judicial District Court, Parish of Plaquemines, State of Louisiana”**
 - Intervenors: Richard Blink, Foster Creppel, Kevin Crossen, Alicia Dardar, Timothy Dardar, Ryan Lambert, Michael Mariana, and Harold Hunter White, III.
 - Subject Matter of the State Court Litigation: Parish alleges that CPRA did not comply with local ordinance relative to construction of the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion project.

1. Motion to enter Executive Session (Motion made by: Mr. Bourgeois)

2. Public Comment (no public comments)

3. Vote to Enter Executive Session (Roll call vote)

Chairman Gordon "Gordy" Dove	Present
Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Cole Garrett for Mr. Tyler Bosworth LDWF	Present
Mr. Kevin Borne for Sec. Aurelia Giacometto, LDEQ	Present
Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov's Office	Present
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Adv. Commission	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Mr. Joseph Cao, Ponchartrain Basin	Present
Mr. Robert Jordan, Teche/Vermillion Basin	Present
Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Mr. Chad Courville, Teche/Vermillion Basin	Present
Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Rep. Jerome Zeringue, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Present
Sen. Bob Hensgens, Designee of the President of the Senate	Absent

In attendance:

Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA
 Rep. Joe Orgeron
 Jules Hebert, Legal
Clay Parker, Legal
Brian Marceaux, Legal

4. Motion to Exit out of Executive Session (Motion made by: Mr. Alford/Mr. Bourgeois)

5. Public Comment (no public comments)

6. Vote to Exit Executive Session (Roll call vote)

Chairman Gordon "Gordy" Dove	Present
Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Cole Garrett for Mr. Tyler Bosworth LDWF	Present
Mr. Kevin Borne for Sec. Aurelia Giacometto, LDEQ	Present
Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov's Office	Absent
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Adv. Commission	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Mr. Joseph Cao, Ponchartrain Basin	Absent
Mr. Robert Jordan, Teche/Vermillion Basin	Present
Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Mr. Chad Courville, Teche/Vermillion Basin	Present
Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Rep. Jerome Zeringue, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Present
Sen. Bob Hensgens, Designee of the President of the Senate	Absent

In attendance:

Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA
 Rep. Joe Orgeron
 Jules Hebert, Legal
Clay Parker, Legal
Brian Marceaux, Legal

- **Attorneys updated board on status of litigation.**

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Alford

Seconded by: unanimous.