



## Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

### Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 9:30 AM CST

LSU Center for River Studies,

100 Terrace Ave-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=nNZPG\\_Em8iw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNZPG_Em8iw)

#### I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

#### II. Roll Call

|                                                                           |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairman Gordon Dove, GOCA                                                | Present       |
| Mr. Stephen Swiber for Sec. Dustin Davidson, DOCE                         | Present       |
| Sec. Tyler Bosworth, LDWF                                                 | Present       |
| Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ                                     | Present       |
| Mr. Brandon Burris for Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov Office                    | Present       |
| Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm                                      | Present       |
| Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin                                     | Present       |
| <b>Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin</b>                                | <b>Absent</b> |
| Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion                                       | Present       |
| Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin                                    | Present       |
| Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin                                       | Present       |
| <b>Mr. Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish</b>                          | <b>Absent</b> |
| Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin                                         | Present       |
| Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin                                 | Present       |
| <b>Mr. Stephen Segrera, At Large</b>                                      | <b>Absent</b> |
| Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large                                             | Present       |
| <b>Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House</b>    | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate</b> | <b>Absent</b> |

#### III. Approval of Agenda

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

#### IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois  
Second by: Mr. Bosworth  
Unanimously Approved

#### V. Old Business / Announcements (video: 0:10:19)

(Mr. Hidalgo reminded the board/CPRA again about the 70/30 split and the plan that the USACE has been working on).

#### VI. CPRA Implementation Update – Michael Hare, CPRA (video 00:0:00)

- Mr. Hare updated the board on CPRA's 106 Active projects: 31 projects in Construction, 72 in E&D, and 3 in Projects in Planning. He stated that CPRA is currently advertising: Delta Wide Crevasses Phase V Maintenance Project, Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Creation Vegetative Planting Project, and Terrebonne Houma Navigation Canal Vegetative Plantings Project. And that CPRA will be going to bid on the West Belle Headland Repair & Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation in the next 30 days. He also provided a few updates on projects that were discussed at last month's meeting: East Cove Marsh Creation (Cameron) - A Scope Change is being submitted to CWPRA for approval at the 04/09/2026 Tech Committee meeting; West Shore Connector Levee (PO-0208) (St. James) – Connector Levee 60%



design transmitted to USACE for courtesy review; Cheniere Au Tigre Ridge Restoration (TV-0097) (Vermilion) – Notice to Proceed was issued 03/16/2026. Mobilization occurred 03/24/2026. He also provided updates on Lake Rim Drainage Structure construction contract award for the Calcasieu-Sabine Large-Scale Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration Project: CPRA will be announcing the awarding of the construction contract for the Lake Rim Drainage project later this week; the project will reduce land loss by improving marsh drainage into Calcasieu Lake and raising marsh elevations using dredged sediment--- seven new passive drainage structures will be installed along the lake rim, allowing marsh water to drain during low tides while preventing lake water from flowing back into the marsh. Mr. Hare also presented that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded WSLP-Contract 114 on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pittman-Sealevel, L.L.C., the contract valuing \$419.7 million and will benefit St. John the Baptist, St. James, and St. Charles Parishes. He also provided update on the Annual Plans status through the legislature, the plan was reported favorably out of three committees so far and will be on the agenda at the Senate Transportation Committee this afternoon. In closing, Mr. Hare provided a recap of Coastal Industry Week/Coastal Day: CPRA hosted lunchtime webinars every day during Coastal Industry Week, between live viewers and those who watched the recordings, the webinars had nearly 500 viewers. 26 organizations, including state agencies, federal partners, and companies doing work in the coastal space, set up tables throughout the LSU Center for River Studies for networking (165 people were in attendance). Mr. Hare also announced a **Save the Date**: CPRA is currently working with Parish Government officials from St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes to plan a celebration and project updates event for the work going on in the Breton Sound. Please save the date of May 1 to join us for this exciting event!

**VII. Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan – Brian Lezina & Michael, CPRA (video 0:28:54)**

Mr. Lezina & Michael provided a brief update on the Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan. The Atchafalaya Master Plan is a multi-year process driven by cutting-edge coastal science and extensive engagement from local interests. The Plan will be the cornerstone to guide future investments for decades to come. Michael stated that the overall goal is to manage the use of the river system, sediments and water to maximize ecosystem function and support continued human uses. Mr. Lezina followed up by stating that this will guide future investments across the system; describe and consider multiple potential future conditions; include projects to address some of the key challenges and map out issues, sanitation and habitat degradation. Mr. Lezina indicated this is a look forward and, they are including projects to address many of the key challenges, based on what's happening in the system. The presenters also mentioned the objective is to use natural processes whenever they can, provide habitats suitable to support conservation and an array of commercial and recreational activities in the ARS; as well as sustain the unique cultural heritage of the ARS by protecting historic properties and traditional living cultural which would promote a viable working ARS to support regionally and nationally important business and industry. Mr. Lezina highlighted that CPRA has an extremely large amount of outreach and engagement through webinars, public and private solicitation.

**VIII. Making Homes More Resilient and Affordable – Carol Friedland, LaHouse Research & Education Center (video:1:08:09)**

Ms. Friedland presented on LaHouse and their efforts to make homes, people and communities more resilient and affordable. She informed the program has done collaboration with CPRA and CPEX, particularly focusing on resilience in the coastal zone. The mission of this program is to promote sustainable, resilient, and healthy homes in Louisiana. Ms. Friedland stated that right now, their focus is on resilience and how to make communities safer and affordable by using research including field investigations and economic studies and also by getting word out to the people who live in the communities and opportunities for them to help make a difference in terms of their home's performances. Ms. Friedland shared that the program has converted approximately \$7 million into research to help make Louisiana more resilient. Regarding FEMA, Ms. Friedland indicated that they (LaHouse) reverse engineered the FEMA flood insurance rating system and were able to calculate approximate premiums within coastal Louisiana and which areas will have higher premiums. On wind hazards, and LaHouse work with GOAT on a state hazard mitigation plan, they estimate that about \$1.2 billion is the state's loss per year, and by the year 2050 from wind hazards.

**IX. Update on the Coastwide Nutria Control Program – Jennifer Hogue-Manuel, LDWF (video 1:39:03)**

Ms. Manuel briefed the board on the LDWF Nutria Control program. The program was established in 2002 to fight nutria in coastal LA (the nutria causes damage to crop, structures, and carry parasites and diseases that are permittable to humans). The goal of this program is to remove up to 400,000 nutria each season to reduce nutria induced marsh damage. To achieve this goal, the program pays a bounty of \$6/nutria tail to the trappers that are registered in the program. The requirements to participate in the program requires completion of the Coastwide Nutria Program application, trapping license, and designation of property to be harvested with the landowner's



signature/authorization. Ms. Manuel indicated the pros and cons to this program (pros: cost effective; boost rural economy and utilizes trapper base; cons- difficult to target problem locations, long term goals, and difficult to manage fraud). The funding for this program is provided by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The program is promoted through media, social and USFWS.

**X. Public Comment**

**XI. Adjourn**

Motion by: Mr. Tony Alford  
Seconded by: Unanimous 2<sup>nd</sup>