



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 9:30 AM
LaSalle Building (LaBelle Room)
617 North Third Street
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 - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Mr. Neal McMillin for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Acting Sec. Tyler Bosworth LDWF	Present
Mr. Kevin Born for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Mr. Brandon Burris for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Ms. Samantha De Castro for Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Cong. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Absent
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. Jordan
Seconded by: Mr. Hidalgo
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business / Announcements

VI. Implementation Update – Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video 00:03:50)

Mr. Ledet updated the Board on the latest progress of various projects around the coast. CPRA has 106 active projects with 38 are in construction, 64 in engineering and design, with 4 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed 15 are hurricane protection projects and 9 are creating marsh. Mr. Ledet updated on changes from last month:

- Lower Lafitte Tidal Protection – Completed
- Rockefeller Shoreline Protection – Restore Parish Matching – Completed
- Port Fourchon Shoreline Protection – Bids were opened on 03/06/2025



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West), River Aux Chenes To Grand Lake – Headed to Construction (Bid)
- MTG Improvements - NLLD – To Be Bid in the Next 6 Months
- St. Catherine Island Marsh Creation & Shoreline Protection – To Be Bid in the Next 6 Months

Mr. Ledet also provided updates on a few Shorelines Protection & Restoration projects: **Rockefeller Shoreline Stabilization**: This project will be constructed along the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Gulf of Mexico shoreline. This project involves the continuation of breakwater structures along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline in Cameron Parish immediately westward of the ME-0037 project, expanding shoreline protection of the Rockefeller National Wildlife Refuge. The project was a huge collaboration of funding between CPRA, Cameron Parish, Calcasieu Parish, and DENR. **Labranche Marsh Creation & Shoreline Protection**: This project involves designing and constructing ~13,000 of rock breakwaters along the last remaining unprotected segment of St. Charles Parish's Lake Pontchartrain shoreline. Construction began on 1/15/25. The current work includes -Limited rock has been placed. The primary activity has been the first 1,000' of geogrid with rock placed to pin it down. The major construction of the breakwaters will begin in 2 weeks with anticipated completion: Fall 2025. Funding breakdown for this project: (GOMESA: \$6M); (2022 Surplus: \$5,699,481.22); (2021 Surplus: \$12M); and (20220 Surplus: \$988,000). Mr. Ledet also provided a Restoration Update: **Chandeleur Island Restoration Project**: CPRA awarded the Pre-Construction Phase contract to Weeks Marine, Inc. The scope of this contract includes participation in the design process, which involves providing constructability input, cost estimates, and construction schedules for the preliminary and final design phases. Since 2018, Weeks Marine has constructed nearly 150 miles of beaches and restored over 12,000 acres of marsh. He also highlighted a partner project: Fritchie Marsh-New Orleans to Venice (NOV) Mitigation: The project involves ~295 acres of marsh creation to mitigate for 153.8 acres of intermediate, brackish, and saline marsh impacts associated with NOV NFL construction. Funding for construction is 100% USACE; CPRA is Non-Federal Sponsor. In closing, Mr. Ledet highlighted additional CPRA Updates: Love the Boot Week CPRA staff collected approximately 14 bags of trash as part of Love the Boot Week, Louisiana's largest litter cleanup and beautification effort organized by Keep Louisiana Beautiful and supported by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. In March, the ribbon cutting ceremony for Port Wonder in Lake Charles took place, marking the final step before the facility opens to the public. On March 26th, The Commission was updated on ongoing progress at CPRA and the FY26 Annual Plan, coastal job industry trends, efforts of the Resilience Task Force, and fisheries resilience projects underway at LDWF. He announced Coastal Day will be held on May 12th and the State of the Coast will be held May 20-22, 2025.



VII. Update on DRIVE Initiative – Clay Parker, CPRA (video:0:28:17)

Mr. Parker provided an update on the DRIVE Initiative starting with Background: Reorganization under Executive Order 2024 JML-13. The objective is to enhance operational efficiency, improve interagency coordination, and strengthen resilience. He stated that the purpose of feedback was to engage stakeholders with transparency. Mr. Parker also explained the phase five goals, with the primary goals being Legal Framework alignment: clear task assignments and budget structure, and long term continuity. There were three areas of focus: Laws, People and Budget (all with outcomes that enhanced improved operational efficiency and enhanced legal compliance). Mr. Parker also provided updates on the Natural Resources Commission which will consist of Statewide Flood Protection, LED, DEQ, PSC Commission, LDWF, DENR, and LDR (will be staffed by the Office of Natural Resources Commission and will meet quarterly). In closing, he provided information on each office under the DENR reorganization chart.



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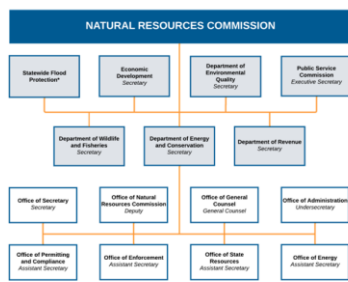


NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Objective: Cross-agency coordination for natural resource management

Key Roles:

- Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Coordinate Federal Response
- Legislative and Federal Relations
- Communication Strategy for public outreach and engagement



*Represented by one of the following: Secretary of DOTD, CPRA, or USRA

ADAPTABILITY WITH OVERSIGHT

Flexible Oversight

- Adapt to regulatory, environmental, and technological changes

Permanent Oversight Commission

- Staffed by Office of Natural Resources Commission

Composition

- Seven members from key state agencies

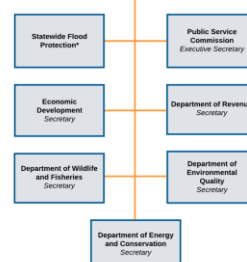
Functions

- Quarterly meetings
- Oversight and legislative alignment
- Statutory Obligations
- Coordinated Federal response and engagement

Outcome

- Increased accountability and efficiency

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION



*Represented by one of the following: Secretary of DOTD, CPRA, or USRA

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION



Role: Direct support for Natural Resources Commission and member agencies.

Divisions: Commission Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs, Communications

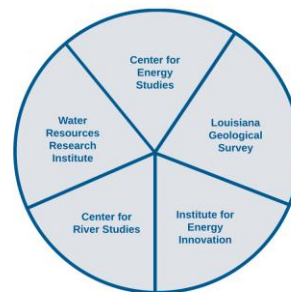
- Intergovernmental subdivided into State/Local and Federal.

Strategic Functions: Strategic coordination amongst agencies, support via detailed employees, coordinated federal response, investigative and research functions, communications support.

* Housed within the Office of The Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF ENERGY AND CONSERVATION

- Formal Academic and Research Institute
- Supporting the Department of Energy and Conservation with the ultimate goal of creating a national lab type organization
- Modeled after the Bureau of Economic Geology in Texas
- Strategic Alignment of Academic Organizations
 - Center for Energy Studies
 - Water Resources Research Institute
 - Louisiana Geological Survey
 - Institute for Energy Innovation
 - Center for River Studies



VIII. FY 2026 Annual Plan – Glenn Ledet Jr. & Brian Lezina, CPRA (video:0:50:14)

The total projected expenditures FY 2026 by project phase approximately \$1.98 Billion investment in our coast. Of those funds, \$1.57B is allocated for construction, the projects will support 13,154 direct jobs with \$773 Million in labor income; 21 dredging projects slated for construction totaling 71.5M cubic yards of sediment to create or nourish more than 16,017 acres. Mr. Ledet also updated on the Southwest Region (46 Projects in OM&M): 21 active projects: 12 in Construction, and 9 in E&D. In the South-Central Region there are 41 active projects: 18 in construction, 20 in E&D, and 3 in planning. The Southeast Region has 84 active projects: 47 are in construction, 33 in E&D, and 4 are in planning. Mr. Lezina provided a brief update on the Atchafalaya Annual Plan. He stated that the goal is to manage the use of Atchafalaya River system sediments and water to maximize ecosystem functions and support continued human uses.

COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY

FISCAL YEAR 2026 ANNUAL PLAN

PROGRAM	REVENUE / EXPENDITURES PROJECTIONS
GOMESA	\$293 Million
NRDA	\$388 Million
NFWF	\$461 Million
RESTORE	\$180 Million
CWPPRA (FEDERAL)	\$125 Million
SURPLUS/CAP OUTLAY	\$307 Million
STATE (NON-SURPLUS)	\$96 Million
OTHER	\$129 Million

Total Projected Revenues & Expenditures FY 2026

BY FUNDING PROGRAM

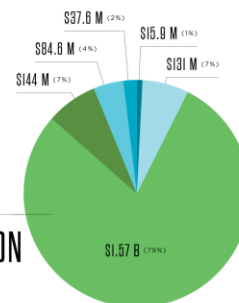
Total Projected Expenditures FY 2026

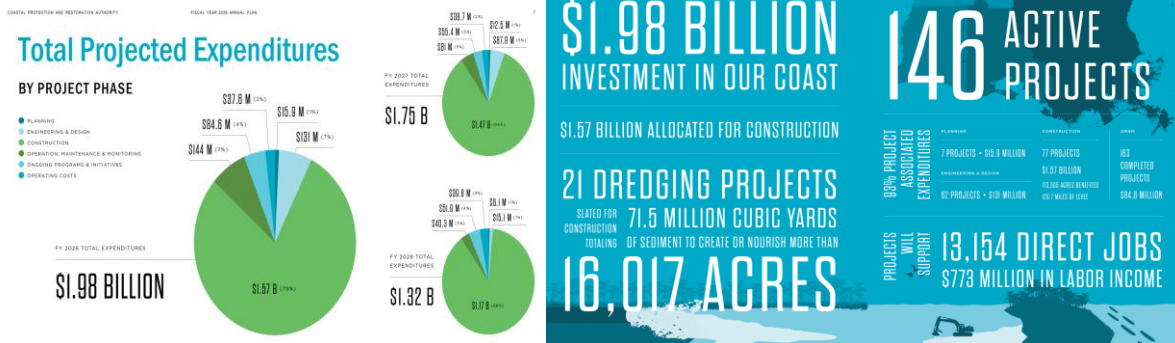
BY PROJECT PHASE

- PLANNING
- ENGINEERING & DESIGN
- CONSTRUCTION
- OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & MONITORING
- DREDGING PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES
- OPERATING COSTS

FY 2026 TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$1.98 BILLION





Atchafalaya Basin

ANNUAL PLAN - APPENDIX D



FY26 PROJECTS:

WATER QUALITY/WATER MANAGEMENT

- Dredging in Big Bayou Pigeon
- Grimmerett Canal Improvements
- Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements
- Murphy Lake Depth Restoration
- East Grand Lake Upper Region

RECREATION/ACCESS, OTHER

- Sandy Cove Boat Launch
- Cajun Coast Welcome Center Trail
- Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvements
- *Update to the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana State Master Plan*

- Board Discussion
- Public Comment (multiple public comments)
- Board Action to Approve Annual Plan (**Motion made by: Dwayne Bourgeois and 2nd by Mr. Tony Alford, unanimously approved by board**)

IX. 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

- **Public Comment (no public comments)**



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Chairman Gordon "Gordy" Dove	Present
Mr. Neal McMillin for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Acting Secretary. Tyler Bosworth LDWF	Present
Mr. Kevin Born for Sec. Aurelia Giacometto, LDEQ	Present
Brandon Burriss for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov's Office	Present
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Adv. Commission	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Absent
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	Absent
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
<u>In attendance:</u>	
Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA	
Rep. Joe Orgeron	
Jules Hebert, Legal	
Clay Parker, Legal	
Brian Marceaux, Legal	

2. Motion to exit Executive Session

o Public comment (no public comments)

Chairman Gordon "Gordy" Dove	Present
Neal McMillin for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Acting Sec. Tyler Bosworth LDWF	Present
Mr. Kevin Born for Sec. Aurelia Giacometto, LDEQ	Present
Brandon Burriss for Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov's Office	Present
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Adv. Commission	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Absent
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In attendance:

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

o Attorneys updated board on status of litigation.

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Hidalgo
Seconded by: unanimous