



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

9:30 AM

LaSalle Building

(LaBelle Room)

617 N 3rd St. -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
Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Billy Williamson for Sec. Donahue, DOTD	Present
Tyler Bosworth for Sec. Shehan, LDWF	Present
April Baiamonte for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Stacy Duvic for Sec. Bourgeois, LED	Present
Joey Breaux for Comm. Strain, LDAF	Present
Gina Campo for Comm. Barras, DOA	Present
David Caldwell for Comm. Temple, LDI	Present
Dir. Jacques Thibodaux, GOHSEP	Present
Brandon Burriss for Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Absent
Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	Present
John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Absent
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
Second by: Pres. Jewell
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business/Announcements



vi. **CPRA Implementation Update — Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video: 00:06:40)**

Mr. Ledet provided an Implementation update to the board indicating that there are currently 108 active projects: 44 of them are in construction, 59 are in E&D, with 5 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 33 are hurricane protection projects and 36 are creating marsh. Marsh creation leads the way in E&D with 26 projects moving toward the construction phase. Mr. Ledet also gave a Construction update stating that Maurepas reach 6 advertised, with bids opening May 29th. Rosethorn Phase 2 is about to begin construction and Grand Bayou Ridge & Marsh Creation and Terrebonne HNC Island- Bids are under review with Bayou LA Loutre Big Awarded April 15th. In his Engineering & Design updates, Mr. Ledet highlighted the **Central Wetlands Hydrologic Restoration**: Engineering & Design is underway, this project is being funded by an America the Beautiful Grant, and community outreach is being managed by the Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED). So far, two meetings have been held and will later collaborate with the NOLA Mayor's Neighborhood Summit. **Irish Bayou**: The Engineering & Design for this project is getting underway. This was a \$1.1M grant from NFWF that was recently awarded. This project will address the challenge of wetland loss from coastal erosion for the communities of New Orleans East and Irish Bayou. The project will entail incorporating a living shoreline strategy along critical reaches Bayou Sauvage Urban National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent properties that are east of Interstate 10 fronting Lake Pontchartrain. The specific shoreline armoring feature will be identified during the design process. The proposed solution(s) would be designed to protect the shoreline from wind-induced waves and sustain and augment fisheries habitat. Two independent reaches are proposed for design totaling approximately 1.8 miles. In his **Shoreline Protection & Restoration Update**, Mr. Ledet provided updated information on the **Bucktown Living Shoreline Protection in Jefferson Parish**, this project is one of several underway as part of a push to revitalize the Bucktown waterfront. Work is also underway on a kayak launch and the "Bucktown Birth's Nest" – a raised pavillion that will overlook Bucktown's boardwalk and the soon-to-be created living shoreline. Rocks are being brought in to form nine segmented breakwaters in the lake between the Bonnabel Boat Launch and Bucktown Harbor. The project was made possible through a combination of grants and government funding. The latest came in April, when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded Jefferson Parish a \$4.5 million grant to construct the living shoreline. This project has multiple funding sources and is a great example of multiple project partners coming to together to support progress in Jefferson Parish. Construction is anticipated to be complete in late 2024. **Restoration Update**: Mid-Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (Plaquemines Parish), is a \$34 Million CWPPRA Phase 2 Project. This project is located in Breton Sound Basin west of Delacroix along Bayou Gentilly. This project will create almost 400 acres of new marsh with more than 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment dredged from Lake Lery.



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



109 ACTIVE PROJECTS		44	59	5
PROJECT TYPE	CONSTRUCTION	E & D	PLANNING	
HURRICANE PROTECTION (33)	19	10	4	
MARSH CREATION (36)	10	26		
BANK STABILIZATION (1)		1		
RIDGE RESTORATION (3)		3		
SHORELINE PROTECTION (9)	6	3		
BARRIER ISLANDS/HEADLANDS (4)	1	3		
DIVERSIONS (4)	2	2		
HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION (7)	2	5		
OYSTER BARRIER REEF (0)				
RECREATIONAL USE (3)	2	1		
OTHER (9)	2	6	1	



MID-BRETON LANDBRIDGE MARSH CREATION
Plaquemines Parish

\$34 MILLION
CWPPRA Phase 2 Project

Federal Sponsor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Boundary
Marsh Creation



In closing, Mr. Ledet provided additional CPRA Updates: CPRA Executive Director Glenn Ledet updated the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana at its meeting earlier last month. Members got the latest information on critical projects for Louisiana’s coast like the HNC Lock Complex, West Shore Lake Pontchartrain and more. **The Nicholls’ Coastal Center Progress:** The interior walls are going up, electrical and HVAC components are being installed, and the roof installation should be underway shortly. The building should be sealed off in about a month. **LaBranche Dedication:** We were excited to join CWPPRA, the Corps and other coastal partners for a celebration of the Labranche project. These are some of the most visible wetlands in our area, and you’ve probably seen the progress taking place along I-10. **2024 Coastal Stewardship Awards:** On May 9th, CRCL hosted a Coastal Stewards celebration—The awards, which recognize for volunteers, students, lifetime achievement, and other coastal stewards, are among the most prestigious given to the people and organizations dedicated to addressing the land loss crisis. 2023 Coastal Master Plan Team – Sue Hawes Award. The members of the **2023 Coastal Master Plan team** were architects of progress, with an unwavering dedication that culminated in the development of the 2023 Coastal Master Plan, a globally recognized blueprint for sustainable coastal management and resilience. The 2023 Coastal Master Plan team demonstrated positive collegiality in their leadership and a remarkable ability to assimilate detailed technical information and input at every point of engagement that kept this complex planning process moving forward. **Kenneth Bahlinger (LA Coastal Vegetative Planting Program)-** led the state’s Coast Vegetative Planting Program for nearly two decades, first at the Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Restoration and later at the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. He has planted or supervised the planting of more than 1 million native plants across coastal Louisiana. Love the Boot Week -- Team Coastal Celebrated Earth Day and Love the Boot Week with a litter pick up around Baton Rouge! Mr. Ledet also announced the next D.C. Shores Trip is scheduled for June 11-13, 2024.



vii. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Update – Col. Cullen Jones, USACE (video: 00:31:55)

Col. Jones provided an update to the board on the USACE 2024 Hurricane Response Plan and how they are integrating with State and local response and recovery efforts. The Colonel provided some critical updates on our coastal storm damage and risk reduction projects that the Corps are delivering throughout the South.

- The Colonel took the opportunity to provide an update on their work to deliver PCCP structures that meet our 35-year design specifications. In collaboration with the construction contractor, the PCCP JV, the Corps continues their work to permanently repair four pumps. This work includes installing new parts, replacing some carbon components with stainless steel, installation of new cathode protection anodes, sandblasting, priming, coating, and painting. Col. Jones stated that their target remains having these pumps repaired and reinstalled by June 1, 2024, the first day of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season. To support this effort, the PCCP JV has increased personnel so that pumps can be repaired simultaneously and is working directly with the fabricator to ensure parts are received in accordance with our targeted schedule. Pump #1 at the 17th St. location has been reinstalled and undergoing testing to ensure performance. For Pump #4 at 17th



St., their target is installation on or about May 30-31, 2024. At the London Ave. location, they will have the remaining parts onsite this week for Pump #2 to allow reinstallation of the pump to begin next week. For Pump #5, their target is installation by May 25, 2024. Concurrently, the pump manufacturer evaluated the inspections and work undertaken last year as well as the operation and maintenance work conducted throughout this year to confirm that the remaining 13 pumps will perform as needed during this hurricane season. On June 1, the PCCP JV will demobilize to ensure that the Flood Protection Authority-East can conduct their preparations, exercise, maintenance, and operations during the season without interference from USACE or our contractor. Although we will not be onsite during hurricane season, we will still focus on maintaining our momentum. During the offseason, we intend to continue working by ordering and stockpiling new parts as well as finding better efficiencies from lessons learned this season. Col. Jones assured that they will be prepared to mobilize on December 1 to continue our work. In closing, his final updates were: **PCCP**-They will ensure open and transparent communication throughout the process; Provide regular reoccurring updates to partners, stakeholders and the public. **WSLP**-Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 has freed up \$450MM of DRSA -17 funding, specifically Resiliency construction funds; WSLP contracts 109 and 114a expected to being awarded in FY2024, 114 being awarded in FY25 and 103a, & 110a are expected to be awarded in FY26; WSLP-115 St James EDR scheduled to be completed in Aug 2024. **Morganza**- Reach A Contract to Advertise in May 2024; Fed Funds Appropriated: \$469M.

- viii. **CPRA Hurricane Prep Update – Bradley Barth, CPRA (video: 01:12:50)** Mr. Barth provided regarding CPRA’s preparations for Hurricane Season, starting with Emergency Management and that that team is responsible for flood protection infrastructure and integrated coastal protection projects across the Louisiana Coastal Area. In preparation (pre-event), they maintain an emergency operations plan (EOP) which outlines CPRA’s pre-and post-storm activities/duties: *Coordinates with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the local levee districts within the Coastal Area.*Maintains a list of Levee District emergency contacts, EOP’s, inventories, supplies & equipment to support emergency response. *Levee Information Management System (LIMS)-Gate Closures; Hurricane Gage Monitoring Systems (HGMS)-Consolidation of key gages from multiple sources and provide ADCIRC Forecasting to assist Levee District with gate closure decisions. Mr. Barth also provided how CPRA provides Emergency Management during an event: Provides staff and capability to support the State’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC). CPRA staffs the EOC’s Emergency Support Function (ESF-3) infrastructure desk. Coordinates with local, State, and Federal entities including Parish Governments, Levee Boards, and other jurisdictions in Louisiana’s Coastal Zone. CPRA relies on emergency contracts through the Office of State Purchasing to procure temporary flood protection measures, de-watering support, etc. During Post-Event, CPRA’s responsibilities are to perform damage assessments (Inspects levee, flood protection, and integrated coastal protection projects throughout coastal Louisiana to protect lives and property as well as to ensure continued suitability of service); Coordinates inspections with the appropriate local and Federal authorities; and where issues are found, makes requests to the USACE for Federal assistance.



IX. Parish Matching Awards – Brandon Champagne, CPRA (video: 01:33:25)

Mr. Champagne provided the board with a brief synopsis on the Parish Matching programs purpose, and how its function is to support the implementation of projects that address the goals and objectives of the Master Plan and facilitate collaboration with Parishes. He stated that this will directly support Parish-led projects and leverage multiple sources of funding (Federal, Local, and Private). The FY2024 award is \$7 million of restoration or resilience work from state surplus and GOMESA funding. The eligibility requirements are: Parishes apply directly for reimbursement funding; limited LDENR Coastal Zone Management Parishes; Match is required (amount, type, and source of match is at Parish discretion).

Parish	Award	Match
Jefferson Non-Structural Elevations and Grand Isle Plantings	\$738,783	\$3,506,024
Lafourche North Bayou L'Ours Terracing	\$1,350,000	\$506,203
St. Bernard Lake Lery Marsh Creation and Rim Restoration	\$1,311,217	\$21,165,007
St. John the Baptist Bayou Chevreuil Hydrologic Restoration	\$500,000	\$110,000
St. Tammany St. Tammany Living Shoreline	\$1,000,000	\$3,300,000
Vermillion North Vermillion Bay Shoreline Protection	\$2,100,000	\$1,000,000
Total	\$7,000,000	\$29,587,234

I. Executive Session – David Peterson, Attorney General's Office and CPRA Board

a. "State of Louisiana through CPRA Board and CPRA v. United States Department of the Army, Docket No. 2:24-cv-01075, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana"

1. Motion to enter executive Session
 - a. Motion made by: Mr. Bourgeois
 - b. 2nd by: Pres Jewell (unanimously approved)
2. Public comment
 - a. Motion made to conclude Executive Session: Ms. Campo
 - b. 2nd by Mr. Bourgeois
Motion made by Mr. Hidalgo for the board to move forward with actions.
Unanimously confirmed by the board

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
Second by: Mr. Alford