



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 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=BfoyvVwbz4g>

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove, GOCA	Present
Mr. Keith Lovell for Sec. Dustin Davidson, DOCE	Present
Mr. Matthew Weigel for 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	Absent
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
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	Present
Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large	Present
Mr. Craig Romero, At Large	Absent
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Absent
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Absent

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
Second by: Pres. Jewell
Unanimously Approved

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

(Mr. Hidalgo reminded the board/CPRA of the famous two words **70/30** split. He referenced that his meeting w/ the USACE last month was positive, and it gives them a little comfort.).

VI. 2026 Hurricane Season USACE Readiness – Col. Scotty Autin, USACE New Orleans District Commander (video: 0:14:42)

Col. Autin began by thanking and congratulating the team (CPRA/USACE) on the design agreement that was signed prior to the meeting for the West Bank and Vicinity. The Colonel then moved into his presentation, highlighting the Corps measures that have been put into place moving into the 2026 Hurricane Season. He stated that pre-checks, and inspections with levee districts have been completed and they are ready to go this hurricane season. He assured that with outstanding people ready to operate specific structures and good policy



and procedures in place, “we are ready”. He indicated the ways in which the district works regarding hurricane preparedness. The first line is lines of effort, starting with the **internal operations**, they are set in place before a system comes, he will stay in place at the bunker (rated for category 2 storm, bunker in the warehouse that’s rated for much higher), the deputy commander will report to Vicksburg and Durund will report to Baton Rouge and sit with the Governor’s Office/UCG (**communications/support to state**). Alongside that, the division commander will come down and operate emergency response functions as needed. There are also a few parish presidents and district employees that they put directly at the EOC.

VII. Overview of 2026 Hurricane Season Predictions – Jay Grymes, Louisiana State Climatologist (video: 0:43:58)

Mr. Grymes ran the board through some of the forecast numbers for this upcoming hurricane season. He stated that the forecast is a little below the normal but not so significant to change our way of thinking and/or preparation. He stated that for the peak of the season between August, September, and early October we’re in a El Nino due to increased vertical wind over the Atlantic basin. However, not so good news for us as we go into the winter months if El Nino lingers, it increases Louisiana’s flood threat. Because of El Nino, we could potentially see fewer storms getting organized, and fewer storms achieving higher degree strength of intensity and knocking down those storm numbers a bit more. Mr. Grymes displayed slides showing where we have a reduction in the threat of major hurricanes making landfall in the U.S. He highlighted that our threat may be reduced but it’s not zero. Mr. Grymes encouraged the board and other parish leaders to reinforce PREPAREDNESS to their constituents. In closing, Mr. Grymes stated the hope is that activity for Louisiana, may be quiet this year but we don’t there’s no real forecast yet for what we may experience. He clarified with a warning there’s no reason to think that because the forecast calls for a reduction in activity, we can breathe a sigh of relief. Be prepared.

VIII. CPRA Implementation Update – Michael Hare and Brad Barth, CPRA (Mr. Hare video 01:11:12 & Mr. Barth video 01:23:38)

CPRA’s 109 Active projects: 33 projects in Construction, 73 in E&D, and 3 in Projects in Planning. Mr. Hare opened his presentation with announcements: CPRA is currently advertising the following projects: West Belle Headland Repair (Bid Opening: 6/2/26); Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Cycle II (Bid Opening 6/4/26); Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation, Increment 2 Project (Bid Opening 6/16/26). CPRA recently awarded Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Creation Vegetation Planting to Ecological Restoration Services, LLC. The FY 2027 Annual Plan reported favorably by unanimous vote in all six committees (3 House & 3 Senate committees). The Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity Construction Phase Contracts bill by Rep. Sawyer is currently working its way through the Senate. The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association selected the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Shoreline Stabilization Project as a recipient of the 2026 Best Restored Beach Award. CPRA will be hosting a Louisiana Storm Safe Event on 5/31/26 at the LSU Center for River Studies. From an update standpoint, he stated that phase 2 of the 40 Arpent Canal wetlands enhancement project (a collaboration project with Ducks Unlimited) with CPRA providing \$300,000 to this project. This will total about 56,000ft of earth and levees, 7745 acres of enhanced marsh which will help reduce erosion of saltwater intrusion and created a healthier habitat for fish and wildlife. Mr. Barth provided updates on CPRA Operations Division during tropical/hurricane cycle and activity season. During the June through November time frame, their focus is mainly on overall preparation and working with the USACE and levee districts. He stated that they will occasionally get invoiced with some high-water events or some disasters that they’ve seen along the coast previously but mostly concentrate on two seasons which are coastal maintenance season and storm season. They start by making sure that they have updated contact information and coordinate with all the local districts for any changes in personnel. They also evaluate what types of equipment inventory they have and how many sandbags and if they need to coordinate resources to various areas. Mr. Barth also spoke on the gate system and how it’s made available on their website which will indicate which gate positions open & closed across coastal LA as well as the Limb system. He stated that the HGMS system is for local districts where information is compiled all into one page, this is one of the biggest things they do during storm season (maintain on the ready, modeling systems). Mr. Barth pointed out that one update this year they are working to put into place is adding more stations out West. Mr. Barth concluded that the operations division during an event provides staff and capability to support the State’s EOC. Coordination with local, state, and federal entities including Parish Gov’t, Levee Boards, and other jurisdictions in LA’s Coastal Zone. In post-event (when safe to get back out), CPRA performs damage assessments, coordinates inspections with the appropriate local and Federal Authorities where issues are found, they will also make requests to the



USACE for Federal assistance. Lastly, Mr. Barth stated that if members have more interest, he provided the links to the SIM site to find the HGMS and limbs information.

IX. Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DOTD (video:1:38:07)

Mr. McMillin presented to the board the latest updates on the Federal level. He announced record breaking GOMESA disbursements with the Dept. of Interior disbursing a record \$460.9M in FY25 GOMESA to TX, LA, MS & AL. The Land & Water Conservation Fund disbursements also increased with GOMESA reaching the cap, the fourth consecutive year even with the increased level. He also noted that CPRA received \$162,989,700.89 in the FY25 state share with 20% of GOMESA funds going to Coastal Political Subdivisions using the formula based on proximity to production (50%), coastline (25%), and population (25%). Mr. McMillin also updated on the Offshore Parity Act, H.R. 8542 which was introduced by Rep. Mike Ezell (R-MS) to establish equal offshore boundaries for LA, MS, and AL. The bill was cosponsored by Rep. Troy Carter, Rep. Clay Higgins and Rep. SHomari Figures. The bill would extend state jurisdiction over fisheries and minerals/energy to 9 nautical miles based on the extent of the coastline the day before the bill passes. This would have no impacts to the revenues from existing leases. The revenues would continue to go to the U.S. Treasury or as directed such as to GOMESA. He then provided a brief update on the Coastal Trust Fund Act, with bill sponsors asking House Trans & Infrastructure Committee to include in WRDA a revised provision that simply creates the trust fund (a few CPRA eligible projects include Grand Isle, LPV, LaRose to Golden Meadow... This fund would allow future appropriations to be made into the trust fund. In closing, Mr. McMillin highlighted other topics such as (CWPPRA, FEMA, and reform of USACE). **CWPPRA** (funding comes from a portion of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund (bill is up for reauthorization and has been tied to the highway bill which has been beneficial because it gets steady reauthorization which won't have a lapse risk). **CWPPRA** is anticipated to receive approx. \$98M for FY26, the state of LA provides 15% match, bringing the total funds to \$2.657 billion. **FEMA**, DHS Sec. Mullin stated, "FEMA is committed to getting resources directly to the communities and people who need them the most. A few key recommendations released in the FEMA Council report were, states lead disaster response with Federal government supporting; reform NFIP to incentivize private market, while continuing Risk Rating 2.0. **Reform of USACE**, Cong. Higgins submitted a white paper to the WH outlining reforms, citing the \$725M in unspent funds with USACE New Orleans District (Morganza to the Gulf, SW Coastal and Vermillion River Dredging). Lastly, Mr. McMillin shared where the earmark requests for this next FY are. There are zero coastal projects in the POTUS budget, so we're relying on earmarks to move projects forward.

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois

Seconded by: Mr. Hidalgo- Unanimous 2nd