



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



## Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 9:30 AM  
State Capitol Building-Committee Room 5  
900 N. 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. Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Cole Garrett, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Mr. Brandon Burris for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
<b>Cong. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Present
Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	Present
<b>John Lane, Breton Sound Basin</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Calcasieu/Sabine Basin</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Present

### III. Approval of Agenda

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

### IV. Approval of Minutes

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

### V. Old Business / Announcements – Introduction of Mr. Michael Hare as the new Executive Director of CPRA

### VI. CPRA Implementation Update – Clay Parker, CPRA (video 00:06:14)

Mr. Parker updated the Board on the latest progress of various projects around the coast. CPRA has 101 active projects with 36 are in construction, 62 in engineering and design, with 3 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed 15 are hurricane protection projects. Mr. Parker also provided project updates for: **Bayou Cane Marsh Creation (St. Tammany Parish):** ~\$45M CWPPRA-funded (includes E&D, construction, admin, 20yrs O&M/monitoring), it's located in the Upper Pontchartrain Basin, St. Tammany Parish (Fountainbleau State Park & Big Branch NWR). The goal of this project is to restore 558 acres of marsh along 6 miles of shoreline by dredging lake sediment into 7 marsh cells. **Sunset Levee Upper Barataria Risk Reduction (St. Charles Parish):** The Sunset Levee consists of existing earthen levees adjacent to Bayou Des Allemands, Bayou Gauche, and the Paradis Canal which were constructed by the Sunset Levee District nearly 100 years ago and have 4 been consolidating and strengthening over time, undergoing numerous maintenance lifts and expansions during the life of the system. The levees will be incorporated into the Upper Barataria Risk Reduction hurricane storm damage and risk reduction project sponsored by the Lafourche Basin Levee District, the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee, and Drainage District, and CPRA. Substantially complete as of July 8, 2025. Mr. Parker also highlighted that the Tchefuncte Habitat Restoration project was selected as part of the **2025 Parish Matching Program Awards program**. The Tchefuncte River Lighthouse is

the last remaining original functional lighthouse in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. The lighthouse was constructed in 1868 and is registered on the National Park Service Historic Light Stations list. It still functions today as an active aid to navigation serving as the Tchefuncte River Range Rear Light. In closing, Mr. Parker announced that the draft Restoration Plan for Chandeleur Islands has been released for public view. Also, ahead of the official change of command ceremony on July 25<sup>th</sup>, USACE Col. Jones has been introducing incoming 66<sup>th</sup> NOLA District Commander Col. Scotty Autin to stakeholders to ensure that the collaborative partnership between the Corps and agencies like CPRA remain strong.

# VII. 2029 Coastal Master Plan Project Solicitation – Katie Freer & Brian Lezina, CPRA (video: 00:15:13)

Ms. Freer & Mr. Lezina updated the board on the 2029 Coastal Master Plan Project. The development of the 2029 Coastal Master Plan is underway, the Coastal Master Plan serves two high-level purposes: it identifies restoration and risk reduction projects eligible for state support and it provides information on and potential solutions to coastal challenges now and into the future. Ms. Freer indicated that the plan is the guiding document of the state's collective efforts to maintain, restore and protect the coast, built on a solid foundation of world class science and engineering. Ms. Freer also stated that it's important to note that the plan is updated and approved by the legislature every 6 years to ensure it continues to reflect the latest advances in science and engineering techniques, and significant changes in coastal conditions since the last plan update. The plan's list of projects serves as a statement of priorities for investments but is **not a funding source**. It is essentially the state's blueprint for restoration and protection activities that governs how dollars are spent. Projects evolve as they receive funding and move forward, which happens outside of the master plan process. For example, design or other aspects like exact location, structural features, or operational regime may change during project development. Ms. Freer stated that the plan illustrates current and potential future risk & land loss conditions to enable better informed planning & decision making by practitioners, jurisdictions, and the general public. In closing, Mr. Lezina & Mr. Freer announced that projects will be accepted from today through October 17<sup>th</sup>, and then again in early 2026. This is the most direct way residents can have input into the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. There will be two public solicitation periods: July–October 17, 2025, and early 2026 (exact dates TBD). A few IMPORTANT DATES: MP29 New Project Public Solicitation Kickoff Webinar – July 18, 2025, 10:00 am–12:00 pm; New Project Development Workshops, 5:30-8:00 pm: Abbeville – July 23rd Cut Off – July 29th Violet – July 31st Raceland – August 4th. The submission deadline for First Public Solicitation for New Projects: October 17th

# VIII. Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DENR (video: 00:43:52)

Mr. McMillin provided the board with an update on the GOMESA Cap and the FY206 Appropriations. He announced that on July 4, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill (using budget reconciliation, Republicans were able to unite and pass this major legislative package without Democratic votes). He highlighted that there is an estimated \$202 million in GOMESA yearly for Louisiana, should cap be reached. (+\$46 million), LA Funding in Army Corps FY26 Budget – MR&T: \$9.833 billion, an increase from current funding over \$1 billion. The bill was advanced on July 14 through the full House Appropriations Committee (see chart below). In closing, Mr. McMillin updated on the Project Labor Agreements (PLAs): A suit brought by American Builders & Contractors (ABC) in the Middle District of Florida is still in play, which aims to overturn the Biden PLA policy. However, ABC's request for a nationwide preliminary injunction was denied. On June 27, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Trump v. CASA, Inc.* to limit the ability of federal courts to issue nationwide injunctions.

### GOMESA Cap Raised in One Big Beautiful Bill

On July 4, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Using budget reconciliation, Republicans were able to unite and pass this major legislative package without Democratic votes.

**Offshore Provisions**

Section 50122 deals with Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing.

- Required 2 yearly lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico through the spring of 2030, as well as 1 yearly sale in Alaska.
- Set terms, acreage, and regulations for sales. Additionally provided 70% revenue sharing to Alaska starting in FY 2034.
- Allow commingling.
- Require GOMESA cap by 2035 for \$400M for lease sales (FY 2031 - FY 2034) (to \$487.5M for GOMESA, 162.5M for USACE)

Estimated \$202 million in GOMESA yearly for Louisiana, should cap be reached. (+\$46 million)

### USACE Community Project Funding

USACE Community Project Funding (USACE CPFF) is a program that provides funding to local governments for coastal protection and restoration projects. The program is authorized under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended.

USACE CPFF is a discretionary program, meaning that USACE has the authority to select projects for funding. The program is subject to annual appropriations by Congress.

USACE CPFF is a competitive program, meaning that local governments must submit a request for funding to USACE. USACE will review the requests and select projects for funding based on a number of factors, including the project's location, the project's potential benefits, and the project's estimated cost.

USACE CPFF is a valuable resource for local governments looking to fund coastal protection and restoration projects. For more information about USACE CPFF, please visit the USACE website.

### USACE Community Project Funding: Louisiana Projects

Project Name	Amount Requested	Supporting Agency
Houma to the Gulf	\$131.3M	Casidy, Kennedy, Higgins, Safford
West Bank & Vicinity	\$25.4M	Casidy, Kennedy
Southwest Coastal	\$23M	Casidy, Kennedy
Upper Barataria Basin	\$23M	Casidy, Kennedy
Southwest Louisiana (SWLA)	\$23M	Casidy, Kennedy
Chandeleur Islands Restoration (CIRIS)	\$19M	Kennedy
USACE Ecosystem Restoration	\$16M	Casidy, Kennedy
Southwest Louisiana (SWLA)	\$16M	Higgins
Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Study	\$16M	Casidy, Kennedy
St. Tammany Parish FIRM	\$1.25M	Casidy, Kennedy, Safford
Prime Canine Pumping Station	\$1.25M or \$3M	Casidy, Kennedy, Higgins
Lake Portchartrain & Vicinity	\$1M	Casidy, Kennedy
South Central Coastal	\$1M	Casidy, Kennedy
Alexandria to the Gulf Investigation	\$1M	Casidy
Lake Portchartrain Storm Surge Study	\$1M	Kennedy
Mississippi River & Thibodaux	\$1M	Kennedy

### Army Corps Funding in FY26 House Bill

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in House Energy & Water Bill

\$1.833 billion, an increase from current funding of over \$1 billion.

Included within - with overlap:

- \$1.477 billion for Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
- \$396.8 million for construction on inland waterways
- \$1.97 billion for flood and storm damage reduction
- \$200 million for studies/investigations
- \$2.253 billion for construction
- \$440 million for Mississippi River & Tributaries
- \$6.14 billion for operations and maintenance

USACE Community Project Funding: \$877 million

- \$18.3 million for studies/investigations
- \$505.8 million for construction
- \$131.5 million in Mississippi River & Tributaries construction (included in the CUFF)
- \$143.8 million for operations & maintenance

The bill was advanced on July 14 through the full House appropriations Committee.

# IX. Public Comment

# X. Adjourn

Motion by: Sec. Bosworth  
Seconded by: Mr. Bourgeois