



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Docville Farm

5124 E. St. Bernard Highway

Violet, Louisiana 70092

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.

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5P6BmUrzKY>

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Mr. Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Matt Weigel for Sec. Bosworth, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Absent
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Cong. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	Present
Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	Absent
Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	Absent
President Pomes for John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Vacant
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. Welcoming – *Louis Pomes, St. Bernard Parish President*

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
Seconded by: Lt. Governor Nungesser
Unanimously Approved

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Pres. Jewell
Second by: Lt. Governor Nungesser
Unanimously Approved

VI. Old Business / Announcements

VII. CPRA Implementation Update – *Michael Hare, CPRA* (video 00:15:00)

Mr. Hare addressed the board stating that CPRA chose to gather in the heart of St. Bernard Parish for a reason that is both important and deeply solemn. Next Friday marks 20 years since the storm ravaged Louisiana, claiming over 1,300 lives and causing unprecedented destruction. Following the storm and the urging of Congress, many coastal champions, including Sen. Reggie Dupre and Rep. Gordon Dove, were instrumental in creating the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal protection plan in Louisiana. In the 20 years since Hurricane Katrina, the CPRA has lived up to working tirelessly with local, state, and federal partners, as well as community members and partner organizations, CPRA has upgraded Flood Risk Reduction Systems across coastal Louisiana, resulting in reduced risk to over a million people and billions of dollars of infrastructure and property. He also 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. Hare also highlighted on CPRA's progress coming up on the 20yr Hurricane Katrina anniversary. He stated since Hurricane Katrina, the CPRA has lived up to that mandate. Working tirelessly with local, state, and federal partners, as well as community members and partner organizations, CPRA has upgraded Flood Risk Reduction Systems across coastal Louisiana, resulting in reduced risk to over a million people and billions of dollars of infrastructure and property. CPRA and our partners have completed upgrades to 396 miles of levee and restored wetlands that have benefitted over 83,000 acres and 71 miles of barrier islands, which buffer storm surge. Mr. Hare also provided project updates for: **LaBranche Shoreline (St. Charles Parish)**: The LaBranche Shoreline Protection Project is located on the southern shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain, from the Gulf South Pipeline Canal on the west to the Jefferson Parish line on the east, in St. Charles Parish. The primary goal of this project is to protect $\approx 13,000$ LF of shoreline by the construction of a rock breakwater feature along the designated rim of Lake Pontchartrain, west of Kenner Parish Canal. This project will tie into the existing shoreline protection project located to the west. Construction began in January of this year, and the project will be substantially complete next month. **Lee's Landing Hydrologic Restoration (Tangipahoa Parish)**: This project was awarded \$850,000 as part of CPRA's 2025 Parish Matching Program Awards. This project aims to restore the hydrology of approximately 2,000 acres of wetlands located south of Lee's Landing in Tangipahoa Parish. Approximately 13 spoil bank cuts will be placed along the banks of the Powerline Canal, and an earthen water control structure will be placed to block the flow back to the Tangipahoa River, with the material from the cuts being utilized for the construction. In closing, Mr. Hare highlighted additional CPRA updates. Over the summer, CPRA hosted four public workshops—in Abbeville (7/23), Cut Off (7/29), Violet (7/31), and Raceland (8/4)—to introduce **Louisiana's 2029 Coastal Master Plan new project development** and submittal process (166 total attendees). The goal was to support residents and other community members in developing and submitting strong project ideas. Mr. Hare also announced the retirement of Mrs. Janice Lansing after over 30 years of service in the state of LA. She retires as CPRA's Chief Financial Officer but leaves behind an impressive career, leading the agency to incredible successes. She has been instrumental in safeguarding the agency's considerable and complex budget, shepherding large-scale projects from conception to completion.

101 ACTIVE PROJECTS	36	62	3
PROJECT TYPE	CONSTRUCTION	E.A.D.	PLANNING
HURRICANE PROTECTION (33)	15	16	2
WASH CREATION (24)	9	15	
BANK STABILIZATION (2)		1	
RIDGE RESTORATION (2)		2	
SHORELINE PROTECTION (4)	2	4	
BARRIER ISLANDS/HEADLANDS (4)	1	3	
DIVERSIONS (2)	1	1	
HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION (4)	1	5	
EARTHEN TOWARDS (1)		1	
RECREATIONAL USE (3)	3		
OTHER (9)	4	4	1



VIII. Review of the Hurricane and Risk Reduction Storm Damage Reduction System (HSDRRS) – Col. Autin, USACE (video: 00:29:27)

Col. Autin made a formal introduction of himself to the board (born in Houma, LA, commissioned into the Corps in 2002, as this was his first time presenting as the new Colonel for the New Orleans District). After his introduction, he then provided an update on the HSDRRS. Following Hurricane Katrina & Rita in 2005, the USACE was authorized and fully funded by Congress to design and construct the HSDRRS for southeast Louisiana. This project includes five parishes consists of 350 miles of levees and floodwalls; 73 non-federal pumping stations; 3 canal closures structures with pumps; and 4 canal gated outlets. In May of 2018 the Corps completed the last major project of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps on the Outfall canals. However, work like levee armoring along the lakefront continues to add resilience to the system. All the work completed by the Corps since 2006 has only been able to be accomplished through state, local, and federal partnerships. The three main outfall canals in New Orleans are a critical element of the flood control system, serving as drainage conduits for much of the city. The canals run south-to-north near the Orleans Parish lakefront between the Jefferson Parish line and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) with floodwall-topped levees lining each canal. The Colonel stated that the HSDRRS is stronger and more resilient than it has ever been, and capable of defending against a 100- year level of storm surge.



IX. Overview of Coastal Protection Project Inspections – Brad Barth, CPRA (video: 01:18:33)

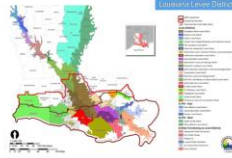
Mr. Barth pointed out lessons learned since the 20-year anniversary of Katrina on the horizon. He highlighted the necessity of aligning various levee districts into cohesive authorities to streamline operations and improve risk reduction efforts. The mandate is to develop,



implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration master plan. Mr. Barth also stated that CPRA is the single state agency with authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana. He outlined the inspection and protocols regulated by federal regulations, which requires quarterly and semi-annual reviews of levee systems. In closing, Mr. Barth stated CPRA has ramped up its inspection and monitoring efforts as the hurricane season neared and as CPRA moves forward, the lessons learned from past experiences will guide their strategies fostering a united front against the challenges posed by natural disasters.

Operations - Duties and Functions

- STATE AUTHORITY FOR COASTAL ZONE LEVEES AND RESTORATION
- DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REHABILITATION, AND REPLACEMENT (OMRR&R) OF PROJECTS
- MONITORING OF PROJECTS
- COAST-WIDE REFERENCE MONITORING SYSTEM (CRMS)
- EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF -3) FOR GOMSEP



Post-Impact Inspections

Levees Coastal Area

- Inspects levees, 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
- When issues are found, makes requests to the USACE for federal assistance
- CPRA / USACE in current coordination for Assessment Procedures



X. Coastal Parish Perspectives (Looking Back and Looking Forward) –

- *Jefferson Parish, Michelle Gonzales (video:1:36:2)* Ms. Gonzales updated the board on Jefferson Parish accomplishments since Hurricane Katrina. She highlighted that now all pump stations are equipped with SCADA equipment which allows for remote operations, and that the pump stations are manned 24hrs a day. She also indicated that the parish had upgrades with safe houses, pump stations, and drainage canals. In closing, she stated that Jefferson Parish is looking at moving forward with internal drainage for both the east and the west sides of the parish.
- *Orleans Parish, Austin Feldbaum (video:1:49:47)* Mr. Feldbaum shared a couple of perspectives from the City of NOLA and some things that they've been working on in the last 20 Years Post Katrina. He briefly covered some of the work that the parish has been doing around resilient buildings (higher than minimum elevation standards; balancing historic preservation and risk mitigation); coastal flood protection (flood insurance; participation in FEMA's flood mitigation assistance grant program); stormwater improvements (advancing projects identified in state master plan and MRGO restoration); and environmental monitoring and early warning signs (12 pilot sited installed 20219 after a series of flash floods, added WeatherStem MET stations in 2022 and developing flood mapping capability).
- *Plaquemines Parish, Kimberly Buck (video:2:03:15)* Ms. Buck provided an informative update on the progress of Plaquemines parish coastal restoration and levee protection projects. Ms. Buck expressed that the impact was devastating -- oil and fish industries were crippled, the landscape was littered with smashed and ground boats, homes were torn apart, and widespread flooding ensued with approximately 990,000 gallons of oil were released due to the storm. Ms. Buck stated that since Katrina, Plaquemines parish has focused on strengthening wetlands and marsh areas to protect against future storm surges and flooding. The parish invested over \$2 billion in levees and \$1 billion in wetland restoration projects. She stated that their main concentration was put on (Forested Ridges; Marsh Creation; and Bay Fringe Barriers). She also highlighted approximately 17 pump stations that have been repaired since 2005. In closing, Ms. Buck also provided updates on levee improvements, coastal bond expenditures and the parishes plan for future improvements.
- ~~St. Bernard Parish, Jerry Graves~~
- *St. Charles Parish, Parish President Matt Jewell (video:2:16:33)* Pres. Jewell reported on the happenings and updates of St. Charles on what has been done and where they're going moving forward. He highlighted a few of the major milestones that the parish has accomplished (the Issuance of Environmental Permits for the Magnolia Ridge Levee, Adoption of the St. Charles Parish Levee Mileage, Inclusion of Upper Barataria in the CPRA Coastal Master Plan, Completion of the Ellington Levee Phase 1, Completion of the Upper Barataria Basin Feasibility, Completion of the Parardis Flood Control Structure, and Federal Appropriation of Limited Funding for Upper Barataria). Pres. Jewell also stated that permitting efforts for the various project reaches comprising the alignment took over 15 years to obtain and involved close coordinate with state and federal agencies. The two permanent pump states were incorporated in the LPV System after the completion of HSDRSS. Both pump stations are



operated and maintained by St. Charles Parish. The Cross Bayou Pump station was a public/private partnership built with state and local funding as well as a donation from Shell and Motiva. In closing, Pres. Jewell said since Hurricane Katrina St. Charles Parish is strong because its people are strong.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion by: Pres. Jewell

Seconded by: Unanimous 2nd