

# Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:30 AM Belle Chasse Auditorium 8398 LA-23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

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 Haase, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities Present Keith Lovell, DNR Present Don Johnson, DOTD Present Mr. Matt Weigel, LDWF Present Jeffrey Leonick, DEQ Present Pat Witty, LED **Absent** Wendy Gibson, LDAF Present Dan Rees, DOA Present Billy Broussard, LDI Absent Casey Tingle, GOHSEP **Absent** Karen Gautreaux, Gov's Advisory Comm- Co-Chair Present Scott Burke, Barataria Basin Present Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin Present Bill Bubrig, Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone/ Mississippi Delta Basin Present Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin Present Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin Present Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin Absent Stephen Sagrera, Teche/Vermillion Parish Absent Lieutenant Governor's Office Absent Pres. McInnis, 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

## Opening Remarks - (video:00:00:00)

## III. Approval of Agenda

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

### IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Hidalgo Second by: Ms. Gautreaux Unanimously Approved

## V. Old Business/Announcements



VI.

# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



CPRA Implementation Update - Greg Grandy, CPRA (video: 00:05:54) Mr. Grandy presented to the board that there are 107 active projects, 45 of them are in construction, 59 are in E&D, with 3 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 31 are hurricane protection projects and 38 are creating marsh. Marsh creation leads the way in E&D with 38 projects moving toward the construction phase. A couple of the projects that have moved into construction include the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and the Labranche Shoreline Protection Projects. Mr. Grandy also updated the board on the following projects: South Pass Bird Island Enhancement: The South Pass Bird Island Enhancement project will create approximately 5 acres of nesting island with sediments dredged from South Pass. This is about a \$1.9 million project multiple funding sources (GOMESA/DNR/LOSCO/SWIG) on this project. This project is located in the heart of the Bird's Foot in south Plaquemines Parish. This project's main purpose was actually to clear out the two crevasses. The sediment from clearing the crevasses is actually what was used to create the 5 acres of land on South Pass Bird Island. Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline: A total of 58,571 linear feet of oyster barrier reef (in the form of artificial reef breakwater) was installed, approximately 11 miles, in southeast St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, along the shoreline of Bayou La Loutre. The project extends from Eloi bay to Morgan Harbor on the north side of the peninsula, and is open to the Chandeleur and Breton sound. The total estimated project cost was \$58.9M which includes just over \$10 million for operation and maintenance and \$2 million for monitoring and adaptive management. The project was funded by NRDA through LA TIG. The Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline Project was designed to create bioengineered, marsh-fringing oyster reefs to promote the formation of self-sustaining living shoreline protection structures. Bioengineered oyster reefs were created by placing a manufactured product or products (WADs and Shorejax) off the shoreline to establish a living breakwater structure. Approximately 11 miles were constructed. These shoreline protection features will serve as an important first line of defense for coastal marshes, functioning to help sustain the lower Biloxi Marsh (an important landbridge separating the Gulf of Mexico from Lake Borgne) by helping to prevent and/or reduce the rate of erosion of the marshes and shorelines along the shores of Eloi Bay. Bucktown Living Shoreline: Construction is underway on the \$15.5 million Bucktown Living Shoreline project to restore marshland along a roughly one-mile-long stretch of Lake Pontchartrain's shoreline in Jefferson Parish. Jefferson Parish led the design, permitting and now the construction. Rocks are being brought in to form nine segmented breakwaters in the lake between the Bonnabel Boat Launch and Bucktown Harbor. Those rocks will act as a speedbump against storm surge and help to slow down erosion in that area and will also help to protect the Federal levee system. The project was made possible through a combination of grants and government funding. The latest came in April, when the NOAA awarded Jefferson Parish a \$4.5 million grant to construct the living shoreline. Other sources of funding include: \$2.5 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; \$1 million from Louisiana's construction budget; \$4 million from proceeds the parish receives from oil and gas revenues in the Gulf of Mexico; and \$3.5 million from the CPRA. 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. Specifically, this project would protect the levee that borders the Bucktown neighborhood in Metairie. The project will help to re-establish the marsh edge and intertidal shoreline by breaking up the waves and reducing the potential for erosion. Lower Lafitte Tidal Surge: We were proud to join officials from Jefferson Parishes and Lafitte last week to celebrate the start of the Lower Lafitte Basin Tidal Surge Project that will amplify the protection of the Lafitte area against storm surge. Built along Bayou Barataria parallel to Jean Lafitte Boulevard, the project will include more than 7,000 feet of a concrete-capped floodwall, 7,300 feet of a modified earthen levee and 2,800 feet of newly constructed earthen levee, totaling more than three miles, all 7.5 feet tall. Construction also includes three swing gates and one roller gate. The \$14 million comes from a combination of CRPA, Department of Transportation and Development, Gulf of Mexico Security Act and state Capital Outlay funds. The current levee project is the third in a slate of 10 planned projects in the Lafitte Tidal Program that includes 30 miles of levees, floodwalls and other protections. Mr. Grandy closed out his presentation with a few announcements (slides below).





# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



VII. Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Mitigation Update- Brian Lezina and Brad Barth, CPRA (video: 00:22:50) Mr. Lezina updated the members of the provided the board with updates of the Community Mitigation meetings that were held in Myrtle Grove, WoodPark, Lake Hermitage, Suzie Bayou, Grand Bayou, and Happy Jack that started in June thru Late 2023. He stated that it was important to note that nothing is required from residents at this time, but they can expect us to be in touch with them towards the end of the year regarding individual solutions. In the Fishery Mitigation update, \$10 million of the \$54 million. The remaining dollars will be dispersed over the next few years. \$6MM and \$1M for Oysters has been contracted through LDWF. \$2MM shrimp, CPRA is coordinating with Shrimp Task Force to contract

\$1MM Subsistence, CPRA is coordinating with PPG to contract.



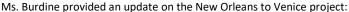
VIII. Federal Update on Water Sill, New Orleans to Venice, Neptune Pass, and Permanent Canal Closure & Pumps- Dana Ray, Carol Burdine, Matt Crawford, and MAJ Brooks, USACE (video: 00:40:15) Ms. Ray provided a brief update on the Saltwater Water Barrier Sill: The underwater saltwater barrier sill is a mitigation feature of the deep draft navigation channel to stall progression of saltwater intrusion for the duration attributable to the deepening of the navigation channel. Construction of the saltwater barrier sill is required approximately every 10 years. Extreme low water in the Mississippi River in 2023 resulted in the unprecedented requirement to construct a saltwater barrier sill for a second time in less than 1 year. The Mississippi River Ship Channel mitigation requirement was fulfilled with construction of the saltwater barrier sill in July 2023.

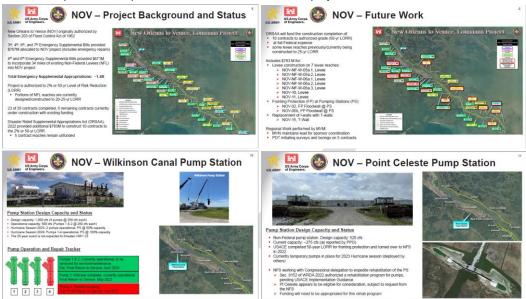




# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

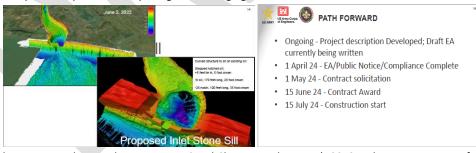






Mr. Crawford updated the board on Neptune Pass:

- 2019 Initial Bank Failure: Like MG Pass, they conducted yearly monitoring. Steady growth through 2023.
- Spring 22 Shoaling in MS River required dredging, reports of NAV Hazard by pilots. Q Measurements indicated 16% loss through Neptune Pass
- July 22 Stone Revetment placed on remaining bankline to prevent scour of remaining sill.
- Nov 22 USACE developed Control Structure Plan; published EA. Subsequent modeling showed structure would induce high velocity current going around structure in high water conditions; high probability that structure could be flanked after a few years.
- April 2023 USACE discovered rapid scouring along east bank of Nepune Pass. Additional stone revetment was placed to prevent the opening from enlarging.

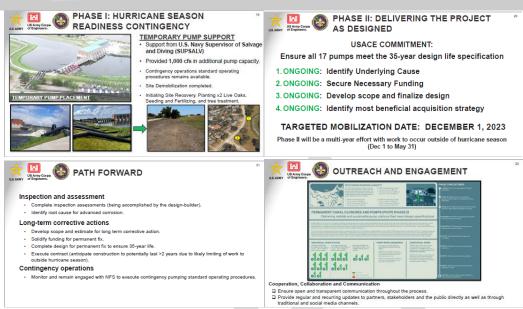


MAJ Brooks gave an update on the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP0 – The current status of the PCCP is. BLUF: All 17 pumps remain "Fit to Fight" for Hurricane Season 2023. USACE, in cooperation and collaboration with CPRA, FPA-East, and construction contractors, remains steadfast on ensuring the PCCP project will deliver the designed level of risk reduction. Phase II has commenced with receipt of PCCP JV conceptual plan and collaborative joint roundtable reviews and ongoing. Concurrently, USACE is developing the path forward for delivering their commitment of sustanaible and reliable pumps that meet design-life specifications.



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority





IX. Update on Chandeleur Island E&D – Todd Baker, CPRA, Matt Weigel, LDWF and Barret Fortier, USFWS (video:01:28:05) Mr. Baker updated the board on the Chandeleur Island

## Habitat Goals for PO-199Living Coastal Marine Resource Restoration:

- Restore and Conserve Bird Nesting and Foraging Habitat Enhance Sea Turtle Hatchling Productivity and Restore and Conserve Nesting Beach Habitat Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

#### **Bird SurveyPreliminary Findings:**

- Colonial Nesting Birds: 2022 = 27,534 Nests Waterfowl: January 2023 = 48,980 Birds (90% Redheads)
- •Solitary Nesting Birds: Spring 2023 = 405 Nests (24 ChandeleurGulls)

#### **Breton National Wildlife Refuge**

• 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest National Refuge • The only Refuge visited by Theodore Roosevelt • Established to Protect and Preserve Birds • Designated "Wilderness Area" by law

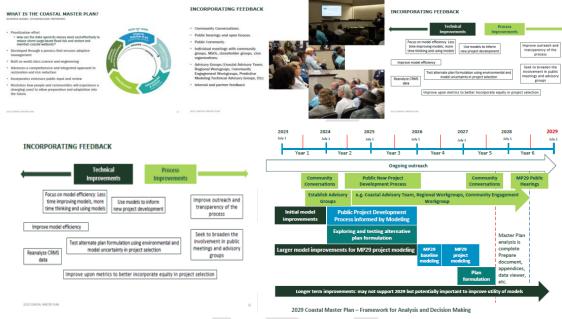


Mr. Baker also provided an update on the Sea Turtle Nesting: 54 Crawls; 5 confirmed nests with eggs (2 loggerhead, and 3 Kemps ridley).

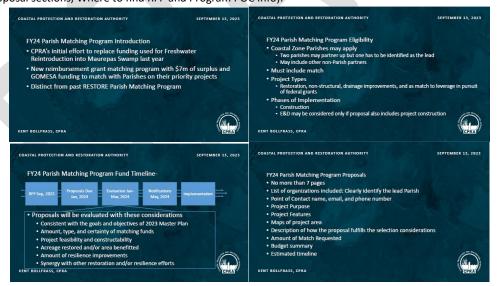




X. 2029 Coastal Master Plan Update – Stuart Brown, CPRA (video:01:53:22) Mr. Brown provided an overview of the 2029 Coastal Master Plan with slides overviewing what the Master Plan is, how feedback is incorporated into the plan as well the Framework for Analysis and Decision Making.



XI. Parish Partnership Program Rollout – Kent Bolfrass, CPRA (video: 02:19:43) Mr. Bolfrass brought the members up to date with a brief overhaul of FY24 Parish Matching Program (Introduction, Eligibility, Timeline and Considerations, Proposal sections, Where to find RFP and Program POC Info).



- XII. Public Comment
- XIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Ms. Gautreaux Second by: Rep. Zeringue