



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 9:30 AM CST

SOWELA Regional Training Center Auditorium

3820 Senator J. Bennet Johnston Avenue

Lake Charles, Louisiana 70615

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=DdzwRA2YKd8>

I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call (Not a quorum)

Chairman Gordon Dove

Present

Sec. Dustin Davidson, DENR

Absent

Mr. Cole Garrett for Sec. Bosworth, LDWF

Present

Mr. Brian Tusa for Sec. Burdette, DEQ

Present

Mr. Brandon Burris for Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser

Present

Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm

Absent

Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin

Absent

Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin

Absent

Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion

Present

Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin

Absent

Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin

Present

Mr. Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish

Present

Mr. 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. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr.

Seconded by:

Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes (add to Oct agenda: didn't have quorum)

Motion by:

Second by:

Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business / Announcements

VI. CPRA Implementation Update – Michael Hare, CPRA (video 00:07:37)

Mr. Hare took a moment to reflect on the 20- year anniversary of Hurricane Rita by highlighting the resiliency of the Calcasieu/Lake Charles community. He indicated that the Governor has been able to come to the parish and make record announcements about investments, it just shows that the people, the fiber, the fabric of these communities can overcome anything, whether a hurricane, an ice storm, polar vortex, or flooding. Mr. Hare then updated that CPRA has 101 active projects with 36 are in construction, 63 in engineering and design, with 3 more in the planning stage.

Updates on project changes from last month:



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation Increment 2 (Lafourche Parish)- Delta Coastal provided the Draft Oyster Assessment Report, where it was reported that no oysters are present. The report will be provided to LDWF and LDENR so that construction permit can be issued.
- MTG Eastern Tie-In Levee Improvement - NLLD is in the process of awarding to Onshore.
- Northwest Little Lake Marsh Creation – CPRA is drafting a construction permit this month and plans to submit it in September.
- Grand Chenier Marsh Creation and Restoration – NRCS/USACE will be finalizing the Project Work Plan by the end of August.
- Terrebonne HNC Island Restoration NRDA – Weeks will be collecting pre-construction surveys of the access channels and collecting aerial photographs of the island. On island work will resume mid-October.

Mr. Hare also provided a few updates on the:

Calcasieu Sabine Grant Announcement:

- CPRA is in the final stages of approval for over \$122 million of grant funds to support construction of the first phase of the Calcasieu-Sabine Large-Scale Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration project. The grant is being finalized by the RESTORE Act Direct Component, administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$260 million.
- This award represents a significant step forward in delivering long-planned restoration across the 65,000-acre Cameron Creole Watershed in the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin.

Southwest Coastal – Rockefeller Refuge Shoreline Protection

- Part of the Southwest Louisiana Coastal Program, a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA. CPRA initiated the project in 2024 and began initial design and data collection activities.
- In addition to the ongoing structure elevation component, which is already underway, the program addresses shoreline erosion through the Rockefeller Refuge Shoreline Protection Component.
- This project, which is the first component of the Southwest Coastal Program to be funded through the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) Plan, will help preserve critical habitats and mitigate coastal erosion.

White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area Restoration

- The primary goal of the WLWCA is to sustain and manage habitat and food sources for wetland wildlife, including mammals, fish, alligators, and 174 recorded species of birds, with a primary focus on waterfowl. LDWF's secondary goals for WLWCA include controlled public access to the property, education and outreach activities, as well as biological and ecological assessments and research on the property's wetlands, farmlands, plants, and animals.
- The White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area consists of 72,000 acres located in Vermilion Parish, 75% of which is freshwater marsh managed by LDWF. The remaining 19,000 acres include leased lands of over 10,000 agricultural acres and smaller areas of woods, levees, access channels, and campsites.

North Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection Phase II Parish Matching Project

- The North Vermilion Bay Shoreline Protection Phase II project is part of CPRA's Parish Matching Program. This project focuses on protecting the north shoreline of Vermilion Bay, which plays a critical role in shielding inland marshes and communities from storm surge and erosion. This area has been losing land at an average rate of 4 feet per year.
- This is a \$2.265 million effort, with \$1.265 million in funding from CPRA and \$1 million in matching funds from the Vermilion Parish Police Jury.
- Importantly, this project aligns with Louisiana's 2023 Coastal Master Plan, which identifies shoreline protection, including rock breakwaters, as a proven and science-based strategy for long-term restoration.

In closing, Mr. Hare provided the board an update on the Coastal Advocacy Meetings in D.C. (they met with the LA Delegation) and had good discussion regarding the state's federal coastal priorities. He also stated that since it's opening in April, there have been more than 250,000 people that have visited the Port Wonder Children's Museum of SW Louisiana and the LDWF Nature and Science Center.



102 ACTIVE PROJECTS	36	63	3
PROJECT TYPE	CONSTRUCTION	E & D	PLANNING
HURRICANE PROTECTION (34)	15	17	2
MARSH CREATION (34)	9	25	
BANK STABILIZATION (1)		1	
RIDGE RESTORATION (2)		2	
SHORELINE PROTECTION (6)	2	4	
BARRIER ISLANDS/HEADLANDS (4)	1	3	
DIVERSIONS (2)	1	1	
HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION (6)	1	5	
EARTHEN TERRACES (1)		1	
RECREATIONAL USE (3)	3		
OTHER (9)	4	4	1



VII. Update on USACE Southwest Louisiana Activities – Col. Autin, USACE (video: 00:25:14)

Col. Autin updated the board on the SW Coastal Louisiana project, indicating that this project is to implement localized storm surge risk reduction features to reduce Hurricane storm surge damage risks to structures in Cameron, Calcasieu, and Vermillion parishes. He stated that the Corps is progressing through the Pre-construction, Engineering, and Design (PED) Phase and the Design-Build Phase for the first priority structures.

- Goal: To restore coastal ecosystems in SW Louisiana by reducing flood and hurricane damage risk and restoring the SW Louisiana ecosystem.
- Funding: The cost share is (USACE) 65% federal and (CPRA) non-federal at 35%.

Key Developments:

- **Home Elevation:** A pilot project involving the elevation of 20 structures began in 2024 with the first home elevated in May of 2025. Looking at elevating about 4,000 homes, including elements of ecosystem restoration, that price tag is calculating about \$6.8 billion in cost.
- **Ecosystem Restoration:** 9 Marsh Restoration Features; 5 Shoreline Protection/Stabilization Features and 35 Chenier Reforestation Features. Total Estimated Cost: \$5.5 Billion
- **South Central Coast:** Awaiting funding; Authorized in WRDA 2022 at the estimated cost of \$1.25B. Purpose is to elevate/flood proofing of 2,240 structures in St. Mary, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes.



- **Alexandria to the Gulf Study:** This study is incorporated into WRDA, with an estimated cost of \$3M. Goals of the study were to identify alternatives, such as dredging, retention and detention ponds, channel clearing, and control structures to lessen river and coastal flooding. It would also examine excessive rain events. The study area encompasses area West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, from Alexandria to the Gulf.
- **Calcasieu River and Pass:** The purpose of this project is to provide deep access the Port of Lake Charles. This project also provides for a salt water barrier structure located north of Lake Charles, approximately 3 miles north of the northern boundary of the deep draft ship channel.

VIII. CS-87 Project Overview – Jessica Diez, CPRA (video: 00:53:04)

Ms. Diez provided an update of CS-87 Project. She indicated that the goal of the project is to reduce the rate of land loss in the Calcasieu Sabine Basin. She noted that two main project components are drainage structures with backflow prevention to improve marsh drainage. And the Large-scale marsh creation & nourishment to increase elevation capital (~2,000 acres).

- Funding Source: RESTORE Act Direct Component (Bucket 1)



- Full \$260.97M Bucket 1 allocation for Louisiana dedicated to this project
- Project Features**
- Lake Rim Drainage- Seven (7) multiple barrel structures with inline check valves for backflow prevention. 100% Design is complete & bids are expected to be advertised late Sept/early October 2025.
 - Conveyance- (Up to 18 miles of channel improvements) Excavation of over 18 miles of channels within the CCW to increase conveyance capacity to the lake rim drainage structures and beneficial re-use of material for large-scale marsh creation and nourishment. Phase 2 data collection complete; CPRA conducting detailed design and 30% design for fall 2025.
 - Marsh Creation- Over 1,500 of 7,000 proposed acres to be built through CS-87 (using dredge material from channel improvements).

Project Features

- A. Lake Rim Drainage**
- Seven (7) proposed gravity drainage structures with backflow prevention
- B. Conveyance**
- Up to 18 miles of channel improvements
 - Improve drainage from back of the marsh to the Lake Rim
 - Focused on dredging of historic bayous
- C. Marsh Creation**
- Over 1,500 of 7,000 proposed acres to be built through CS-87
 - Using dredged material from channel improvements



Next Steps

Lake-Rim Drainage

- Expected Advertisement late Sept/early October 2025

Conveyance Improvements & MC/N

- Phase 2 Data Collection Complete
- CPRA conducting detailed design
- 30% design for Fall 2025

IX. Louisiana Watershed Initiative – Micaela Coner, Louisiana Office of Community Development (video:1:09:22)

Mermentau Basin Inundation Relief Project Update:

Ms. Coner stated the purpose of this project is to reduce prolonged periods of inundation to relieve flooding stress from (5) parishes located in Regions 4 and 5 during heavy rainfall, flooding and disaster events. Specifically, this \$25.4M project (part of the states Watershed Initiative) will relieve flooding in Cameron and Vermillion Parishes.

Status of Statewide Buyout Program

Ms. Coner indicated that this program is completely voluntary, aiming to provide property owners with an option to sell their flood prone properties. The buyouts are awarded based on appraised fair market value of eligible properties. To be incentivized, they had to own and live in the property. All owner-occupants (including those who own a structure on non-owned land, provided the landowner participates in the buyout) receiving the housing incentive in this program must relocate to a permanent, site-built home that is subject to lower flood risk. An elevation certificate is required at the closing for the buyout property to meet the requirements of 2) However, the state will only provide reimbursement for one elevation certificate per household.

Statewide Buyout Program

INCENTIVE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- Incentive award recipients must relocate to an area of minimal or moderate flood risk.
- Minimal risk areas are outside the 500-year (0.2% annual chance) flood zone
- Moderate risk areas are outside the 100-year (1% annual chance) flood zone and require elevation of 3 feet above the base flood elevation.

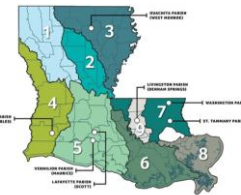


Statewide Buyout Program

PROGRAM SUMMARY

- Livingston Parish, Denham Springs, Spring Park, \$10M
- Calcasieu Parish, Lake Charles, Greinwich Terrace, \$30M
- Lafayette Parish, Scott, \$7M
- Vermillion Parish, Victoria Acres, \$10M
- Washington Parish, \$10M
- Ouachita Parish, West Monroe, \$10M
- St. Tammany Parish, \$10M

\$87 Million FOR SEVEN BUYOUT LOCATIONS



Statewide Data and Modeling Program

Ms. Coner updated the board on the goals and objectives of LWI-Modeling Program. This program is to collect accurate, timely and consistent data to develop high-quality hydrologic and hydraulic models statewide to support evaluation of flood mitigation plans, policies and projects. While also sustaining and ensuring program outcomes and tools continue to support flood risk reduction efforts throughout the state long after the CDGB-MIT funds are expended. Regional modeling is completed on the HUC 8 scale. Forty-seven (47) models developed in seven modeling regions. In an overview of key outputs from the modeling and data collection effort (Model Inputs: Flood depth and velocity for the 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, 200-, and 500- year events for the 12-, 24-, 48-hour even duration).



X. FY 2026 Parish Matching Requests for Proposal (RFP) – Joseph Johnson, CPRA (video:1:34:27)

Mr. Johnson announced that CPRA is accepting proposals for the FY 2026 Parish Matching Program until December 17, 2025. This year, the Parish Matching Program has up to \$6,000,000 in GOMESA funding dedicated for matching funds for parish-led projects addressing coastal restoration and resilience needs. This funding will allow the State, through CPRA, to explore partnership opportunities with parishes to support the implementation of high-priority projects and the advancement of coastal restoration and resilience goals. Proposals should be no more than seven pages in length and include (Proposal Title, list of organizations, point of contact, project purpose, project features, maps of project areas, description of how the proposal fulfills the selection considerations, amount of match requested, budget summary and estimated timeline of completion within three years). Mr. Johnson also informed that the proposals must be submitted directly by parish staff members or their designees and must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the 2023 Master Plan.

FY26 Parish Matching Program Eligibility

- FY26 will have **\$6 million** of GOMESA funding to match with Parishes on their priority projects
- FY26 Parish Matching Program Eligibility
 - Coastal Zone Parishes may apply
 - Two parishes may partner up, but one has to be identified as the lead
 - May include other non-Parish partners
- Project Types
 - Restoration, non-structural, drainage improvements, and a match to leverage in pursuit of federal grants
- Phases of Implementation
 - Construction
 - Final E&D may be considered only if the proposal also includes project construction
- Must include a match

FY26 Parish Matching Program Fund Timeline-

RFP Issued	Proposals Due	Evaluation	Notifications	Implementation
Sept 17, 2025	Dec 17, 2025	Dec-Feb 2026	March 2026	

FY26 Parish Matching Program Proposals

- Proposals will be evaluated with these considerations
 - Consistent with the goals and objectives of 2023 Master Plan
 - Amount, type, and certainty of matching funds
 - Project feasibility and constructability
 - Acres restored and/or area benefitted
 - Amount of resilience improvements
 - Synergy with other restoration and/or resilience efforts
- FY26 Parish Matching Program Proposals
 - No more than 7 pages
 - List of organizations included: Clearly identify the lead Parish
 - Point of Contact name, email, and phone number
 - Project Purpose
 - Project Features
 - Maps of the project area
 - Description of how the proposal fulfills the selection considerations
 - Amount of Match Requested
 - Budget summary
 - Estimated timeline

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Courville
Seconded by: Unanimous 2nd