



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024

9:30 AM

State Capitol Building (House Committee Room 1)  
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**

**II. Roll Call**

Chairman Gordon Dove	Present
Mr. Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Mr. Tyler Bosworth for Sec. Sheahan, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser	<b>Absent</b>
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	<b>Absent</b>
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	Present
Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	Present
Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	<b>Absent</b>
John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	<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. Courville  
Seconded by: Mr. Hidalgo  
Unanimously Approved

**V. Old Business/Announcements**

**VI. CPRA Implementation Update — Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video: 07:00:00)** Mr. Ledet updated the board on the impacts of Hurricane Francine which made landfall in Terrebonne Parish, LA as a CAT 2 with maximum sustained winds near 100 mph. He also provided information on Morganza to the Gulf and the impacts to it from Hurricane Francine (see chart below), which left a lot of debris, but minimal structure damage. Traffic arms bent at BPC Floodgate and Pointe Aux Chenes Floodgate. Max recorded water level at peak surge was 10.35' NAVD (Topped-out guage, estimated to be over 11'). These reaches experienced



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moderate to heavy scour... damage assessments are ongoing as debris is removed and reveals the extent of the damage. Reach G-2B - Moderate scour along the FS berm and heavier scour at the (3) WCS on the FS; WCS damage not visible but YTD. Reach H-3 – Heavy scour along the FS slope on the upper 2 miles and minor scour on the lower 1 mile. These reaches experienced moderate to heavy scour... damage assessments are ongoing as debris is removed and reveals the extent of the damage. Reach J-3- Scour is heavy at locations along FS slope, but extent YTD under debris. Reach K – Debris is heavier on the southern end of the levee and lighter on the northern section; scour is evident along the FS slope, heavier between the two structures were under construction and none visible on the north section. Reach L (new section)- Debris throughout with extensive scour and material loss along this under construction section.



## HURRICANE FRANCINE IMPACTS – Morganza to the Gulf

Structure - West to East	Max Recorded Water Level at Peak Surge
Bayou Dularge Floodgate	4.85' NAVD
BGC Floodgate	5.64' NAVD
HNC Floodgate	7.98' NAVD
BPC Floodgate & HWY 56 Roller Gate	7.94' NAVD
Bush Canal Floodgate	9.04' NAVD
Bayou Terrebonne Sector Gate	10.35' NAVD (Toppedout gauge, estimated to be over 11')
Humble Canal Floodgate	10.37' NAVD (Toppedout gauge, estimated to be over 11')
Pointe Aux Chenes Floodgate & Hwy 665 Rollergate	7.86' NAVD
Grand Bayou Floodgate	6.73' NAVD



## MORGANZA TO THE GULF – Bayou Terrebonne Sector Gate



## HURRICANE FRANCINE IMPACTS –

President Approves Major Disaster Declaration for Louisiana

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
<p>Assistance to individuals and households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension</li> <li>• Assumption</li> <li>• Lafourche</li> <li>• St. Charles</li> <li>• St. James</li> <li>• St. John the Baptist</li> <li>• St. Mary</li> <li>• Terrebonne</li> </ul>	<p>Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster damaged facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension</li> <li>• Assumption</li> <li>• Lafourche</li> <li>• St. Charles</li> <li>• St. James</li> <li>• St. John the Baptist</li> <li>• St. Mary</li> <li>• Terrebonne</li> </ul> <p><small>Debris removal and emergency protective measures (Category A and B), including direct federal assistance</small></p>	<p>Assistance for actions taken to prevent, reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All areas in the State of Louisiana are eligible to apply for assistance.</li> </ul>

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments

Mr. Ledet also provided the latest progress of various projects around the coast. CPRA has 108 Active Projects with 44 of them are in construction, 58 in engineering and design, with 6 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed 33 are hurricane protection projects and 36 are creating marsh. In his **Construction Update**, Mr. Ledet highlighted the following projects: **Bayou Pigeon**-Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch is an important and highly used resource for recreation, and the commercial industry in the Atchafalaya Basin. This project will provide improvements in the project area including improving the existing boat launch which includes expanding and lengthening it, providing enhanced parking and trailering areas, and adding ADA compliant parking. Estimated Cost: \$2.9 million paid by State Surplus. **Grand Bayou**- This project is approximately 12,000 feet from the Grande Cheniere (BA-0240) project in Plaquemines Parish. It will build over 400 acres of marsh and restore up to 10,800 linear feet of earthen ridge along Grand Bayou. Estimated cost \$44.5 million funded through CWPPRA. **Point Coupee**-This Hydrologic Restoration project involves installation of culverts along Iron Gate Road and three other locations in southern Pointe Coupee Parish. \$380,000 project led by Pointe Coupee Parish funded through State surplus. **St. Charles Parish Crawford Canal / Sunset Pump Station**- This project involves the construction of an automated screen cleaner to remove trash and vegetation from influent drainage runoff upstream of the existing Sunset pump stations. \$6 million funded through State Surplus.




<b>Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch</b>	<b>Grand Bayou Ridge and Marsh Restoration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headed to construction</li> <li>• Bid Opening 9/24</li> <li>• Est. Cost: \$2.9 Million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction just beginning</li> <li>• Weeks Marine, LLC.</li> <li>• Est. Cost: \$44.5 Million</li> </ul>
<b>St. Charles Parish Crawford Canal / Sunset Pump Station</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SeaLevel Construction Issued NTP</li> <li>• Led by St. Charles Parish</li> <li>• Est. Cost: \$6 million</li> </ul>	



**Pointe Coupee Atchafalaya Basin**

- Construction completed by Moreau Const.
- Led by Pointe Coupee Parish Gov.
- Total Cost: \$380,000



**Engineering & Design Updates: Reggio Marsh Creation-** The project was awarded Phase 2 construction funding. Project team is proceeding with landrights and final design. The goal of this project is to create and nourish approximately 519 acres of marsh east of the Reggio community with sediments dredged from a borrow source in the nearby Lake Lery. This is about a \$33 million dollar project funded through CWPPRA.

**Shoreline Protection Updates: Manchac Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project-** A rigid construction project, funded by Restore at \$10.2 million. The main purpose of the Manchac project is to continue efforts of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program with the construction of rock breakwater on the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline southwest of the Tangipahoa River and east of Pass Manchac.

- vii. **Jean Lafitte National Park Living Shoreline and Canal Backfilling – Julie Whitbeck, National Park Service (video: 01:06:17)** Ms. Whitbeck updated the board on the Canal Backfilling for Hydrologic Restoration; Submerged Aquatic Vegetation & Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park & Preserve’s Barataria Preserve. The purpose of the Canal Backfilling for Hydrologic Restoration is to reduce Gulf of Mexico influence & restore flow between waterway channels and wetlands; reduce invasive species habitat; increase resilience. This project is funded by: Restore Act (Restore Council) - \$8.7M.

**Canal Backfilling for Hydrologic Restoration– status & next steps**

- **Components:**
  - ✓ backfilling design
  - construction
    - ✓ 12.75 miles complete
    - 1.75 miles planned (\$2M, 2025-2026)
  - environmental & ecological outcomes monitoring (thru 2/25; final rpt 9/25)
- **Reporting:**
  - Restore Council PIPER & Merlin
  - NPS DataStore)



**Submerged Aquatic Vegetation – Shoreline Protection (SAV-SP) - Summary**

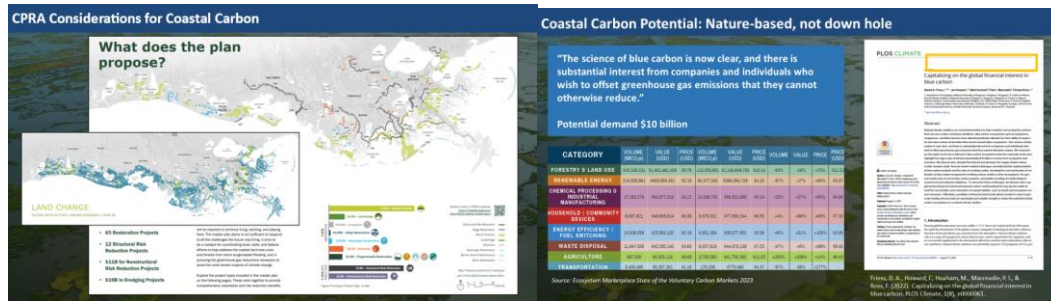
- **Purpose:** restore 50 acres SAV; protect shoreline from erosion
- **Funding:** NRDAR DWH (LA TIG) - \$24M
- **Components:**
  - planning
    - compliance, including new surveys & consultation
    - Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan development
    - SP design
  - construction
  - monitoring
- **Timeline:** 2019 - 2025; MAM through 2044
- **Reporting:** via NOAA DIVER



- viii. **CPRA Funding Updates: Coastal Carbon– Brian Lezina, CPRA & Beaux Jones, TWIG (video:01:26:28)** Mr. Lezina & Jones provided information to the board regarding possible opportunities through use of blue carbon. Currently, Louisiana’s Coastal Master Plan and Annual Plan outlines billions in spending on coastal restoration efforts that will store carbon that has potential to be accredited within a market. However, existing scientific uncertainties and research gaps result in low (conservative) assumptions about Louisiana’s marsh’s ability to capture carbon and prevent current carbon market policies and frameworks from unlocking the carbon potential in Louisiana. There are four factors driving the urgent need to generate blue carbon credits for coastal Louisiana wetlands: the global need to reduce atmospheric GHGs; the state of Louisiana’s goal to meet state GHG reduction targets; rapid coastal land loss in this



region; and the need for sustainable future funding for the coastal protection and restoration program which is fundamental to sustainable communities, ecosystems, and economy in the state of Louisiana. By closing the gaps of scientific uncertainty, it will be possible to better quantify Louisiana's blue carbon potential and provide input to updated accreditation methods. The potential for a financially viable blue carbon market, a concept discussed by the state's coastal agencies for years, presents one of three opportunities identified by the state of Louisiana to fill the funding gap that will occur after 2031 when the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement payments are exhausted.



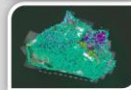
ix. **Avian Data Monitoring Portal – John Wiebe, LDWF & Maury Chatellier, CPRA (video:01:59:17)** Mr. Wiebe & Mr. Chatellier briefed the board on the newly (Jan 2024) released Avian Data Monitoring Portal. The portal brings together more than a decade of aerial survey photos along the northern Gulf of Mexico to provide an easily searchable database for researchers, natural resource managers, and the public. The portal will help coastal managers, coastal restoration engineers, researchers, and others not only see coastal nesting bird distributions, but also inform future restoration efforts. Mr. Wiebe stated that there are three funding streams (Restore Act, NFWF and NRDA) with NRDA being the largest at \$5.0B (settlement dollars to restore for damages from the spill). The goals and objectives are to **PROVIDE** specific and detailed information on designing ecosystem restoration projects to support nesting birds. **GENERATE:** specific and detailed information on designing ecosystem restoration projects to support nesting birds.



*Parting Thoughts*

- The Portal was developed to address **identified need**
- Through **targeted investment**, Trustees now have a comprehensive means to easily convey restoration benefits and
- Thereby **addressing** today's needs ... with the capacity to evolve in support of future opportunities, consensus building and real-world decision making.

<https://avianmonitoring.com>





- x. **2025 Parish Matching Request for Proposals (RFP) – Brandon Champagne, CPRA (video: 02:22:30)**  
Mr. Champagne provided a brief update to the board on FY 25 Parish Matching Program which is a continuation of the FY24 Parish matching awards. In the new FY25 reimbursement grant of \$6,000,000 in GOMESA funding match with Parishes on priority projects addressing coastal restoration and resilience needs.



- xi. **Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DENR (video: 02:28:46)** Mr. McMillin presented to the board updated information regarding issues on the Federal level. He notified them that both the House, Senate passed their versions of WRDA, and that the Committees of Jurisdiction are informally conferencing the two bills together, seeking to produce a consensus product for final passage this year. Mr. McMillin also provided updates on the RISEE Act, Federal Response to Hurricane Francine, and Congressman Graves Hearing on Coastal Protection and Restoration (see slides below).

**Federal Response to Hurricane Francine**

Parishes with pending FEMA individual & public assistance requests after Hurricane Francine

**Disaster Request Timeline**

- Sept. 9 - Gov. Landry **declares** state of emergency.
- Sept. 10 - Gov. Landry **requests** federal emergency declaration for emergency protective measures and direct federal assistance in advance of Tropical Storm Francine for all parishes. Louisiana's federal delegation **sends** letter to President Biden in support of the Governor's request.
- Sept. 11 - President Biden **approves** emergency declaration for Louisiana.
- Sept. 12 - Governor and federal delegation request expedited major disaster declaration for Hurricane Francine for 23 parishes to provide individual and public assistance, as well as statewide hazard mitigation, and 100% federal cost share for Categories A & B for 30 days.

**Hearing on Graves' Coastal Protection and Restoration Discussion Draft**

- ▶ On Sept. 10, the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries held a **legislative hearing** on 5 bills, including **Congressman Graves' discussion draft**, to require the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish a coastal restoration and protection grant program.
- ▶ Steve Cochran, former Director of the RESTORE the Mississippi River Delta Coalition **testified**.
- ▶ The bill would authorize \$500 million a year for ten years for a NOAA Fisheries led program to:
  - ▶ Build levees for hurricane protection
  - ▶ Nature-based solutions
  - ▶ Building oyster or fisheries habitat
  - ▶ Beneficial use of dredged material projects
  - ▶ Barrier island restoration and marsh creation
  - ▶ Vegetative plantings
  - ▶ Habitat restoration
  - ▶ Operations and maintenance of such work

**Key Hearing Moments**

- **Huffman Comments**
- **Graves Intro**
- **Cochran Testimony**
- **Graves Q&A**
- **Huffman Q&A**
- **Carl Q&A**
- **Bentz Q&A**

- xii. **Public Comment**
- xiii. **Adjourn**  
Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois  
Seconded by: unanimous